

13 October 2021

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available to provide an increased allocation of 18% of entitlement to general security licences in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source. This increment brings the cumulative allocation to 63% of entitlement for the current water year. All higher priority licences were allocated their maximum 100% of entitlement on 1 July 2021.

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Cudgegong	100%	63%
Macquarie	100%	63%

Inflows totalling 106,000 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam were observed during September and storage levels entered the Flood Mitigation Zone (FMZ) on 5 September. As required under the water sharing plan, carryover allocations remaining in general security accounts, high security accounts and environmental water allowance were proportionately withdrawn on 30 September with a volume equivalent to the inflows to Burrendong Dam from 5 September to 30 September. Quarterly evaporative reductions were also applied on 30 September.

In total, around 85,000 ML was withdrawn from accounts. General security water availability is approximately 116% of entitlement, with about 53% carryover currently remaining in accounts.

As Burrendong Dam is still currently in the FMZ, the carryover withdrawal and reallocation process will continue as further inflows arrive and FMZ releases are made. Another resource assessment will be conducted at the end of October and a new allocation will be announced in the November statement. When all remaining carryover volume has been withdrawn, general security, high security and environmental water allowance accounts are reset to 100%. This potential reset occurs based on the end of month assessment.

The current planning horizon for resource assessments runs to May 2023. The assessment secures the higher priority needs in the system for the next 20 months before further allocating to general security users.

Tributary flows and FMZ releases from Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet higher priority commitments. Transfers from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam are currently forecast not required until at least February 2023.

Storage levels (as at 12 October 2021)

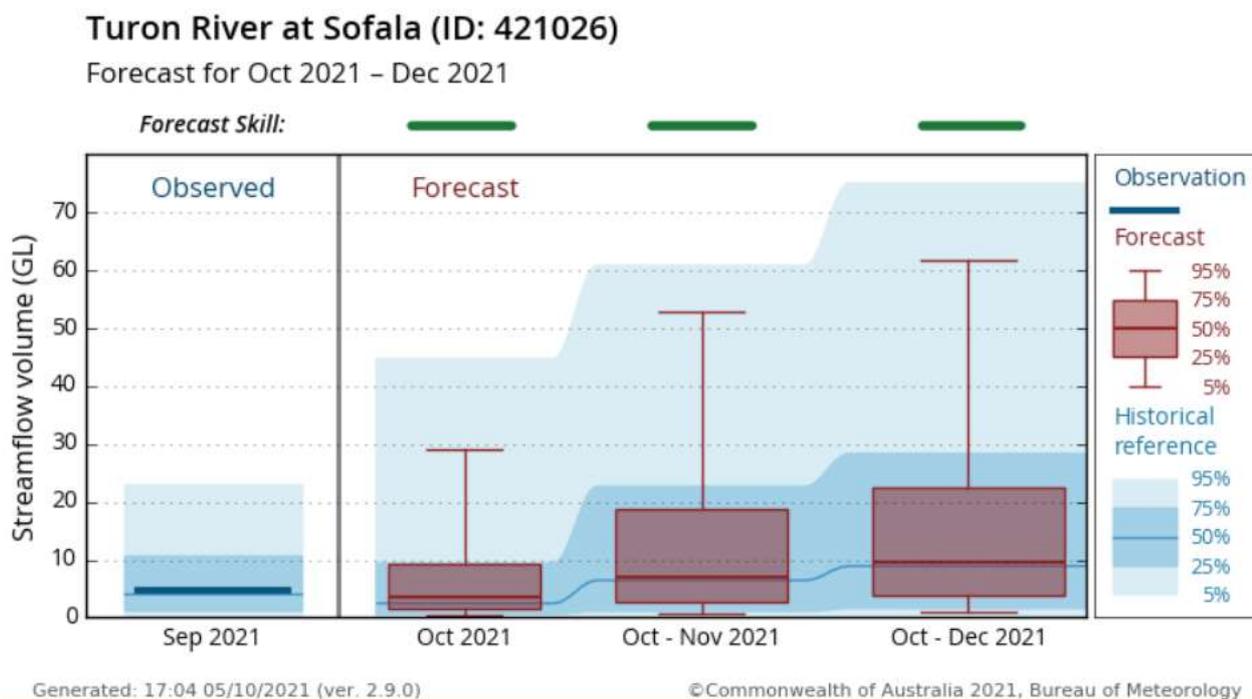
- Burrendong Dam is 100.7 % full – falling – holding about 1,198,500 ML
- Windamere Dam is 36.3% full – steady – holding about 134,300 ML

Seasonal climatic and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for next three months indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median across the catchment. Overnight temperatures are likely to be above average.

