12 February 2025

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

General security (GS) licenses in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source have received **an allocation increment of 3% 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 allocation increment is possible due to good inflow conditions along with delivery losses staying below the budgeted volume in January.

The increment takes the GS account balance for the Macquarie River water users to 447 gigalitres (GL), or an average 73% of entitlement. The total volume on GS accounts for those on the Cudgegong River is now about 19.1 GL or 103% of entitlement on average.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 January 2025. Any resource changes from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

12 February 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
Macquarie GS	3%	73% (447 GL)
Cudgegong GS	3%	103% (19.1 GL)
Macquarie EWA	3%	32% (51 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	3%	79% (9.1 GL)

Storage levels (as of 11 February 2025)

- Burrendong Dam is 55% full – holding about 675 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 90.8% full – holding about 334 GL.

PUB25/97

Key information

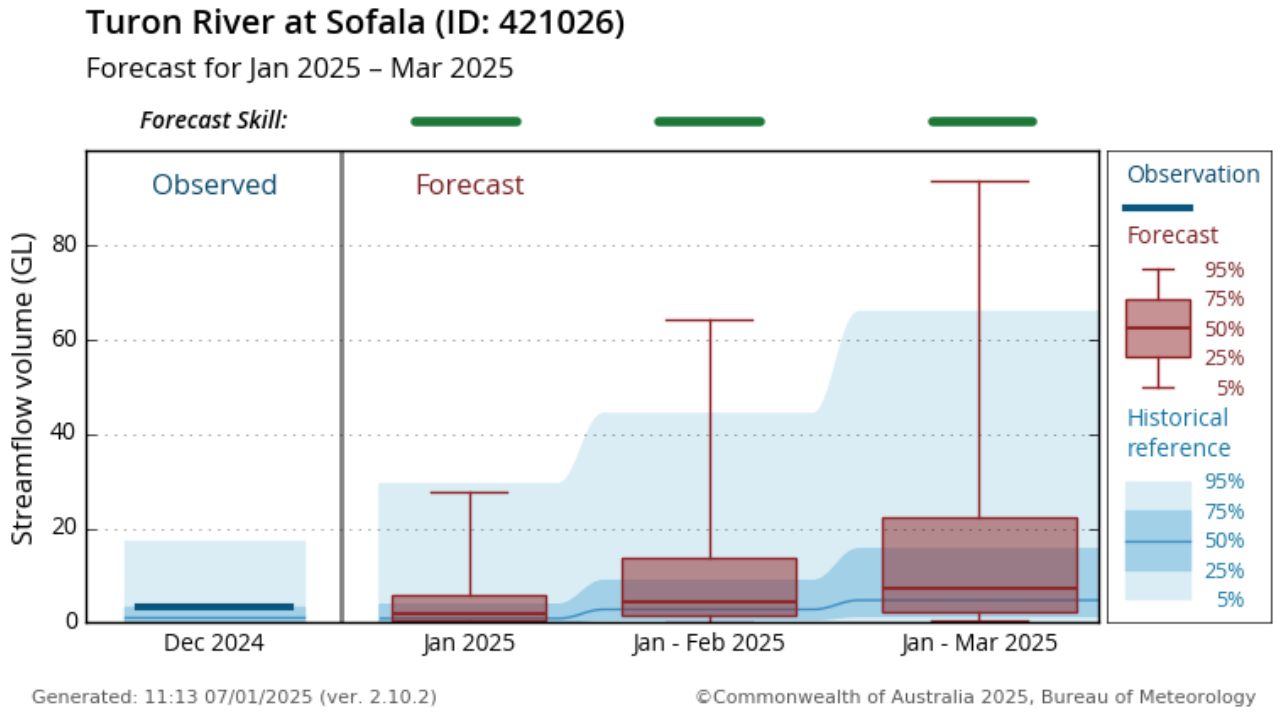
- Burrendong Dam received about 16.2 GL of inflow during January 2025.
- In January, no EWA was delivered in Macquarie, while around 1.3 GL of EWA was delivered in the Cudgegong River.
- No bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam will be required before July 2025.
- Water users in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Rivers are advised that a reduction for storage evaporation has been applied to the carryover account balance of General Security (GS), High Security (HS), and Environmental Water Allocations (EWA) as of 1 January 2025, in accordance with Water Sharing clause 49. For more details: https://waterinsights.waternsw.com.au/api/water-source/v2/updates/4470/attachment

