

29 May 2023

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is no change to allocations in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source. This statement provides the latest resource distribution and a preliminary outlook for opening allocations in the 2023/24 water year.

All licences in the regulated Macquarie Cudgegong system have received their maximum allocation for 2022/23, hence no allocation increase can be announced in this statement.

Resource outlook for 2023/24

This outlook for the potential 1 July 2023 water allocation is based on several conservative assumptions and seeks to help water users with end-of-year water planning decisions.

However, it is a preliminary forecast only, not a guarantee of water and may change, therefore should be used with caution. For example, the forecast below for general security water users could be substantially different if Windamere Dam spills and Burrendong Dam re-enters the flood mitigation zone before 1 July 2023, and triggers another account reset.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including basic landholder rights and local water utility access licences, is secure for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 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 2023.
- The current forecast of average **carryover** into 2023/24 in the Macquarie system is about 81% of share component, and in the Cudgegong system it is about 85%. The environmental water allowance is expected to carryover about 126 gigalitres (GL).
- **General security** (GS) 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 assessment will continue, with the first allocation statement, planned for 12 July 2023, incorporating the resource assessment to the end of June 2023. It is likely to include a **general security allocation of up to 45%** of entitlement.
- Bulk water transfers from Windamere to Burrendong Dam are not likely before July 2024.

The carryover limit in the regulated Macquarie water source is 100% for general security licences, while the maximum allocation in a water year to general security entitlement is 100% of share component. In the Cudgegong, licences not listed in Schedule 2 of the water sharing plan can similarly carry over up to 100% of share component, while those listed in Schedule 2, can carryover up to 15 megalitres (ML)/hectare.

Dam levels (as of 29 May 2023)

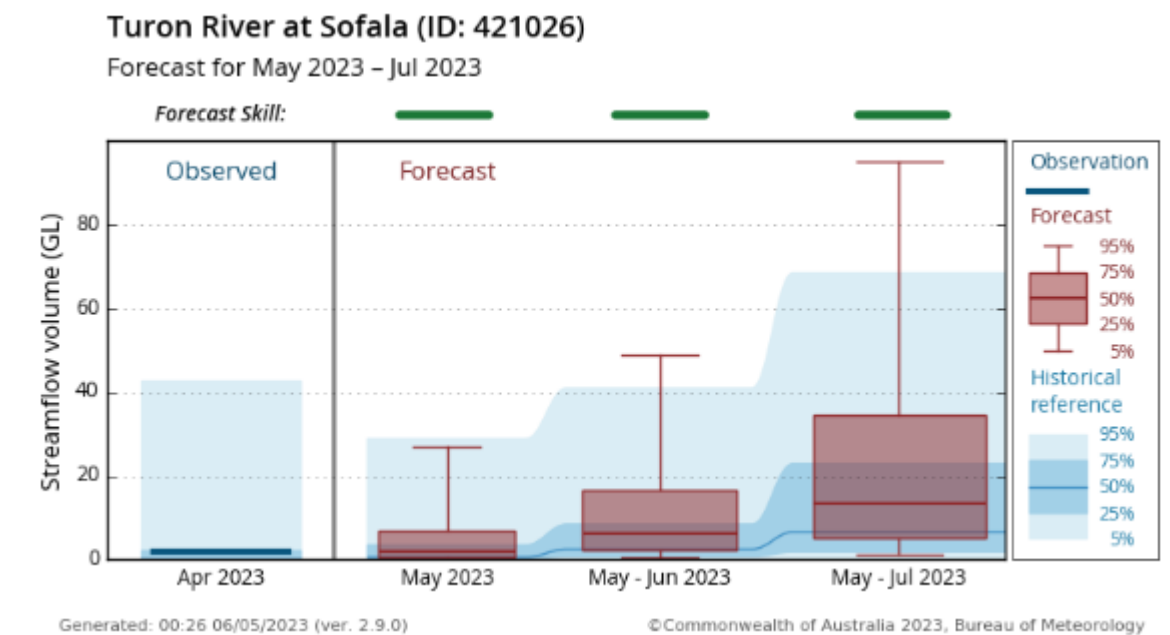
- Burrendong Dam is 95% full – holding about 1,129 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 97% full – holding about 358 GL.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for June to August indicates that rainfall is likely to be below median across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be warmer than median. Overnight temperatures show no clear indication of either cooler than median or warmer than median conditions over the next three months for the catchment.

