

12 May 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 the Macquarie River water users is 415 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 68% of entitlement. Similarly, the general security account balance for the Cudgegong River is 21 GL or an average of 111% of entitlement.

The resource assessment this month has returned a minor surplus. This resource assessment is based on information to 30 April 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

12 May 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
Macquarie GS	0%	68% (415 GL)
Cudgegong GS	0%	111% (21 GL)
Macquarie EWA	0%	33% (52 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	0%	82% (9 GL)

Resource outlook for 2025/26

This outlook for the potential 1 July 2025 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that forecast calculations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution. The outlook aims to broadly guide water users with end of water year water management decisions. Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting that some accounts can forfeit water after 30 June 2025.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including basic landholder rights, towns and environmental needs, is secure for the 2025/26 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 2025.
- 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 of 100% of entitlement.
- In Cudgegong carryover sub-account has a maximum limit of 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 water 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 2025/26.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can also expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July. However, access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow.

Storage volume (as of 12 May 2025)

- Burrendong Dam is 50% full – holding about 614 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 89% full – holding about 328 GL.

Key information

- Inflows to Burrendong Dam since January 2025 have been very low. The total for the last four months was the lowest since 2018, the most recent drought .
- Burrendong Dam received about 0.5 GL of inflow during April 2025. Inflows have resulted in some resource improvement; however, they were not sufficient to allow for any increase in allocations at this time.
- Around 117 ML of EWA was delivered in the Macquarie River, and there has been no EWA usage in Cudgegong River in April 2025.
- No bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam will be required before July 2025.

Storage volume (as of 10 May 2025)

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

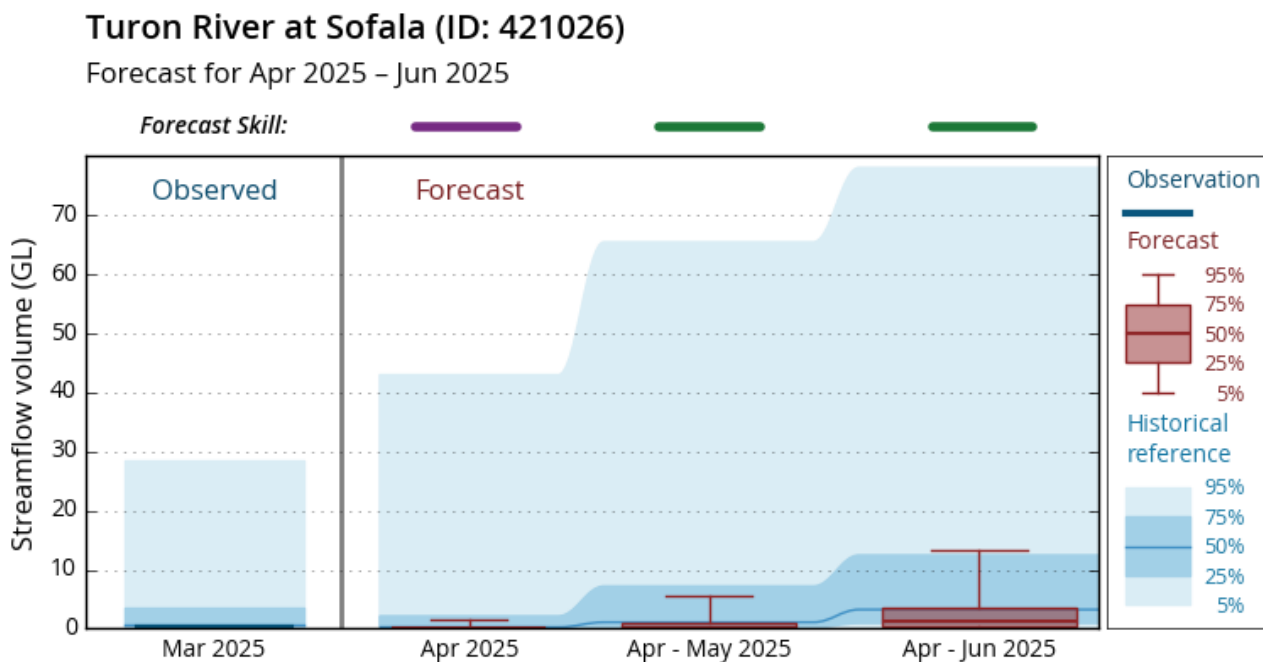
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's monthly outlook for June 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be around the median value, across the catchment. The outlook from May 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/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 the forecast quantiles, sit markedly below the corresponding historical flows from April to June 2025, suggesting drier than average conditions for the period are likely. 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/seasonal/forecast/)



