

10 April 2025

# Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

## Water allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security (GS) entitlement holders and likewise no increase in the environmental water allowance (EWA).

The general security account balance for water users on the Macquarie River is 418 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 68% of entitlement. The GS account balance for those on the Cudgegong River is 21 GL or an average 115% of entitlement.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 March 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

## Current allocation

10 April 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
Macquarie GS	0%	68% (418 GL)
Cudgegong GS	0%	115% (21 GL)
Macquarie EWA	0%	33% (52 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	0%	82% (9 GL)

## Storage volume (as of 10 April 2025)

- Burrendong Dam is 51% full – holding about 623 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 89% full – holding about 329 GL.

## Key information

- On April 1, 2025, carryover evaporation reduction was applied to carryover accounts of General Security (GS), High Security (HS) and EWA in the Macquarie and Cudgegong water sources in accordance with the water sharing plan rules. For more information [click here](#).

- Burrendong Dam received about 3 GL of inflow during March 2025. Inflows have resulted in some resource improvement; however, they were not sufficient to allow for any increase in allocations at this time.
- Around 3 GL of Macquarie EWA was delivered, and there has been no EWA usage in Cudgegong River in March.
- No bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam will be required before July 2025.

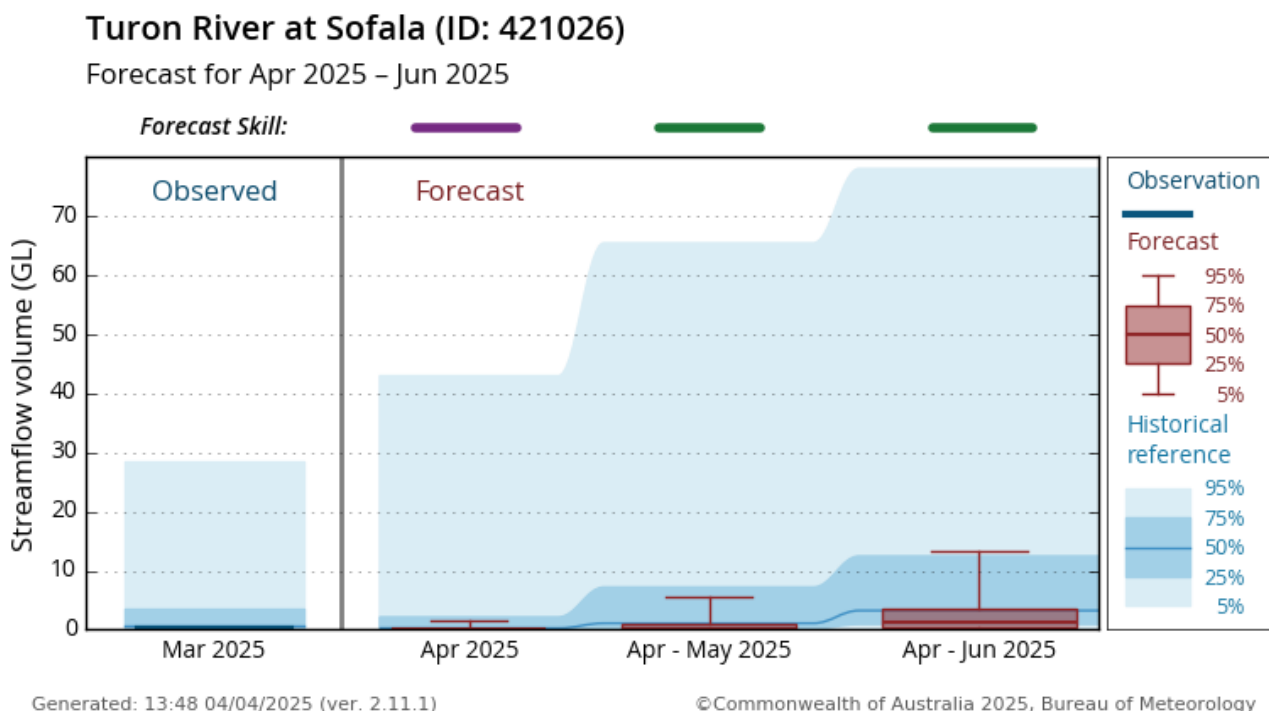
## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's monthly outlook for May 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be below the median value, across the catchment. The outlook from April to June 2025 indicates that daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be above the median for the three month period.

