12 March 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 3% 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 allocation increment is possible due to good inflow conditions along with delivery losses staying below the budgeted volume in February.

The increment takes the GS account balance for the Macquarie River water users to 425 gigalitres (GL), or an average 69% of entitlement. The total volume on GS accounts for those on the Cudgegong River is now about 21.9 GL or 118% of entitlement on average.

This resource assessment is based on information to 28 February 2025. Any resource changes from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

12 March 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
Macquarie GS	3%	69% (425 GL)
Cudgegong GS	3%	118% (21.9 GL)
Macquarie EWA	3%	35% (56 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	3%	82% (9.3 GL)

Storage levels (as of 12 March 2025)

- Burrendong Dam is 53% full – holding about 643 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 90% full – holding about 331 GL.

PUB25/251

Key information

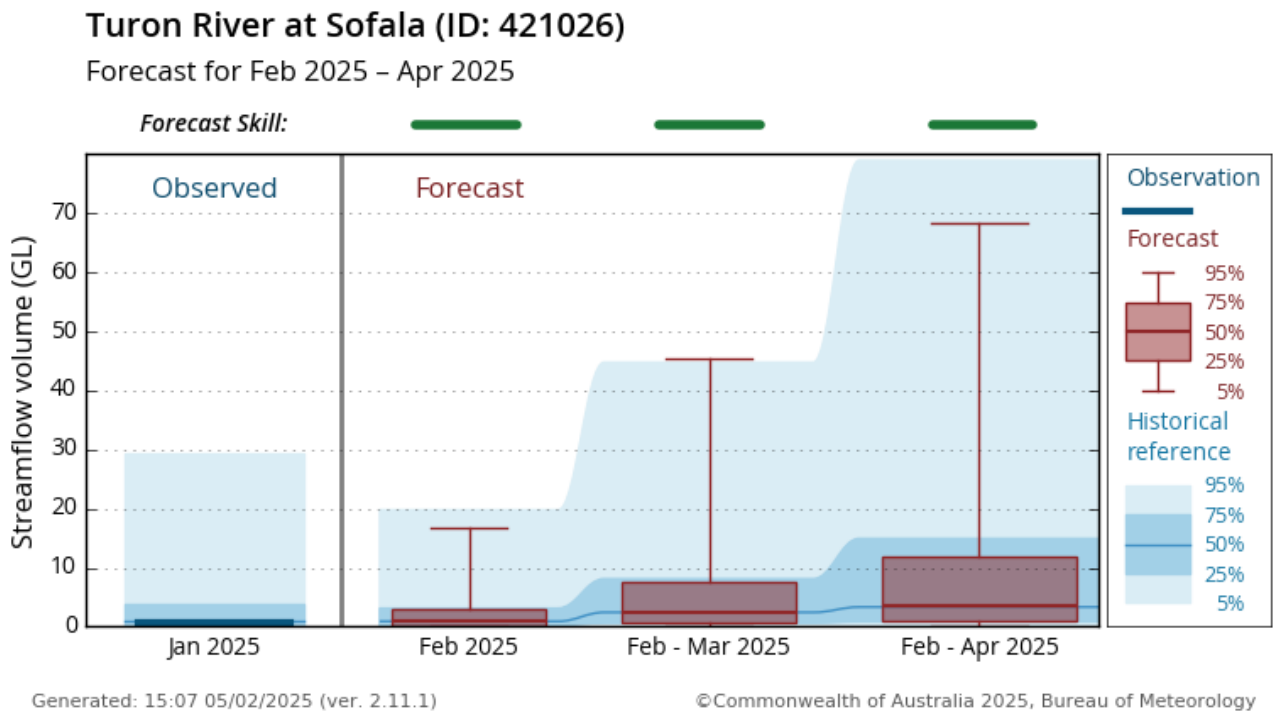
- Burrendong Dam received about 11 GL of inflow during February 2025.
- In February, no EWA was delivered in Macquarie and EWA deliveries in Cudgegong River were seized on 1 February.
- No bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam will be required before July 2025.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's monthly outlook for April 2025 indicates that April is the month with the highest likelihood of above average rainfall, 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. The low to median forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from February to April 2025 are similar to the historical flow quantiles. The graph from February to April 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 (March 2025 to June 2026)	Volume (GL)	
Current and Future Resources [1]		831
less		
This water year (03/2025 to 06/2025)		
Environmental Water Allowance	56	
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	14	
High Security balance	7	
General Security balance [2] [3]	425	
Evaporation from Burrendong [4]	14	
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	79	
Burrendong reserve for 2025/26		
Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security [6]	34	
Evaporation from Burrendong [4]	38	
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	159	
equals		
Surplus (or deficit) [7]		5