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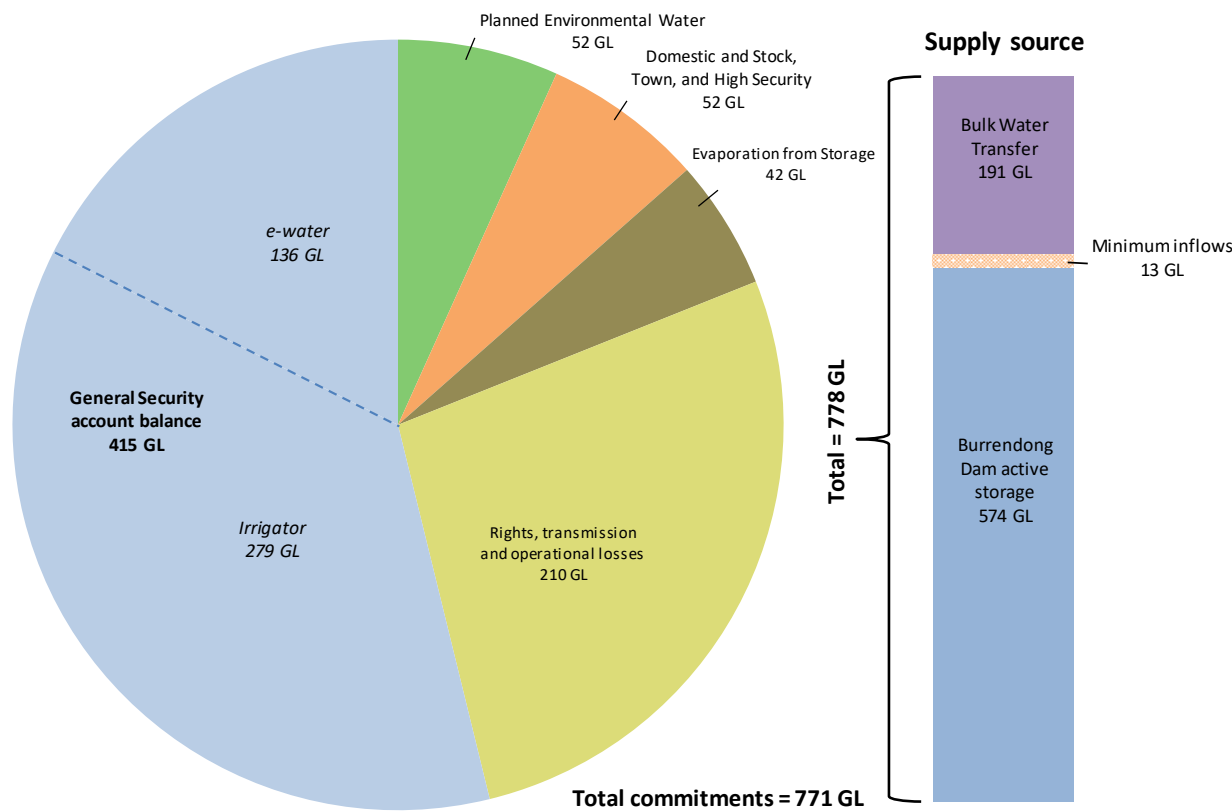
Macquarie resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (May 2025 to June 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	778
<i>less</i>	
This water year (05/2025 to 06/2025)	
Environmental Water Allowance	52
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	12
High Security balance	6
General Security balance ^{(2) (3)}	415
Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁴⁾	4
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	51
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
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or Deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	7

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 2025 to April 2026 plus the future planned 191 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 Dam 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 the next assessment.