For further details: [Overview – Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/australia/seasonal/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. All forecast quantiles, sit below the corresponding historical flows from April to June 2025, suggesting drier than average conditions for the period. However, please note that the forecast skill for April to June quarter has been very low.

The graph from April 2025 to June 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/australia/seasonal/summary/)



## Macquarie resource assessment data sheet

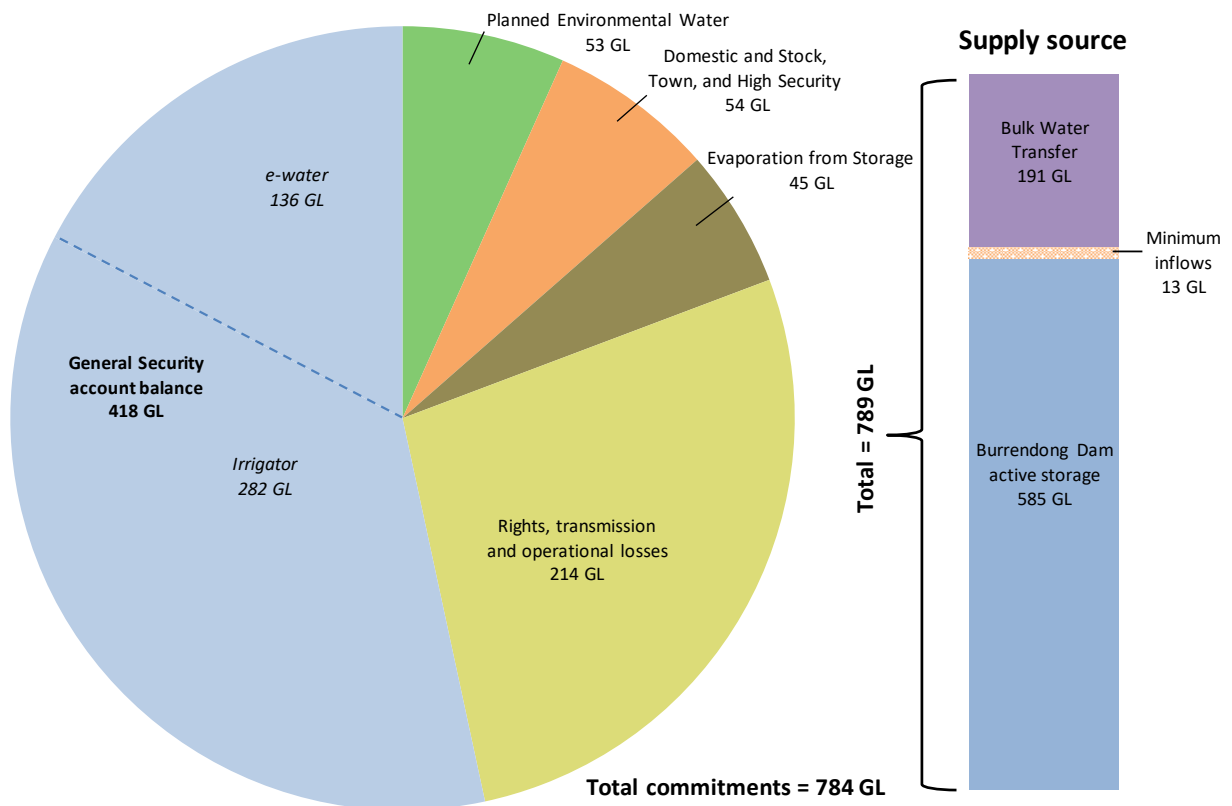
Resource distribution (April 2025 to June 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	789
<i>less</i>	
This water year (04/2025 to 06/2025)	
Environmental Water Allowance	53
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	13
High Security balance	7
General Security balance <sup>(2) (3)</sup>	418
Evaporation from Burrendong <sup>(4)</sup>	7
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	55
Burrendong reserve for 2025/26	
Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security <sup>(6)</sup>	34
Evaporation from Burrendong <sup>(4)</sup>	38
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	159
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	5

### Notes:

- (1) Active Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of March (net of 34 GL of dead storage) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from April 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 136 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 Macquarie 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.