Further details at: 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). All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from May to July are higher than the historical flows, indicating flows to July are likely to be higher than historical over this period. The graph to July 2023 is shown below and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026



Resource distribution

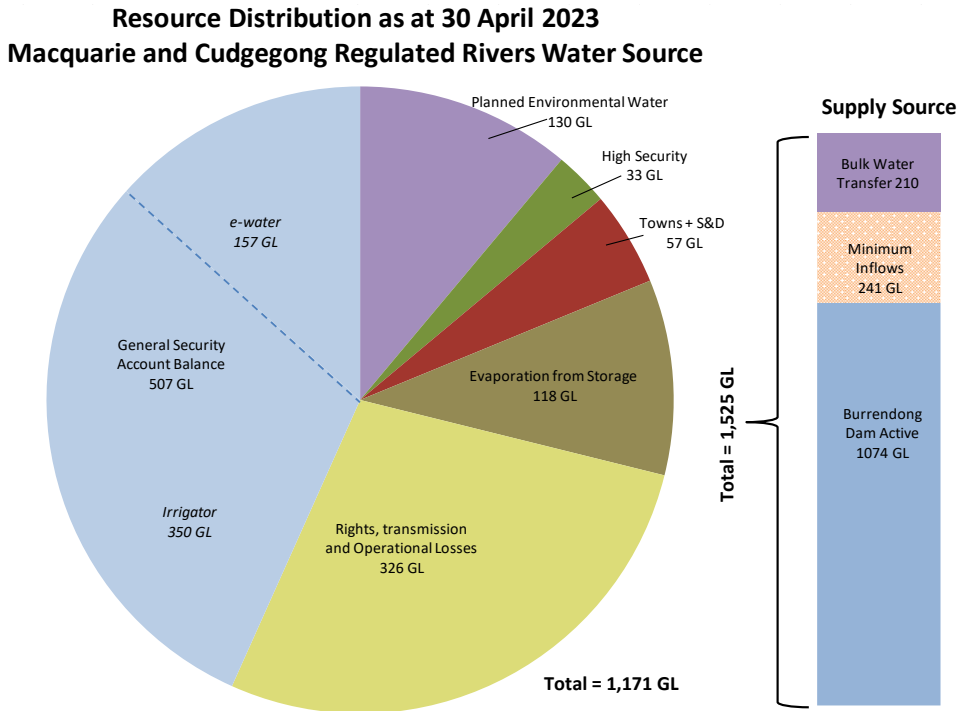
Macquarie and Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (May 2023 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,525
<i>less</i>	
This water year (05/23 to 06/23)	
Environmental Water Allowance ⁽²⁾	130
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	14
High Security balance	8
General Security balance ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	507
Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁵⁾	7
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁶⁾	13
Storage reserve for 2023/24 & 2024/25	
Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁷⁾	68
Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁸⁾	111
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁹⁾	313
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽¹⁰⁾	354

Notes:

- (1) Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of April plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from May 2023 to May 2025 plus the future planned 210 GL transfer from Windamere Dam. Also, this is net of 55 GL of dead storage plus inaccessible volume.
- (2) Water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) under the water sharing plan to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (3) Volume in general security accounts below Burrendong Dam including carryover and AWDs for this water year, discounted for evaporative losses.
- (4) This volume contains held environmental water (HEW). The reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 157 GL of GS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) Evaporation loss from Burrendong is based on forecast storage levels from May 2023 to June 2023.
- (6) Basic landholder rights, transmission and operational losses to run the river under dry conditions from May 2023 to June 2023.
- (7) Required volume behind Burrendong Dam on 30 June 2023 to ensure 100% allocation to Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security WALs below Burrendong Dam for next two water years.
- (8) Evaporation loss from Burrendong is based on forecast storage levels for next two water years.

- (9) Conservative estimate of the volume required to run the river for 2023/24 and 2024/25 to meet all non-licence-based demands and delivery overheads. This mostly comprises of basic rights, transmission losses and operational losses.
- (10) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. As all accounts are allocated in full, this volume remains unallocated, improving the allocation reliability for the next water year.



Allocations in 2022/23 for Macquarie and Cudgong

Table 1: Water allocation history in 2022/23 for Macquarie (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	General Security	0.40 ML/unit share	0.40 ML/unit share
10-Aug	General Security	0.60 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
6-Sep	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
6-Sep	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*

*Maximum allowable.

#Following the withdrawal of carryover and reset of accounts under cl 44(3) of the WSP.

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2022/23 for Cudgegong (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	General Security	0.40 ML/unit share	0.40 ML/unit share
10-Aug	General Security	0.60 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
6-Sep	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
6-Sep	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Nov	General Security	1.00ML/share	1.00 ML/unit share*

*Maximum allowable.

Above 100% due to positive net trade into the Cudgegong.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation method for all major NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source is available at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

No further allocation statement is planned for this water year. The next water allocation information for this water source will be included in the state-wide opening allocation statements on 1 July 2023. The routine water allocation statement of next water year for this water source will commence on **Wednesday 12 July 2023**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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

Feedback on this work or any aspect of the Department's service can be provided using the widget at: www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/contact

You can also follow the Department on Twitter: @NSWDPIE_Water