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's monthly outlook for March 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be within the typical range for the season 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)

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. Most of the forecast quantiles for total flow volumes are higher than the historical flows from January 2025 to March 2025, indicating that inflow over these months is very likely to be higher than historical inflow. The graph from January 2025 to March 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au)



Macquarie resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (February 2025 to June 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources [1]	874
less	
This water year (02/2025 to 06/2025)	
Environmental Water Allowance	51
Domestic, Stock, Town balance	14
High Security balance	8
General Security balance [2] [3]	447
Evaporation from Burrendong [4]	22
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	101
Burrendong reserve for 2025/26	
Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security [6]	34
Evaporation from Burrendong [4]	37
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	156

equals

Surplus (or deficit) (7)	4

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 2025 to April 2026 plus the future planned 189 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.

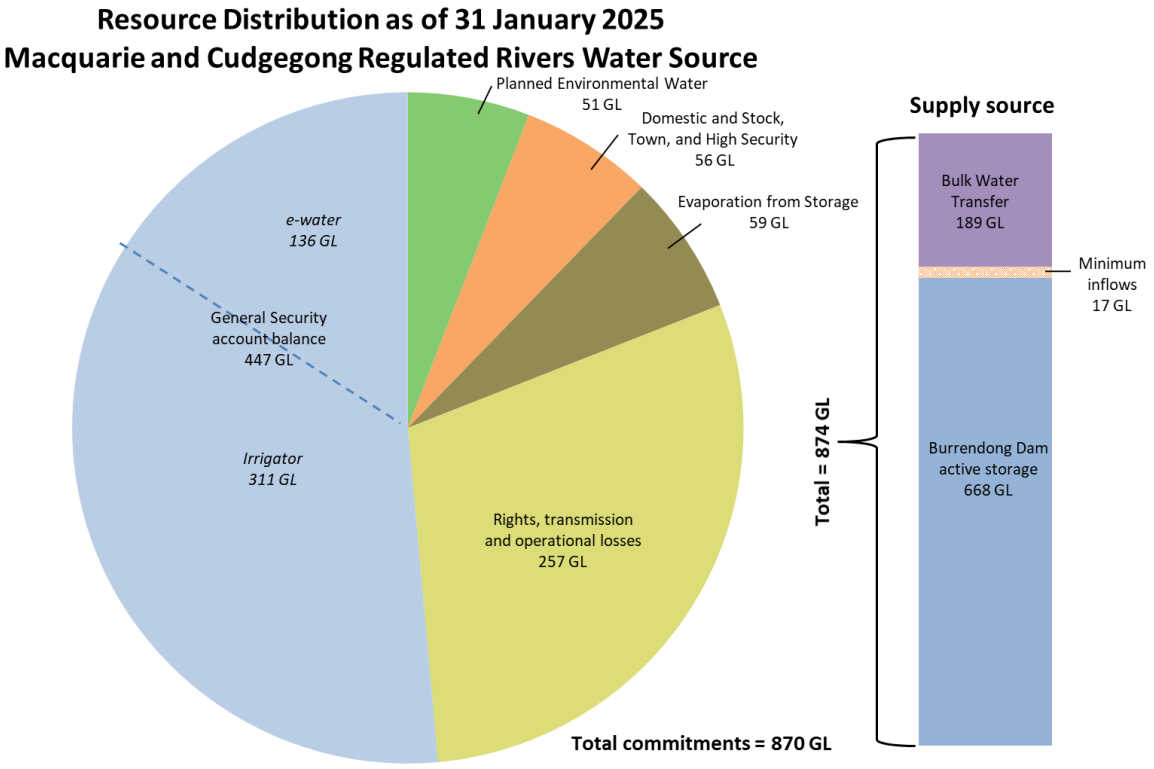
(3) The held environmental water is estimated to be 120 GL of General Security entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW environmental water holder, and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

(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) 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 2024/25 for Macquarie and Cudgegong Rivers Water Source

Table 1 : Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the licences below Burrendong Dam

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%
12-Aug	General Security	0.10 ML/unit share	0.17ML/unit share	103%
12-Aug	EWA- Macquarie	10%	17%	79%
11-Oct	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.18 ML/unit share	95%
11-Oct	EWA- Macquarie	1%	18%	36%
12-Nov	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.20 ML/unit share	86%
12-Nov	EWA- Macquarie	2%	20%	27%
11-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share	82%
11-Dec	EWA- Macquarie	1%	21%	21.4%
13-Jan	General Security	0.08 ML/unit share	0.29 ML/unit share	82%
13-Jan	EWA- Macquarie	8%	29%	29%
12-Feb	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.32 ML/unit share	73%
12-Feb	EWA- Macquarie	3%	32%	32%

*Maximum allowable.

