

10 May 2024

# Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

## Water allocation update

**General security (GS) access licenses in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source have received an allocation increase of 5% of entitlement.** Both the Macquarie and the Cudgegong Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) have also increased by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan. The small resource improvement comes from modest inflows plus lower than budgeted transmission and operational losses since the last assessment. This brings the total GS allocation this water year to 59% of entitlement.

The increment takes the GS account balance for Macquarie water users to 501 gigalitres (GL), or an average 82% of entitlement. Similarly, the total volume in GS accounts for those on the Cudgegong River is now about 20.3 GL or 109% of entitlement on average. This assessment is conservatively based on information to 30 April 2024. Any changes in resources since then, including the rainfall/runoff from recent days, will be captured in the next routine statement in June 2024.

## Current allocation

10 May 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
Macquarie GS	5%	82% (501 GL)
Cudgegong GS	5%	109% (20.3 GL)
Macquarie EWA	5%	61% (98 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	5%	140% (15.9 GL)

## Dam levels (as of 9 May 2024)

- Burrendong Dam is 59% full – holding about 716 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 93% full – holding about 341 GL.

## Key information

- Burrendong dam received about 45 GL of inflow during April 2024. A storage outlook plot for the assessment horizon is provided later in this statement.
- A total of 113 GL of Macquarie EWA and a total of 9.2 GL of Cudgegong EWA water has been delivered to the end of April 2024.
- No bulk water transfers from Windemere Dam are forecast to be required before January 2025.

- This resource assessment has extended the planning horizon to May 2026 by securing higher priority demands for another year (2025/26).

## Resource outlook for 2024/25

This outlook for the potential 1 July 2024 water allocations is based on several conservative assumptions. It aims to help water users with end-of-year water planning decisions. However, it is a forecast only, not a guaranteed allocation, and may change, therefore should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including basic landholder rights, towns and environmental needs, is secure for the 2024/25 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including **local water utility**, **stock** and **domestic**, and **high security** can expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2024.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is moved to the carryover sub-accounts into the new water year.
- The Macquarie carryover sub-account has a maximum limit 100% of entitlement.
- In Cudgegong carryover sub-account has a maximum limit 100% of entitlement, except for the licences listed in Schedule 2 of the plan. The licences listed in the schedule can carryover volumes specified in that schedule.
- **General security** users can expect full access to their carried over account water, but no new allocation will be announced on 1 July. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessments will continue, commencing in early July, and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2024/25.

## Climate and streamflow outlooks

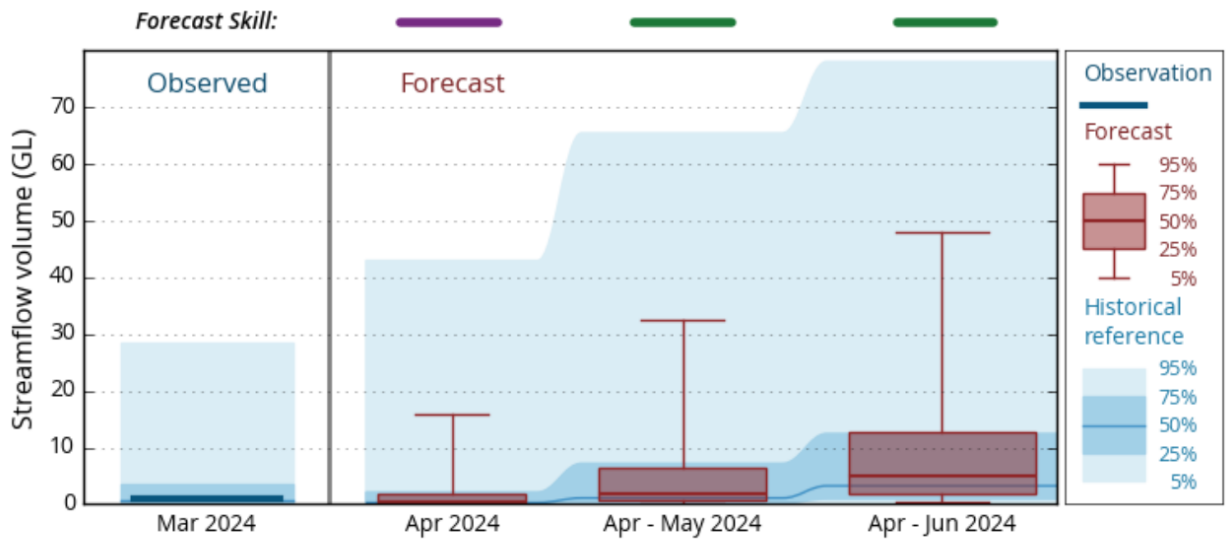
The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for May to July 2024 indicates that rainfall is likely to be below median across the catchment while day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Turon River at Sofala, which drains into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indication of potential storage inflows. The forecast median flow volume from April to June 2024 is slightly higher than the historical median meaning potentially better than historical inflows for this period. The graph from April to June 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026>