## Resource Distribution as of 31 March 2025

### Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source



## Macquarie River water allocation in 2024/25

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.

## Cudgegong River water allocation in 2024/25

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.

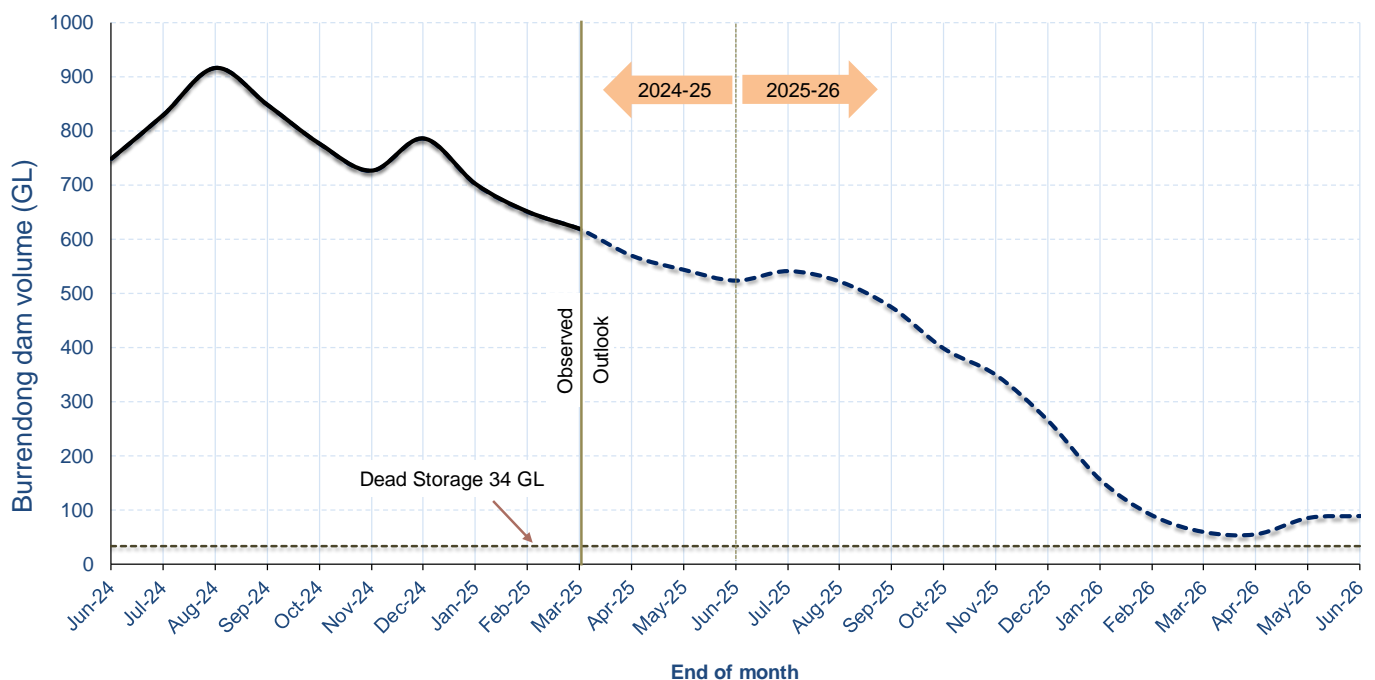


Figure: Simulated depletion of Burrendong Dam storage volume

## 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 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

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## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be issued on **Monday, 12 May 2025**.

*Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [NSW Government Water](#)*

*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 on the right hand side at the water tile at: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water | NSW Government](#)*