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the licences above Burrendong Dam

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	0.07 ML/unit share	120%

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	Average Account Balance
10-Jul	EWA-Cudgegong	7%	7%	150%
12-Aug	General Security	0.10 ML/unit share	0.17 ML/unit share	116%
12-Aug	EWA-Cudgegong	10%	17%	160%
11-Oct	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.18 ML/unit share	115%
11-Oct	EWA-Cudgegong	1%	18%	161%
12-Nov	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.20 ML/unit share	116%
12-Nov	EWA-Cudgegong	2%	20%	113%
11-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share	116%
11-Dec	EWA-Cudgegong	1%	21%	91%
13-Jan	General Security	0.08 ML/unit share	0.29 ML/unit share	122%
13-Jan	EWA-Cudgegong	8%	29%	94%
12-Feb	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.32 ML/unit share	103%
12-Feb	EWA-Cudgegong	3%	32%	79%

*Maximum allowable.

Storage volume simulation

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 April 2026 then begin to recover.

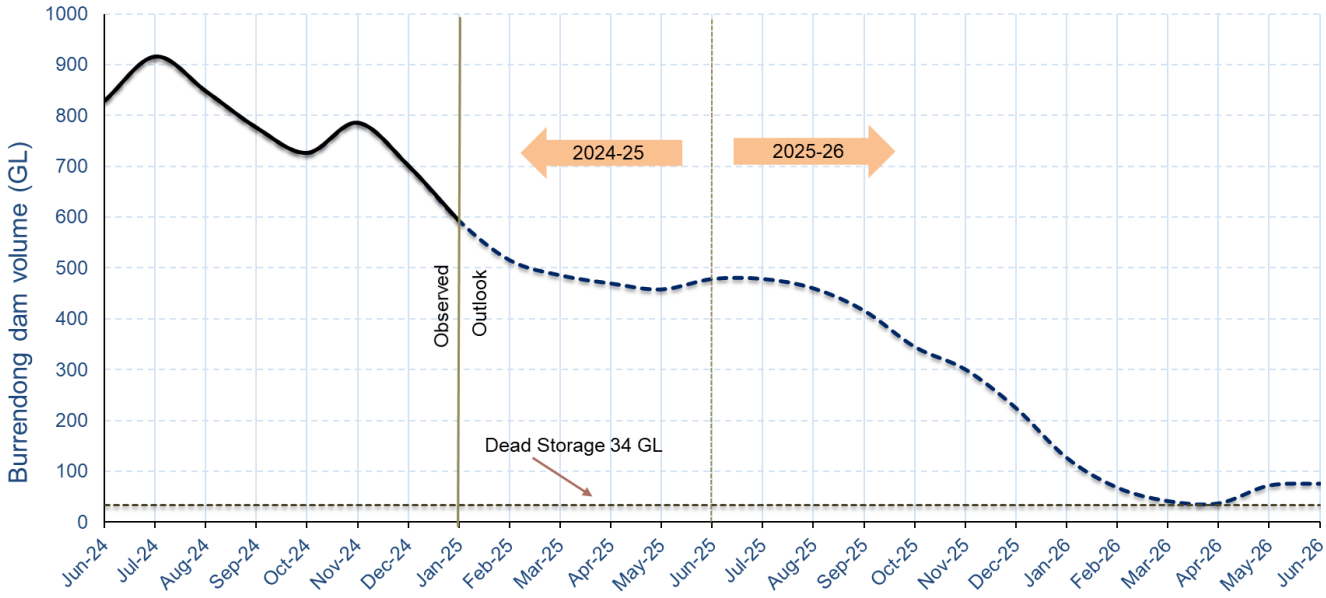


Figure: Simulated Depletion of Burrendong Dam Storage Volume

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 of 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 **Wednesday, 12 March 2025.**

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: Water (nsw.gov.au)

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