

12 July 2023

# Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

## Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated river water source in June to allow an allocation increase of 50% to general security (GS) entitlement.

Both the Macquarie and the Cudgegong Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) also increase by the same percentage in accordance with the water-sharing plan. Note that the Cudgegong EWA commenced on 1 July 2023, as described in the latest amendment to the water-sharing plan (WSP Clauses 67-72).

The total Macquarie water source general security account balance is now 802 gegalitres (GL), or about 131% of entitlement on average. Similarly Cudgegong water source average account balance is now about 24.3 GL or 130% of entitlement.

All higher priority licences were given their maximum allocation on 1 July 2023.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 June 2023. Any changes in resources since that date forward will be captured in the next resources assessment.

2023/24	Current Allocation	Average Account Balance (% of entitlement)
Macquarie	50%	131%
Cudgegong	50%	130%
Macquarie (EWA)	50%	123% (196 GL)*
Cudgegong (EWA)	50%	213% (24.3 GL)^

Notes:

\* Comprising allocation (50% \* 160 GL) plus 116 GL of environmental water undelivered in 2022/23 (carry over);

^ Comprises allocation (50% \* 11.4 GL) plus 18.6 GL of environmental water undelivered in 2022/23.

## Dam levels (as of 11 July 2023)

- Burrendong Dam is 96% full – holding about 1,142 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 98% full – holding about 359 GL.

## Key information

- The average general security carryover from the 2022/23 water year is estimated to be 496 gegalitres (GL) or 81% of entitlement in the Macquarie and 15 GL or 80% of entitlement in the Cudgegong.
- Cudgegong Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) commenced on 1 July 2023.
- The Macquarie Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) carryover from the 2022/23 water year is estimated about 116 GL.

## Summary of last water year (2022/23)

Last year continued with generally wet conditions providing good resource availability. The year started with an opening allocation of 40% to general security users plus an average account balance of 129% of entitlement. General security allocation was further increased by 60% on 10 August bringing the total GS allocation to maximum (100%).

By 6 September 2022, Burrendong Dam was in the flood mitigation zone after high inflows, triggering a reset of all general and high security accounts to 100% of entitlement. Last year all entitlements reached their maximum annual allocation.

## Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall is likely to be below median across the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than median conditions over the next three months for the catchment.

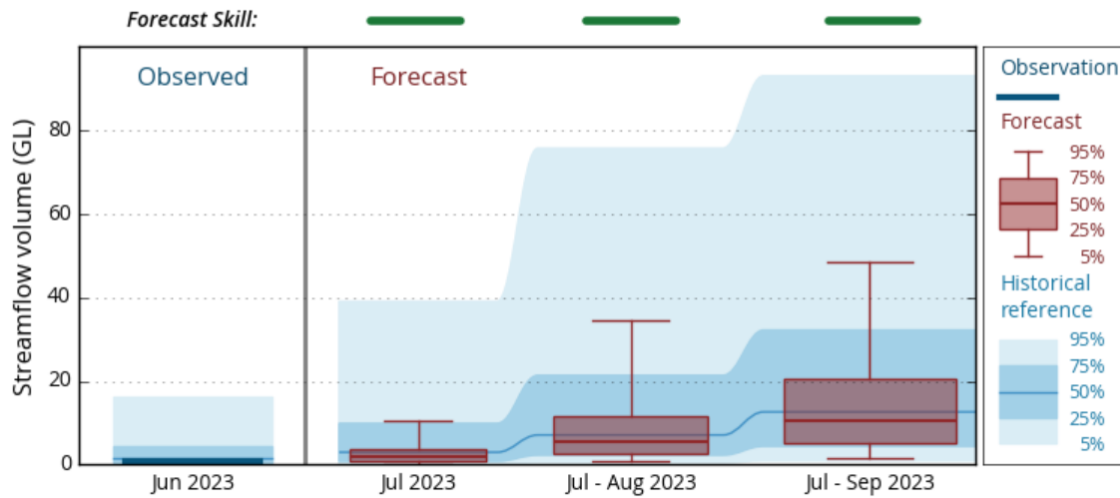
For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

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.

