

12 February 2024

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

This latest resource assessment finds **no increase** in allocation for **general security (GS)** entitlement holders and likewise no increase in the environmental water allowance (EWA).

The total Macquarie water source general security account balance is now 511 gigalitres (GL), or about 83% of entitlement. Similarly, the total Cudgegong general security water available is now about 19.6 GL or 105% of entitlement on average.

Inflows since the last assessment have been small and insufficient to provide additional allocation. This resource assessment is conservatively based on information to 31 January 2024. Any changes in resources since then will be captured in the next routine statement in March 2024.

Current allocation

12 February 2024	Allocation Increment	Account Water Available
Macquarie GS	0%	83% (511 GL)
Cudgegong GS	0%	105% (19.6 GL)
Macquarie EWA	0%	59% (94 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	0%	138% (15.8 GL)

Dam levels (as of 12 February 2024)

- Burrendong Dam is 60% full – holding 729 GL. Windamere Dam is 93% full – holding 342 GL.

Key information

- Burrendong dam received about 24 GL of inflows during January 2024. A storage outlook plot for the assessment horizon is provided later in this statement.
- A total of 103 GL of Macquarie EWA and a total of 8.6 GL of Cudgegong EWA water was delivered to the end of January 2024 this water year.
- No bulk water transfers are forecast to be required before June 2024.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for February to April 2024 indicates that rainfall is likely to be median to below median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months for the catchment.

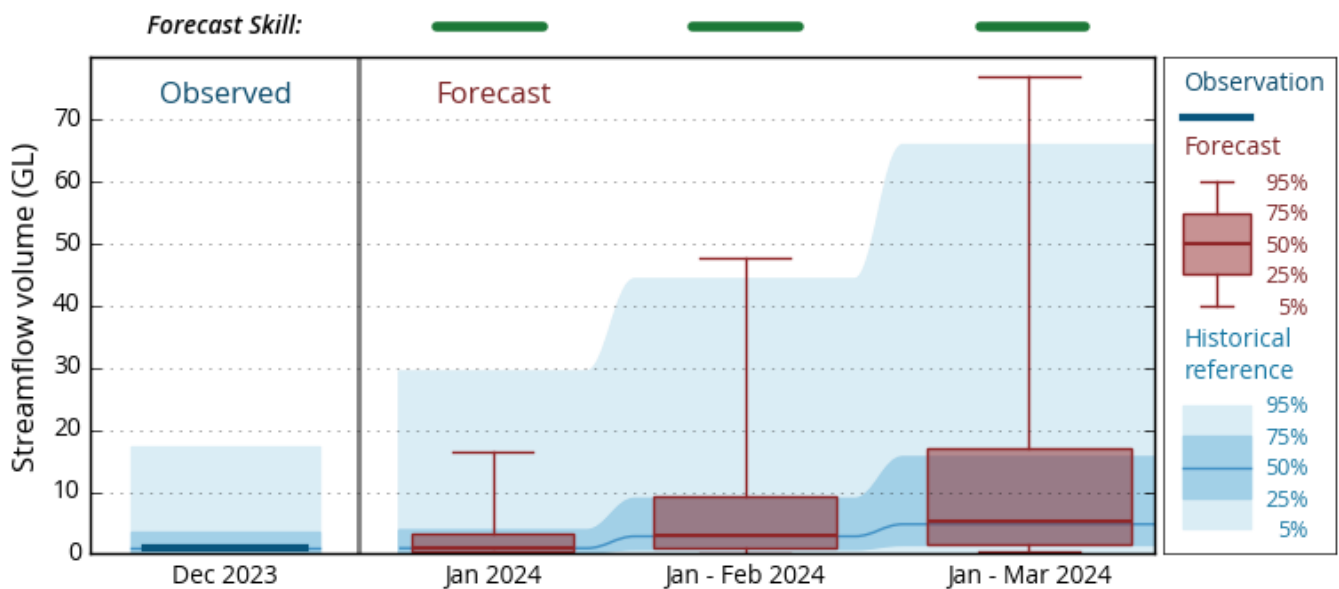
For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Turon River at Sofala, which drains into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indication of potential storage inflows. The forecast quantile of total flow volumes from January to March 2024 are similar to the historical flows, indicating potentially similar monthly inflow into Burrendong Dam over this period to the long term. The graph from January to March 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026>

