13 January 2025

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

General security (GS) licenses in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source have received **an allocation increment of 8% of their entitlement.** Both the Macquarie and the Cudgegong Environmental Water Allowances (EWA) have also increased by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan.

The allocation increment is possible due to good inflow conditions along with delivery losses staying below the budgeted volume in December.

The increment takes the GS account balance for the Macquarie River water users to 505 gigalitres (GL), or an average 82% of entitlement. The total volume on GS accounts for those on the Cudgegong River is now about 22.6 GL or 122% of entitlement on average.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 December 2024. Any resource changes from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

13 January 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
Macquarie GS	8%	82% (505 GL)
Cudgegong GS	8%	122% (22.6 GL)
Macquarie EWA	8%	29% (47 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	8%	94% (10.8 GL)

Storage levels (as of 10 January 2025)

- Burrendong Dam is 62.5% full – holding about 756 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 91.8% full – holding about 337 GL.

Key information

- Burrendong Dam received about 116.2 GL of inflow during December 2024.
- Approximately 0.2 GL of Macquarie EWA was delivered, while around 2.3 GL of EWA was delivered in the Cudgegong River in December.
- No bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam will be required before July 2025.

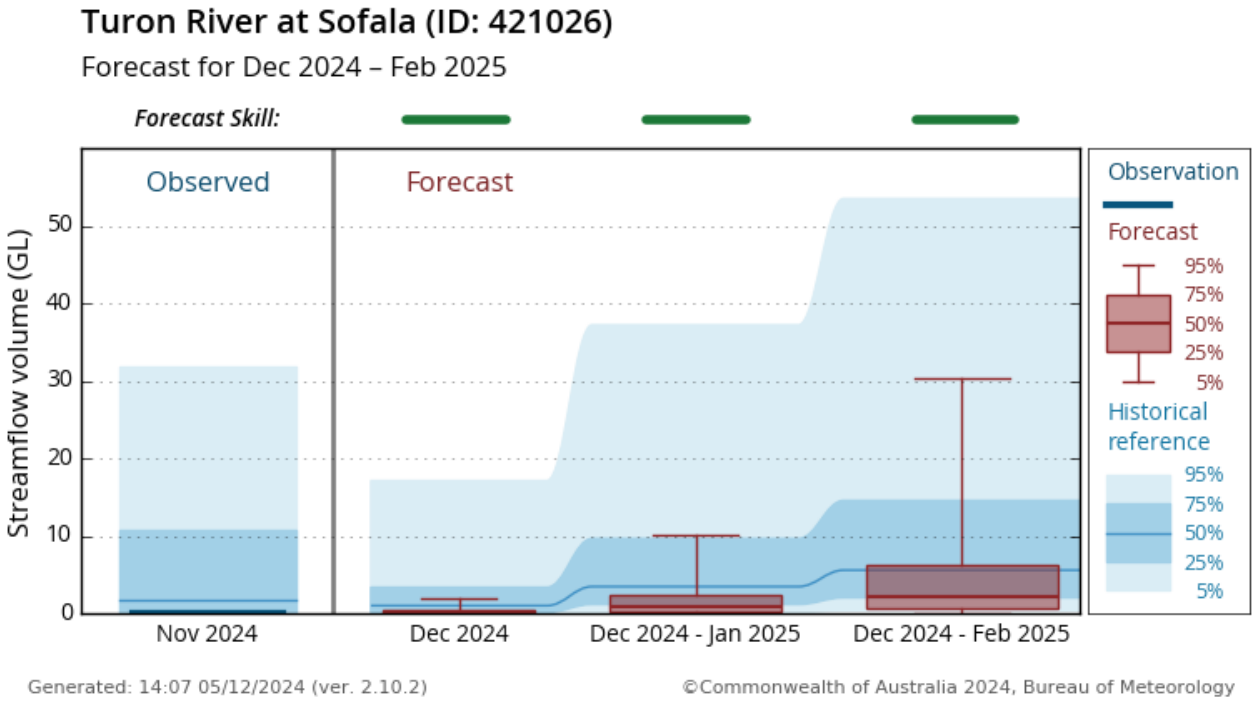
PUB25/10

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's monthly outlook for February 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be within the typical range for the season across the catchment, while daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average over this period.

For further details: Overview—Summary - Climate Outlooks (bom.gov.au)

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. Most of the forecast quantiles for total flow volumes are significantly lower than the historical flows from December 2024 to February 2025 indicating a dryer quarter. The graph from December 2024 to February 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au)



Macquarie resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (January 2025 to June 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources [(1)]	966
less	
This water year (01/2025 to 06/2025)	
Environmental Water Allowance	47

Domestic, Stock, Town balance	17
High Security balance	9
General Security balance [2] [3]	505
Evaporation from Burrendong [4]	33
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	120
Burrendong reserve for 2025/26	
Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security [6]	34
Evaporation from Burrendong [4]	43
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	156
equals	
Surplus (or deficit) [7]	2

Notes:

(1) Active Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of December (net of 34 GL of dead storage) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from January 2025 to April 2026 plus the future planned 194 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.