For further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau of Meteorology issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Turon River that drains into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indicative distribution of potential storage inflows. Forecast median inflow totals from October to December are very close to the historic median, indicating no clear trend away from historical inflows during this period.



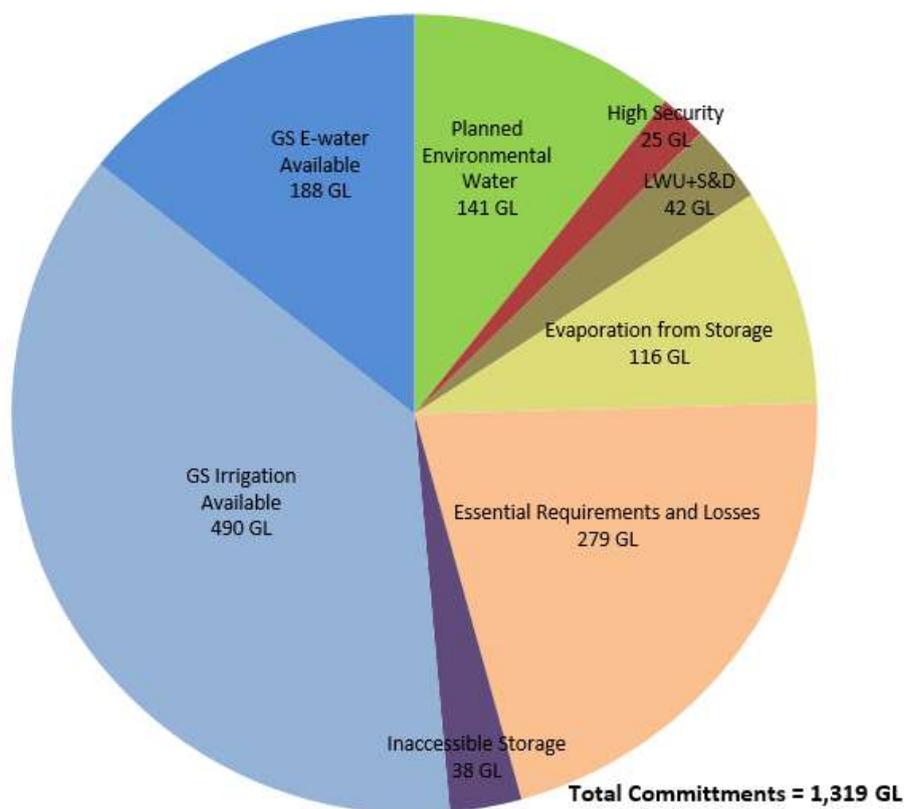
For further information at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026

Resource Distribution (October 2021 to May 2023)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,319
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance ^{(2), (7)}	678
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	141
Domestic, Stock, Town ⁽⁴⁾	42
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	38
High Security ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁷⁾	25
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	279
Evaporation from Storage	116
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) End of September 2021 storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from October 2021 to May 2023 plus 23 GL planned transfer from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume remaining in general security accounts, discounted for evaporative losses and including about 335 GL (53%) of carryover.
- (3) Water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) under the water sharing plan to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (4) Reserves required to meet the full use of allocated water by Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security WALs below Burrendong Dam over the assessment horizon.
- (5) Replenishments, basic rights and system overheads to run the river under dry conditions over the next 20 months. System overhead includes transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Dead storage of 34 GL plus 4 GL of unallocated storage to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.
- (7) This volume may contain held environmental water (HEW). The reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 188 GL of GS and 0 GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW DPIE Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (8) All available water is fully allocated with no surplus left. The system is secure to May 2023 and beyond.

Resource Distribution (October 2021 to May 2023)



Next announcement

The next routine water allocation statement for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 10 November 2021** or earlier if there is a significant change in resource situation.

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