### Turon River at Sofala (ID: 421026)

Forecast for Apr 2024 – Jun 2024



Generated: 00:45 07/04/2024 (ver. 2.9.0)

©Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Bureau of Meteorology

## Resource Distribution

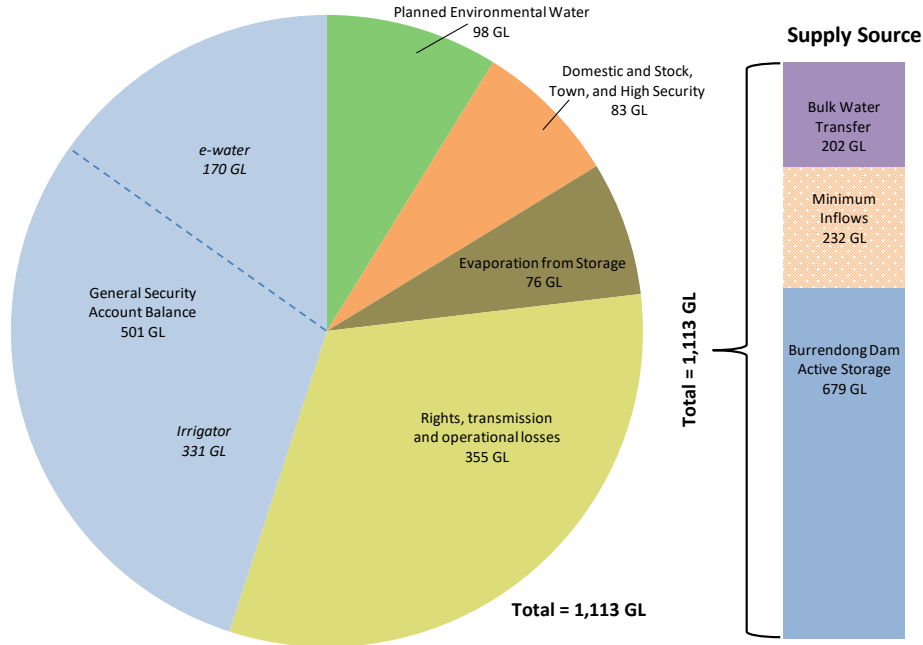
### Macquarie and Cudgong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (May 2024 to May 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,113
<i>less</i>	
This water year (05/2024 to 06/2024)	
Environmental Water Allowance	98
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	10
High Security balance	5
General Security balance <sup>(2) (3)</sup>	501
Evaporation from Burrendong <sup>(4)</sup>	5
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	28
Burrendong reserve for 2024/25 and 2025/26	
Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security <sup>(6)</sup>	68
Evaporation from Burrendong <sup>(4)</sup>	71
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	327
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	0

#### Notes:

- (1) Active Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of April (net of 34 GL of dead storage) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from May 2024 to May 2026 plus the future planned 202 GL transfer available from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume in general security accounts below Burrendong Dam inclusive of balances of current year allocation and carryover amount.
- (3) This volume contains held environmental water (HEW). This is estimated to be 170 GL of GS, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW DCCEEW - Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group (BCS) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (4) Evaporation loss from Burrendong is based on projected storage depletions.
- (5) The volume required to run the river to meet all non-licence-based demands and delivery overheads. This mostly comprises basic landholder rights, transmission and operational losses under dry conditions. The volume of second year is inclusive of delivery loss for the projected carry over volume.
- (6) Required volume to ensure full utilisation of 100% allocation to these licence holders.
- (7) Available volume is fully allocated with no surplus left.

**Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source**



**Allocations in 2023/24 for Macquarie and Cudgegong**

Table 1 : Water allocation history in 2023/24 for Macquarie (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Average Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
12-Jul	General Security	0.5 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	131%
12 - Jul	EWA- Macquarie	50%	50%	123%
10-Aug	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	132%
10-Aug	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	123%
12-Sep	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	128%
12-Sep	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	104%
12-Oct	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	124%
12-Oct	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	85%
10-Nov	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	113%
10-Nov	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	70%
12-Dec	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	107%