Forecast quantiles 5% and 25% of total flow volumes from July to September are higher than the historical flows. All other forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from July to September are lower than the historical flows. The graph to September 2023 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 Jul 2023 – Sep 2023



Generated: 11:27 05/07/2023 (ver. 2.9.0)

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## Resource Distribution

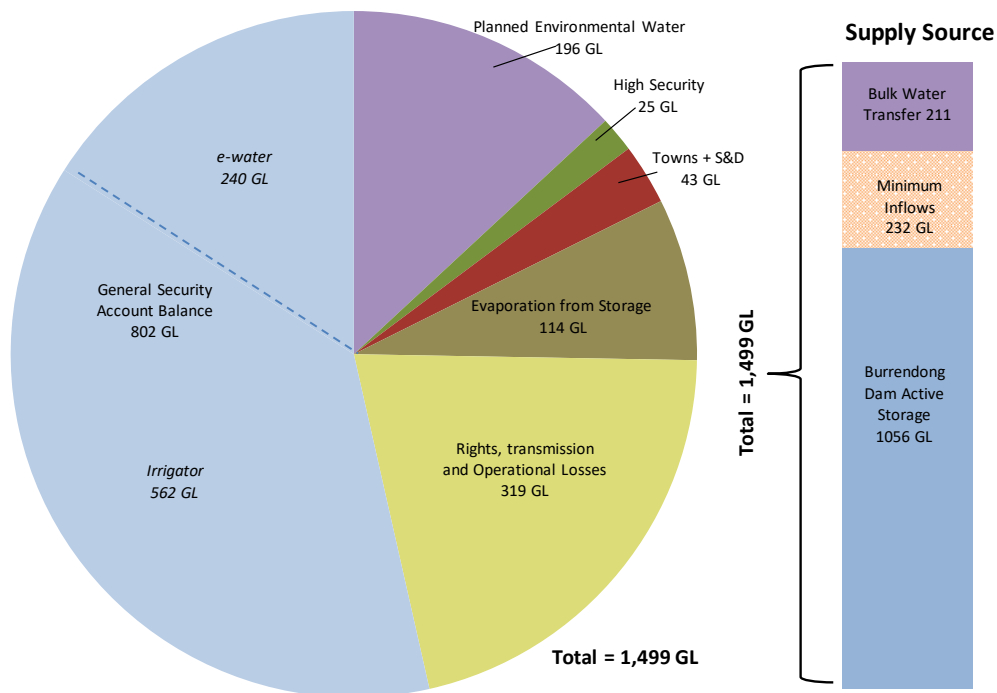
### Macquarie and Cudgong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (July 2023 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,499
<i>less</i>	
This water year (07/2023 to 06/2024)	
Environmental Water Allowance	196
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	21
High Security balance	13
General Security balance <sup>(2) (3)</sup>	802
Evaporation from Burrendong <sup>(4)</sup>	76
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	164
Storage reserve for 2024/25	
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>	155
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	0

**Notes:**

- (1) Active Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of June (net of 81 GL of dead storage plus inaccessible volume) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from July 2023 to May 2025 plus the future planned 211 GL transfer available from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume in general security accounts below Burrendong Dam including AWDs and carryover amount (discounted for evaporative losses) for this water year.
- (3) 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 240 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).
- (4) Evaporation loss from Burrendong is based on forecast storage levels.
- (5) The volume required to run the river to meet all non-licence-based demands and delivery overheads. This mostly comprises of basic landholder rights, transmission and operational losses under dry conditions. The volume of second year is inclusive delivery loss of 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, and there is no deficit.

**Resource Distribution as at 30 June 2023  
Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source**



## Allocations in 2023/24 for Macquarie and Cudgegong

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

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
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*
12-Jul	General Security	0.5 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share
12 - Jul	EWA- Macquarie	50%	50%

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

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
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*
12-Jul	General Security	0.5 ML/unit share	0.5 ML/unit share
12- Jul	EWA-Cudgegong	50%	50%

\*Maximum allowable.

## Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Water published a series of guides to describe the water allocation method for all major NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Macquarie - Cudgegong regulated rivers water source is available at the link below.

For further details: <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/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 **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 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](http://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.

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