Notes:

(1) Active Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of February (net of 34 GL of dead storage) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from March 2025 to April 2026 plus the future planned 190 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.

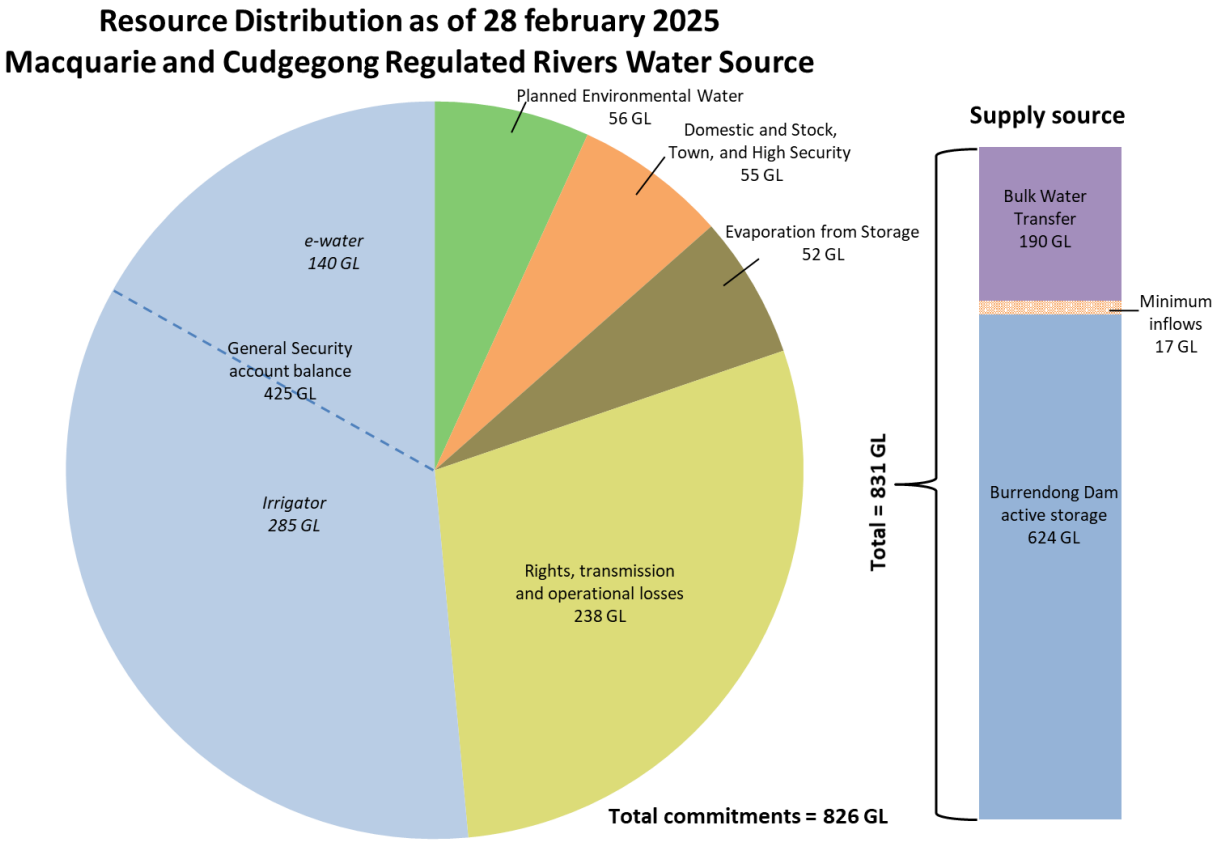
(3) The held environmental water is estimated to be 140 GL of General Security entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