Turon River at Sofala (ID: 421026)

Forecast for Jan 2024 – Mar 2024



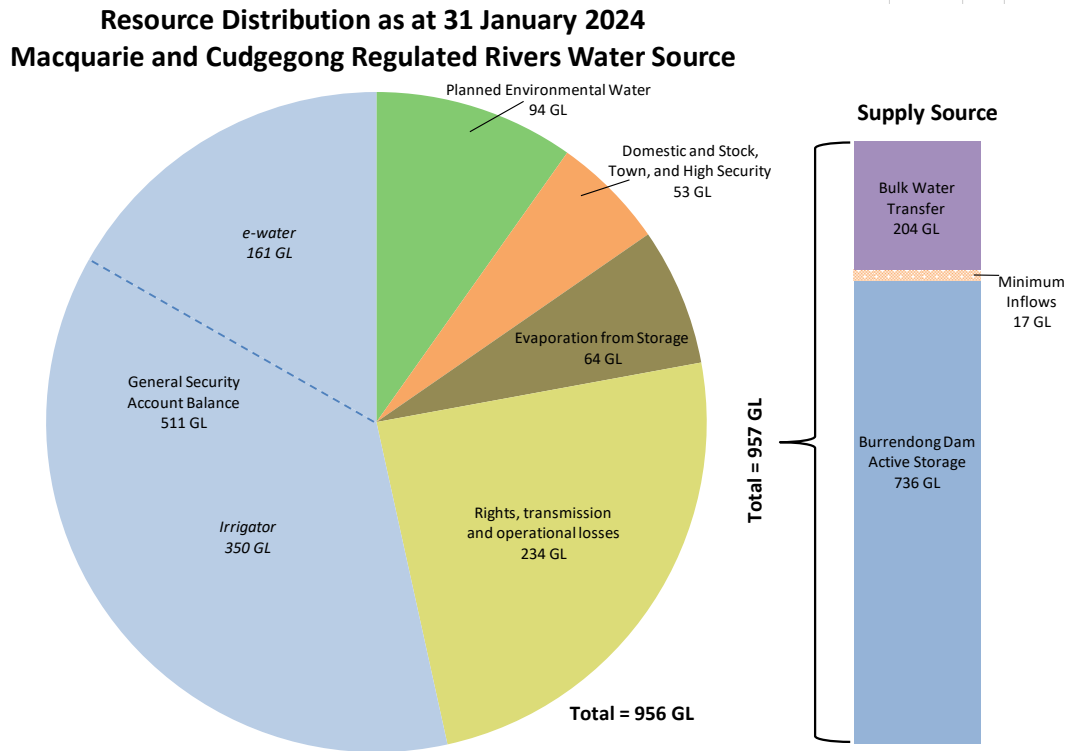
Resource Distribution

Macquarie and Cudgong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (February 2024 to April 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	957
<i>less</i>	
This water year (02/2024 to 06/2024)	
Environmental Water Allowance	94
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	12
High Security balance	7
General Security balance ^{(2) (3)}	511
Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁴⁾	26
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	84
Burrendong reserve for 2024/25	
Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁶⁾	34
Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁴⁾	38
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	150
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	1

Notes:

- (1) Active Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of January (net of 34 GL of dead storage) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from February 2024 to April 2025 plus the future planned 204 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) This volume contains held environmental water (HEW). This is estimated to be 161 GL of GS, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW DCCEEW - Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group (BCS) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (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 2023/24 for Macquarie and Cudgong

