

27 March 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 quarterly statement provides a preliminary outlook for opening allocations in the 2023/24 water year. The forecast will firm in the next update in late May 2023.

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

In preparing for the 1 July 2023 allocation announcements, all high priority needs must be met until May 2025 before allocation can be made to other water users. With the current resource situation in the Macquarie catchment, bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam are unlikely to be required before July 2024.

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.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including basic landholder rights and local water utility access licences, are secure to May 2025.
- 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 85% of share component, and in the Cudgegong system it is about 96%. The environmental water allowance is expected to carryover about 150 gigalitres (GL).
- Allocation for general security licence holders is **anticipated to be up to 40%** of entitlement, however; this is dependent on final carryover volumes. It means that general security entitlement holders collectively could have about 125% of entitlement overall, but this will vary between individuals depending on water use and carryover decisions.

Note: the above forecast 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.

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 27 March 2023)

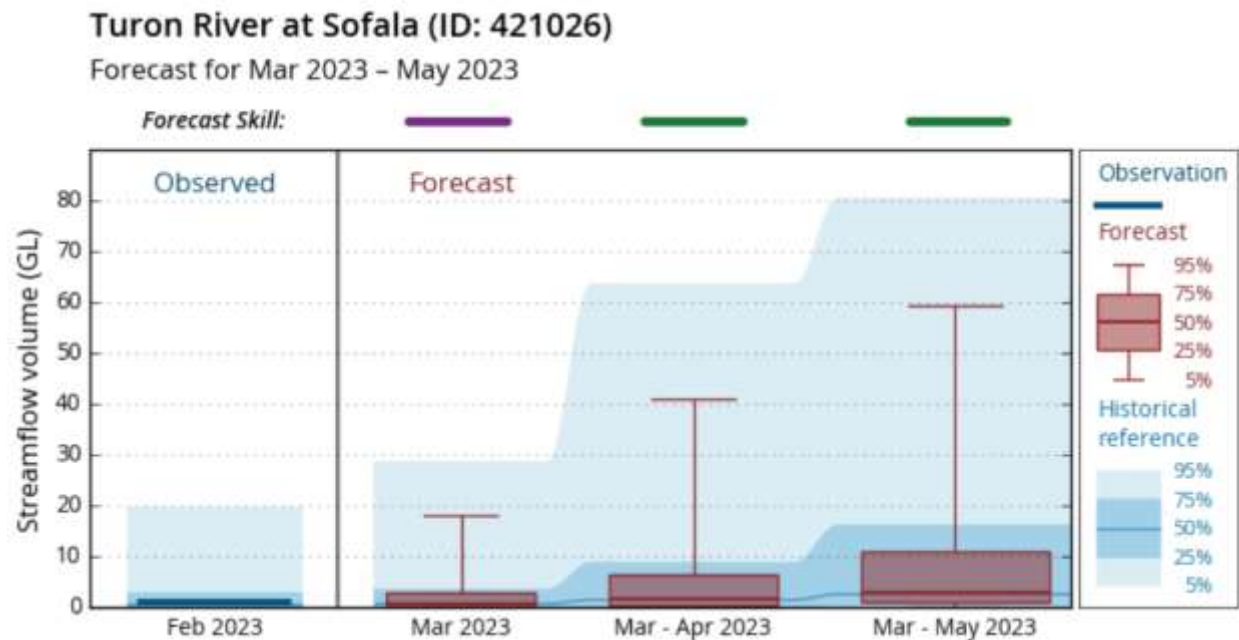
- Burrendong Dam is 94.7% full – holding about 1,129,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 97.8% full – holding about 360,000 ML.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that rainfall will likely be below the median across the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are warmer than the median.

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). While forecast high flow quartiles are lower than the historical quartiles, no change in the median flow is forecast over the March to May period. The graph to May 2023 is shown below and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026



Resource distribution

This statement does not include the routine resource distribution table and the pie chart, since all accounts have received their maximum allocation for the year. Further resource improvement will benefit system security and allocation prospects in the next water year.

Allocations in 2022/23 for Macquarie and Cudgegong

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 water sharing plan.

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

There will be no further allocations this water-year. The next water allocation update for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be published in **late May 2023**. It will outline the latest water availability and the likely allocations to be announced on 1 July 2023 for the start of the 2023/24 water-year.

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

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