(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 licences below Burrendong Dam

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%

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	Average Account Balance
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%
13-Jan	General Security	0.08 ML/unit share	0.29 ML/unit share	82%
13-Jan	EWA- Macquarie	8%	29%	29%
12-Feb	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.32 ML/unit share	73%
12-Feb	EWA- Macquarie	3%	32%	32%
12-Mar	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.35 ML/unit share	69%
12-Mar	EWA- Macquarie	3%	35%	35%

*Maximum allowable.

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the licences above Burrendong Dam

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%

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	Average Account Balance
13-Jan	EWA-Cudgegong	8%	29%	94%
12-Feb	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.32 ML/unit share	103%
12-Feb	EWA-Cudgegong	3%	32%	79%
12-Mar	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.35 ML/unit share	118%
12-Mar	EWA-Cudgegong	3%	35%	82%

*Maximum allowable.

Storage volume simulation

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 April 2026 then begin to recover.

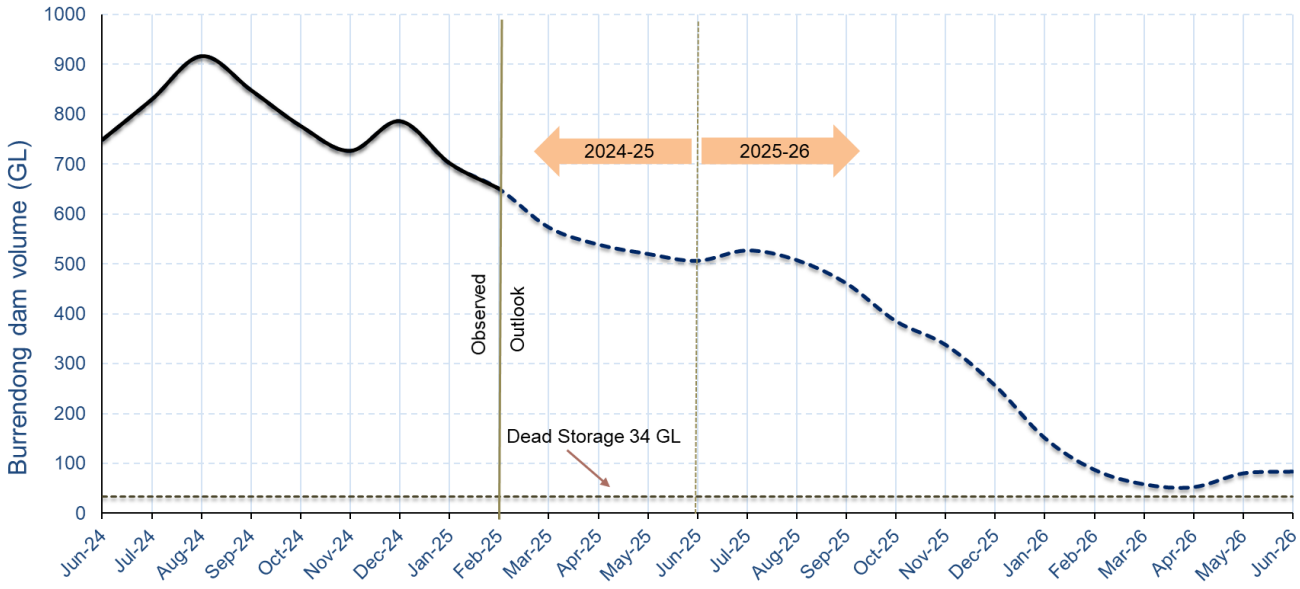


Figure: Simulated Depletion of Burrendong Dam Storage Volume

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 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 **Thursday, 10 April 2025.**

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.

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