Table 1 : Water allocation history in 2023/24 for Macquarie (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	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%*
12-Jul	General Security	0.5 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	131%
12 - Jul	EWA- Macquarie	50%	50%	123%
10-Aug	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	132%
10-Aug	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	123%
12-Sep	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	128%
12-Sep	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	104%
12-Oct	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	124%
12-Oct	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	85%
10-Nov	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	113%
10-Nov	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	70%

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Average Account Balance
12-Dec	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	107%
12-Dec	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	60%
11-Jan	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	96%
11-Jan	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	59%
12-Feb	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	83%
12-Feb	EWA- Macquarie	0%	50%	59%

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2023/24 for Cudgegong (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	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%*
12-Jul	General Security	0.5 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	130%
12-Jul	EWA-Cudgegong	50%	50%	213%
10-Aug	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	129%
10-Aug	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	213%
12-Sep	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	126%
12-Sep	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	213%
12-Oct	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	114%
12-Oct	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	213%
10-Nov	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	111%
10-Nov	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	155%
12-Dec	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	110%
12-Dec	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	143%
11-Jan	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	106%
11-Jan	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	140%
12-Feb	General Security	0 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share	105%
12-Feb	EWA-Cudgegong	0%	50%	138%

*Maximum allowable.

Storage outlook

The storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current allocations and commitments and an assumed repeat of historical minimum inflow sequence, together with forecast demands, the volume in Burrendong Dam will reduce to a minimum by the end of April 2025 and begin to recover.

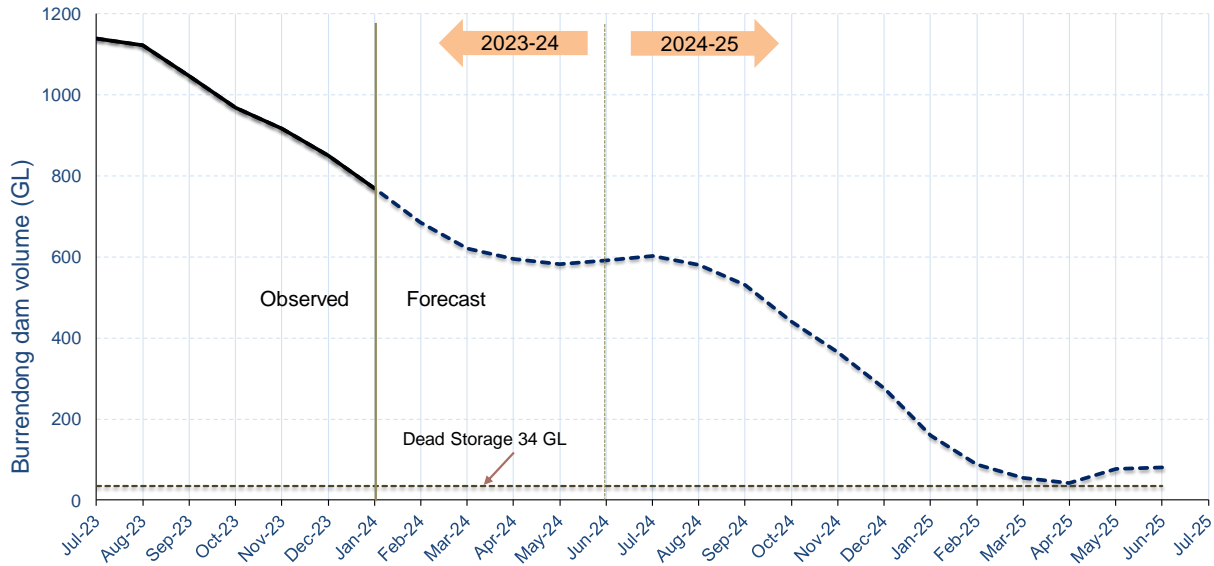


Figure: Simulated Depletion of Burrendong Dam Storage Volume

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 NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source is available at the link below.

For further details: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process>

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Tuesday 12th March 2024**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department’s website: [Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://Water.nsw.gov.au)

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