Resource Distribution as of 30 April 2025
Macquarie and Cudgong 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.

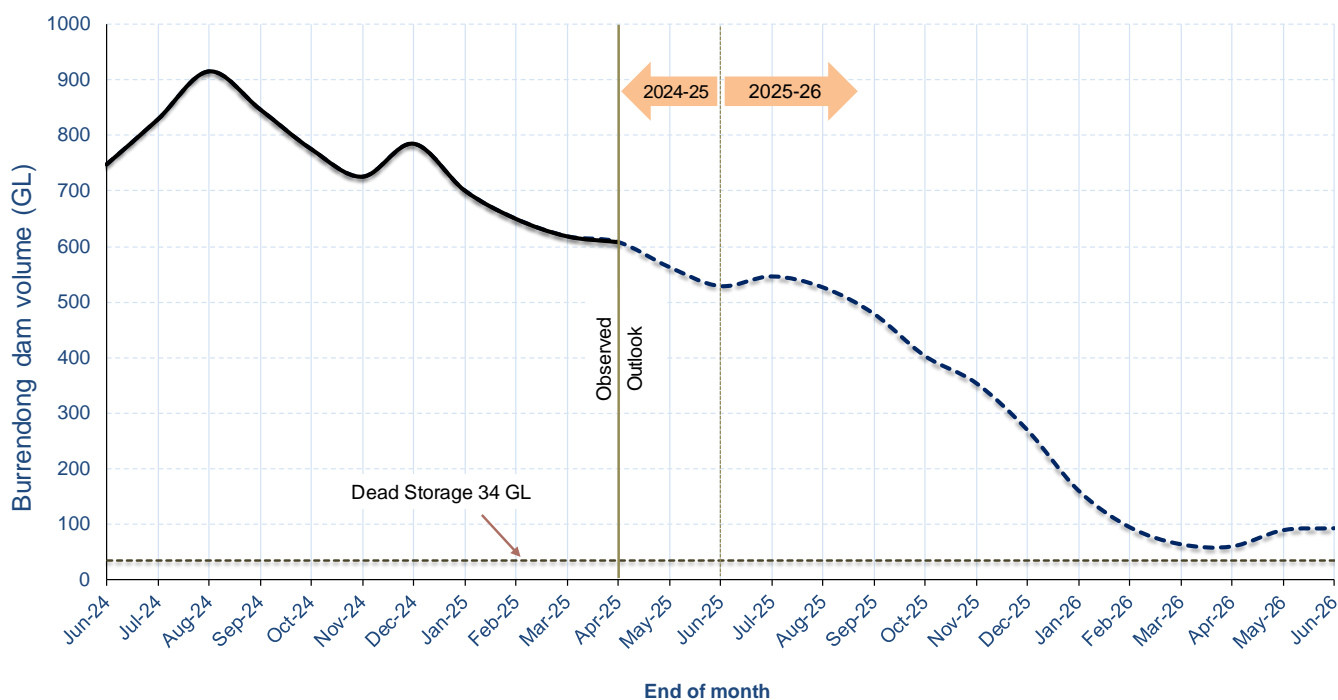


Figure: Simulated depletion of Burrendong Dam storage volume

Useful links

- 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 following link: [Resource assessment process | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The NSW DCCEEW developed a dashboard to enhance the transparency and accessibility of up-to-date information on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources. The dashboard can be accessed at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water Sharing Plan – The water sharing plan for this water source is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016](#)

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be issued on Thursday, 12 June 2025.

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

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