

10 July 2024

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

General security (GS) access licenses in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source have received an allocation increase of 7% of entitlement. Both the Macquarie and the Cudgegong Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) have also increased by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan. The improved resources have come from significant inflows since the last assessment.

The increment takes the GS account balance for Macquarie River water users to 566 gegalitres (GL), or an average 92% of entitlement. The total volume on GS accounts for those on the Cudgegong River is now about 22 GL or 120% of entitlement on average. This assessment is conservatively based on information to 30 June 2024. Any changes in resources since then, including from rainfall in recent days, will be captured in the next routine statement in August 2024.

Current allocation

10 July 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
Macquarie GS	7%	92% (566 GL)
Cudgegong GS	7%	120% (22 GL)
Macquarie EWA	7%	71% (113 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	7%	150% (17 GL)

Storage levels (as of 9 July 2024)

- Burrendong Dam is 63% full – holding about 762 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 93% full – holding about 344 GL.

Summary of last water year (2023/24)

Rainfall over the Macquarie and Cudgegong catchments was generally below average over winter and spring. However, conditions turned around November, with the catchments experiencing near or above average conditions in the second half of 2023/24. Windermere Dam maintained relatively high storage levels, remaining above 90% throughout the year. However, Burrendong Dam decreased in storage from around 95% to 55% over July to April, and then increased slightly to around 60% by the end of the year.

Last year began with an opening allocation of 50% for general security entitlement holders on 12th July, with average general security account balances of around 130% of entitlement. By the end of the year, the allocation had risen to 63%, with the average general security account balance dropping to 87% and 109% of entitlement for the Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys respectively.

A total of 115.6 GL of Macquarie EWA and a total of 9.2 GL of Cudgegong EWA water has been delivered in 2023/24.

Key information

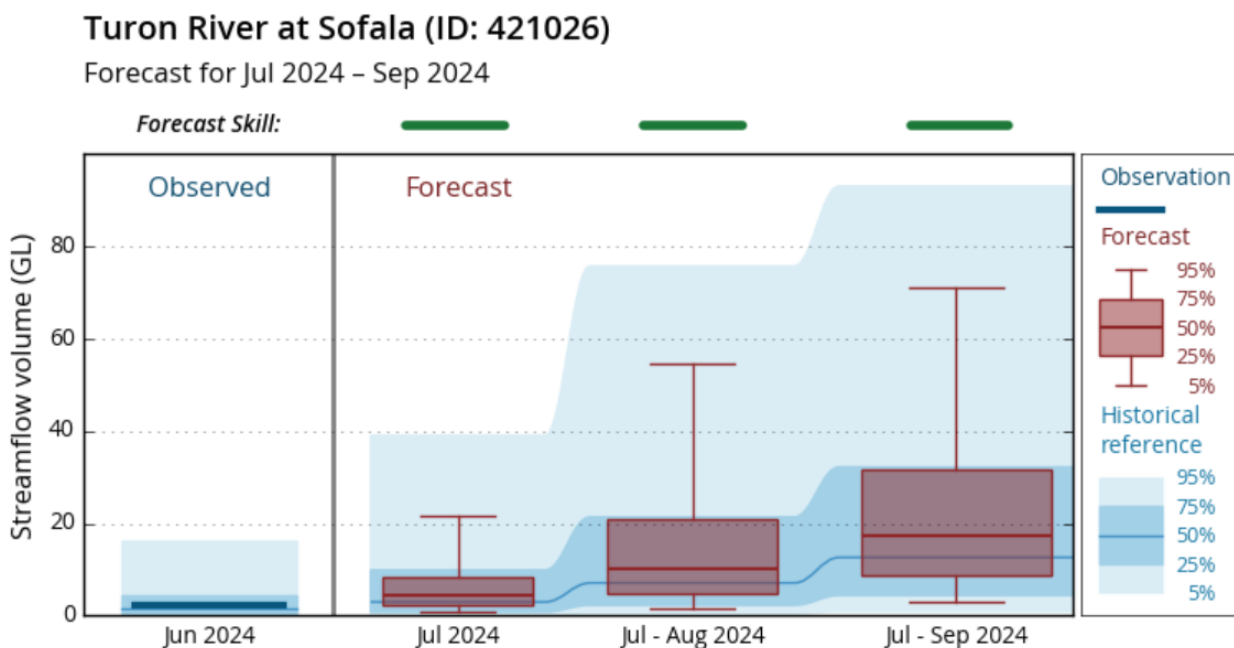
- Burrendong Dam received about 37.4 GL of inflow during June 2024. A storage outlook plot for the assessment horizon is provided later in this statement.
- No bulk water transfers from Windemere Dam are forecast to be required before January 2025.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for July to September 2024 indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment, while daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average over this period.

For further details: [Overview—Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/seasonal-outlook/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 median flow volume from July to September 2024 is higher than the historical median meaning there are increased chances of experiencing above average inflows over this period. The graph from July to September 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/seasonal-outlook/summary)



Generated: 16:51 05/07/2024 (ver. 2.9.0)

©Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Bureau of Meteorology

Resource Distribution

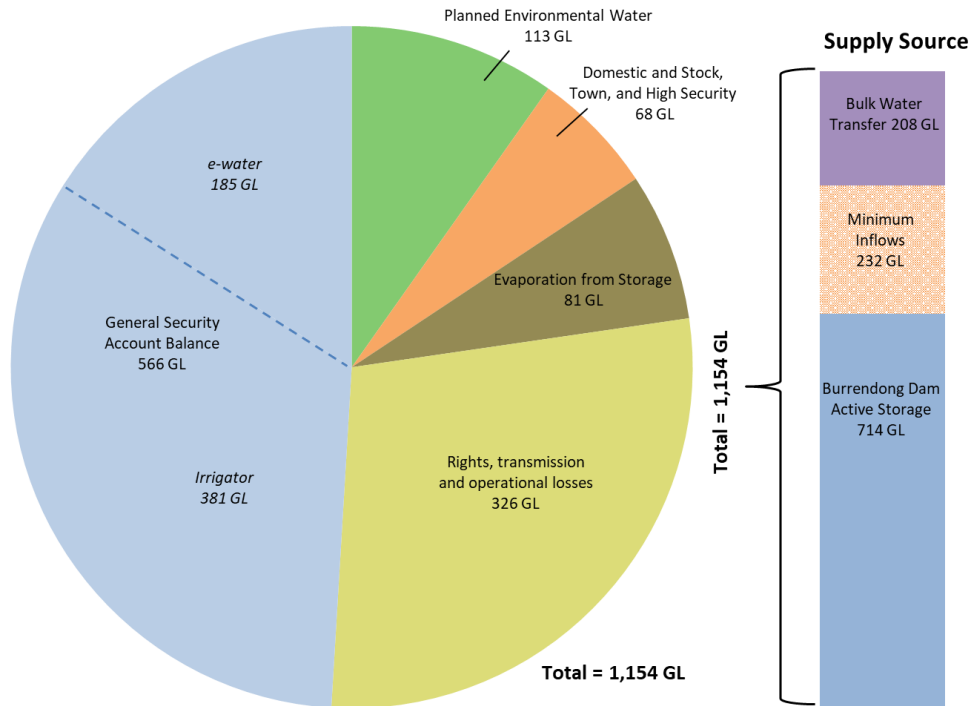
Macquarie and Cudgong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (July 2024 to May 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1154
<i>less</i>	
This water year (07/2024 to 06/2025)	
Environmental Water Allowance	113
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	21
High Security balance	13
General Security balance ^{(2) (3)}	566
Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁴⁾	49
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	170
Burrendong reserve for 2025/26	
Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁶⁾	34
Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁴⁾	32
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	156
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) Active Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of June (net of 34 GL of dead storage) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from July 2024 to May 2026 plus the future planned 208 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. This is estimated to be 185 GL of General Security 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 and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.
- (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) Available volume is fully allocated with no surplus left.

Resource Distribution as at 30 June 2024
Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source



Allocations in 2024/25 for Macquarie and Cudgegong

Table 1 : Water allocation history in 2024/25 for Macquarie (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	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%*
10-Jul	General Security	0.07 ML/unit share	0.07ML/unit share	92%
10 - Jul	EWA- Macquarie	7%	7%	71%

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for Cudgegong (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	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%*

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	Average Account Balance
10-Jul	General Security	0.07ML/unit share	0.07ML/unit share	120%
10-Jul	EWA-Cudgegong	7%	7%	150%

*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 the historical minimum inflow sequence (at the start of the water sharing plan) together with forecast demands, the volume in Burrendong Dam will reduce to a minimum by the end of May 2026 then begin to recover.

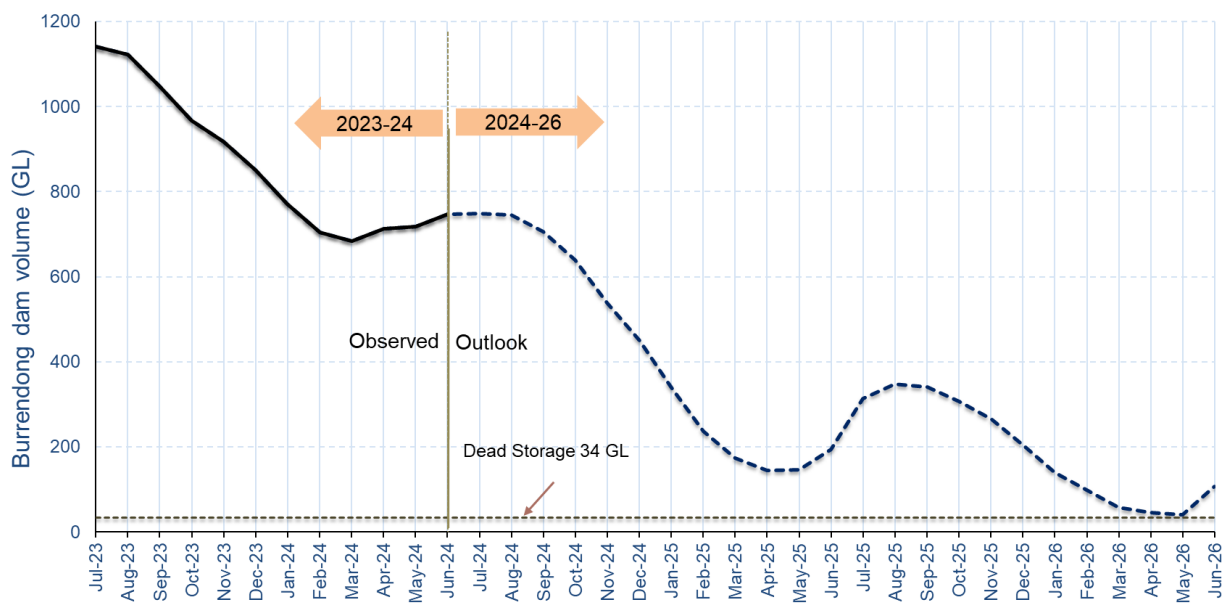


Figure: Simulated Depletion of Burrendong Dam Storage Volume

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 this water source is available at the link below.

For further details: [Resource assessment process](#) | [Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be issued on **Monday 12th August 2024**.

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

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

You can also follow the department on X: [@NSWDCCEW_Water](#)

Feedback on this work or any aspect of the department's service can be provided using the widget on the right hand side at the water tile at: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water | NSW Government](#)