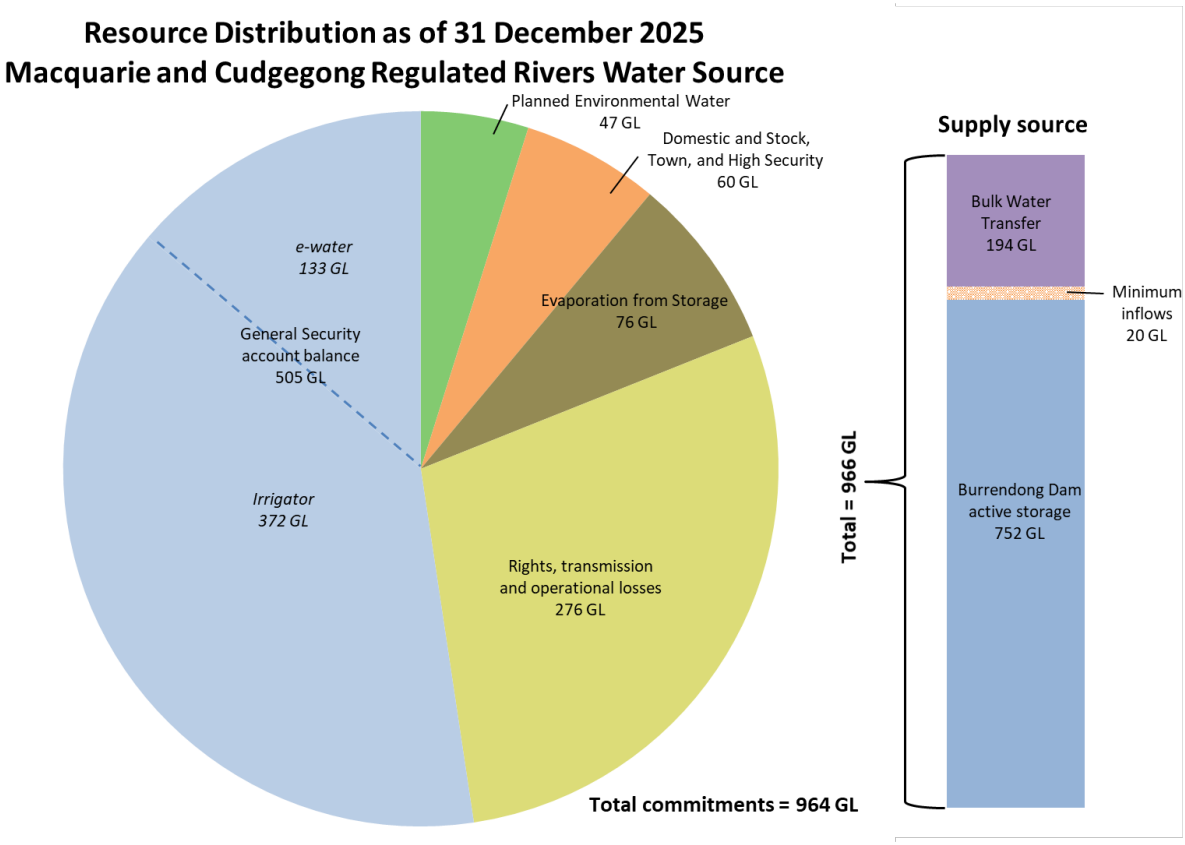
(3) The held environmental water is estimated to be 133 GL of General Security entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW DCCEEW - Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

(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) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small surplus which will be rolled over to next month's assessment.



Allocations in 2024/25 for Macquarie and Cudgegong Rivers Water Source

Table 1 : Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the Macquarie River Water Source

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	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%*
10-Jul	General Security	0.07 ML/unit share	0.07ML/unit share	92%
10-Jul	EWA- Macquarie	7%	7%	71%
12-Aug	General Security	0.10 ML/unit share	0.17ML/unit share	103%
12-Aug	EWA- Macquarie	10%	17%	79%
11-Oct	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.18 ML/unit share	95%
11-Oct	EWA- Macquarie	1%	18%	36%
12-Nov	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.20 ML/unit share	86%
12-Nov	EWA- Macquarie	2%	20%	27%
11-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share	82%
11-Dec	EWA- Macquarie	1%	21%	21.4%

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	Average Account Balance
13-Jan	General Security	0.08 ML/unit share	0.29 ML/unit share	82%
13-Jan	EWA- Macquarie	8%	29%	29%

*Maximum allowable.

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the Cudgegong River Water Source

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	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%*
10-Jul	General Security	0.07 ML/unit share	0.07 ML/unit share	120%
10-Jul	EWA-Cudgegong	7%	7%	150%
12-Aug	General Security	0.10 ML/unit share	0.17 ML/unit share	116%
12-Aug	EWA-Cudgegong	10%	17%	160%
11-Oct	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.18 ML/unit share	115%
11-Oct	EWA-Cudgegong	1%	18%	161%
12-Nov	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.20 ML/unit share	116%
12-Nov	EWA-Cudgegong	2%	20%	113%
11-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share	116%
11-Dec	EWA-Cudgegong	1%	21%	91%
13-Jan	General Security	0.08 ML/unit share	0.29 ML/unit share	122%
13-Jan	EWA-Cudgegong	8%	29%	94%

*Maximum allowable.

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 of 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 this water source will be issued on **Wednesday, 12 February 2025**.

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

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