

10 August 2023

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders and likewise no increase in Environmental Water Allowances (EWA) this time.

The total Macquarie water source general security account balance is now 807 gigalitres (GL), or about 132% of entitlement on average. Similarly, Cudgegong water source average account balance is now about 24 GL or 129% of entitlement on average.

This resource assessment is conservatively based on information to 31 July 2023. Any changes in resources since then will be captured in the next resources assessment.

Current allocation

10 August 2023	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
Macquarie GS	0%	132% (807 GL)
Cudgegong GS	0%	129% (24 GL)
Macquarie EWA	0%	123% (197 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	0%	213% (24 GL)

Dam levels (as of 10 August 2023)

- Burrendong Dam is 96% full – holding about 1,140 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 98% full – holding about 359 GL.

Key information

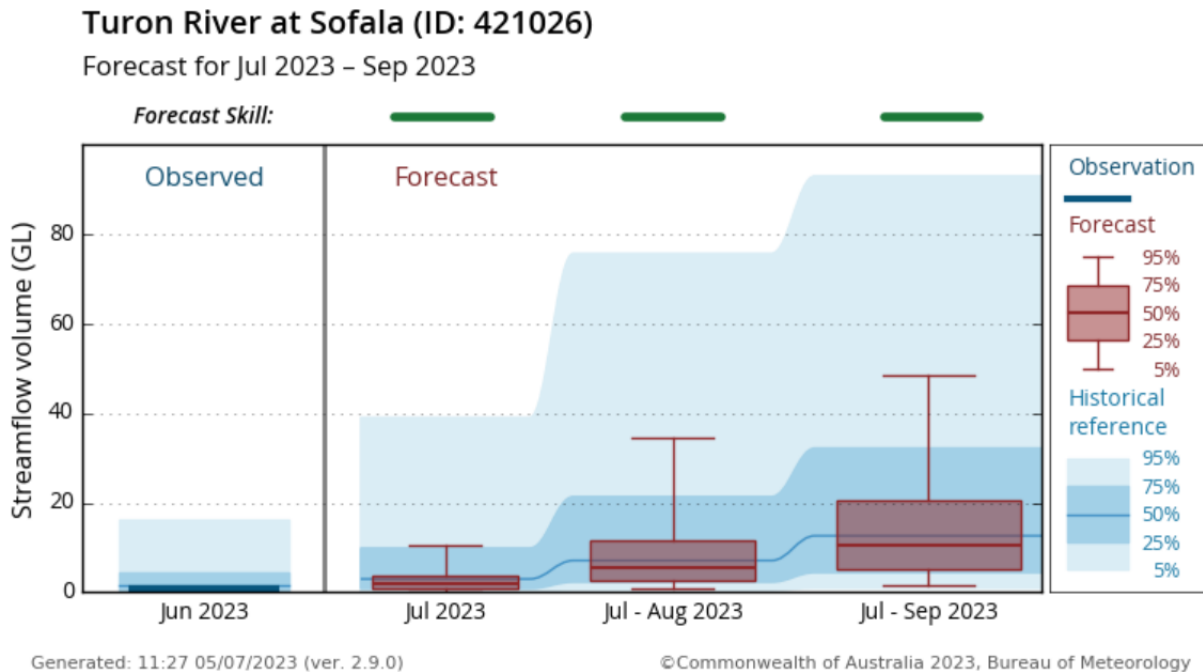
- All higher priority licences were given their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2023.
- Cudgegong Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) commenced on 1 July 2023 in accordance with the water-sharing plan (WSP Clauses 67-72). The residual EWA at the commencement date is 18.6 GL.
- Burrendong dam received around 27 GL of inflows during the month of July, rainfall and inflows from July has triggered the translucent environmental flow conditions in accordance with the plan.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for September to November 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.

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). This provides an indication of potential storage inflows. The median forecast 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: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026



Resource distribution

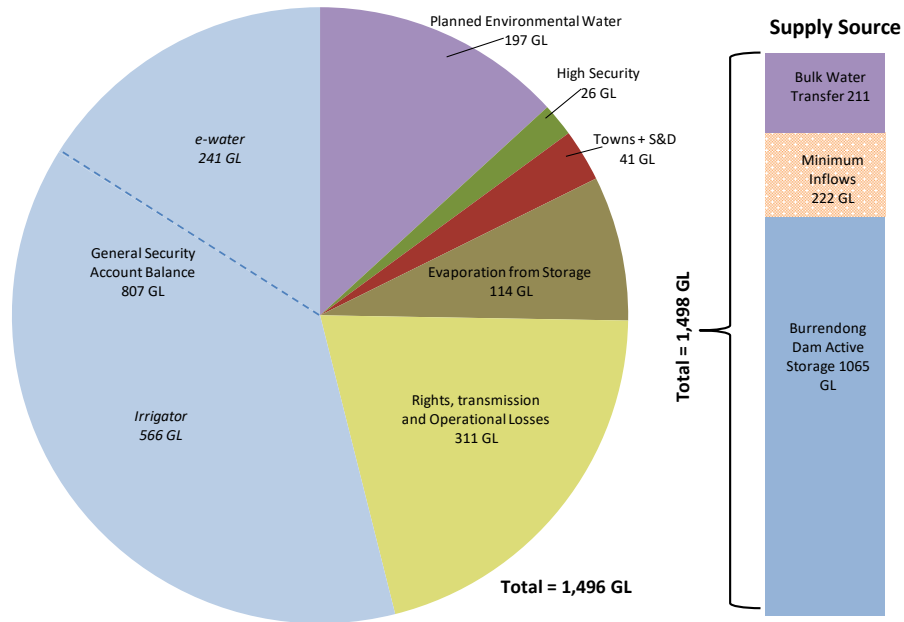
Macquarie and Cudgegong resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (August 2023 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,498
<i>less</i>	
This water year (07/2023 to 06/2024)	
Environmental Water Allowance	197
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	20
High Security balance	13
General Security balance ^{(2) (3)}	807
Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁴⁾	75
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	155
Storage reserve for 2024/25	
Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁶⁾	34
Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁴⁾	39
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	156
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	2

Notes:

- (1) Active Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of July (net of 75 GL of dead storage plus inaccessible volume) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from August 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). This is estimated to be 241 GL of GS, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. 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 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. The small surplus is insufficient for an allocation increment this time but will contribute to available resources for the next assessment.

Resource Distribution as at 31 July 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: 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 **Tuesday 12 September 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

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