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Average Account Balance
12-Dec	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	60%
11-Jan	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	96%
11-Jan	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	59%
12-Feb	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	83%
12-Feb	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	59%
12-Mar	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.51 ML/unit share	75%
12-Mar	EWA- Macquarie	1%	51%	60%
11-Apr	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.54 ML/unit share	77%
11-Apr	EWA- Macquarie	3%	54%	62%
10-May	General Security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.59 ML/unit share	82%
10-May	EWA- Macquarie	5%	59%	61%

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2023/24 for Cudgegong (in % or ML/unit share)

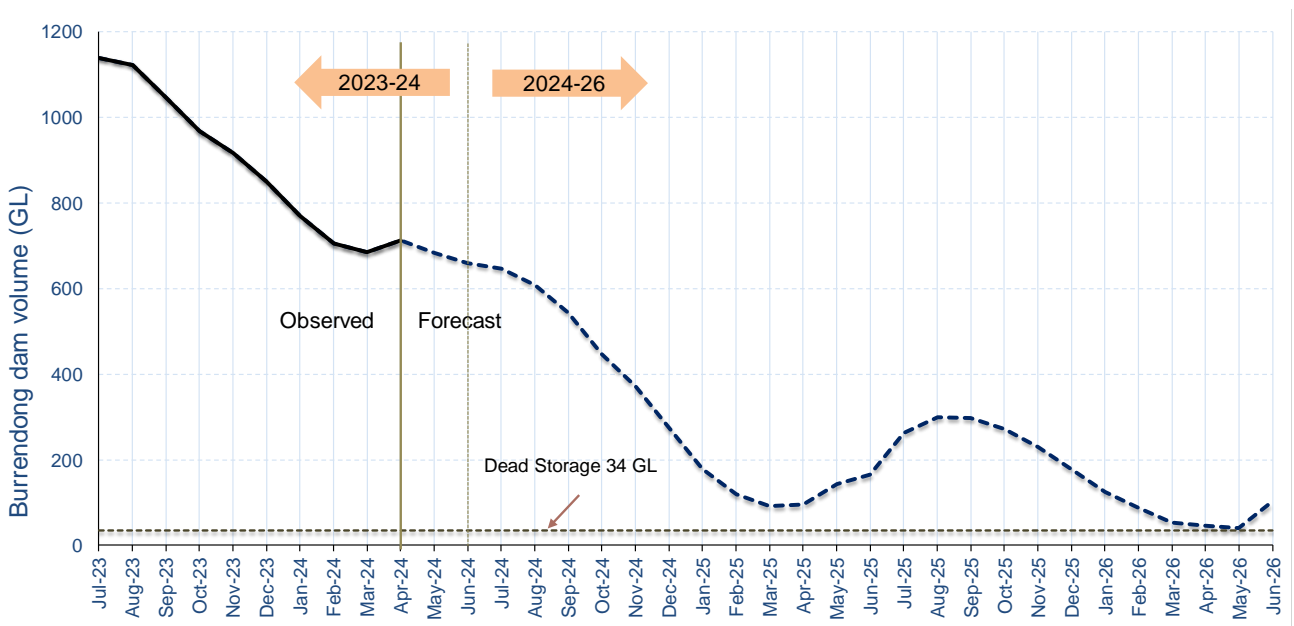
Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Average Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
12-Jul	General Security	0.5 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	130%
12-Jul	EWA-Cudgegong	50%	50%	213%
10-Aug	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	129%
10-Aug	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	213%
12-Sep	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	126%
12-Sep	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	213%
12-Oct	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	114%
12-Oct	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	213%
10-Nov	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	111%
10-Nov	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	155%
12-Dec	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	110%
12-Dec	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	143%
11-Jan	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	106%

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Average Account Balance
11-Jan	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	140%
12-Feb	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	105%
12-Feb	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	138%
12-Mar	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.51 ML/unit share	103%
12-Mar	EWA-Cudgegong	1%	51%	132%
11-Apr	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.54 ML/unit share	105%
11-Apr	EWA-Cudgegong	3%	54%	135%
10-May	General Security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.59 ML/unit share	109%
10-May	EWA-Cudgegong	5%	59%	140%

\*Maximum allowable.

### Storage outlook

The storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current allocations and commitments and an assumed repeat of the historical minimum inflow sequence (at the start of the water sharing plan) together with forecast demands, the volume in Burrendong Dam will reduce to a minimum by the end of May 2026 then begin to recover.



**Figure: Simulated Depletion of Burrendong Dam Storage Volume**

---

## Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water published a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is available at the link below.

For further details: [Resource assessment process | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

---

## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Subscribe [here](#) to receive Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

You can also follow the department on X: [@NSWDCCEEW\\_Water](#)

Feedback on this work or any aspect of the department's service can be provided using the widget at: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water | NSW Government](#)