

12 March 2024

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 of 1% of their entitlement. Both the Macquarie and the Cudgegong Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) also increase by the same percentage in accordance with the water-sharing plan.

The increment takes the combined Macquarie water source general security account balance to 458 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 75% of entitlement. Similarly, the combined Cudgegong general security water available is now about 19.3 GL or 103% of entitlement on average.

This resource assessment is conservatively based on information to 29 February 2024. Any changes in resources since then will be captured in the next routine statement in April 2024.

Current allocation

| 12 March 2024 | Allocation Increment | Average Account Balance |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Macquarie GS | 1% | 75% (458 GL) |
| Cudgegong GS | 1% | 103% (19.3 GL) |
| Macquarie EWA | 1% | 60% (95 GL) |
| Cudgegong EWA | 1% | 132% (15.1 GL) |

Dam levels (as of 11 March 2024)

- Burrendong Dam is 57% full – holding 694 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 92% full – holding 338 GL.

Key information

- Burrendong dam received about 13 GL of inflows during February 2024. A storage outlook plot for the assessment horizon is provided later in this statement.
- A total of 103 GL of Macquarie EWA and a total of 9.2 GL of Cudgegong EWA water was delivered to the end of February 2024 this water year.
- No bulk water transfers are forecast to be required before June 2024.

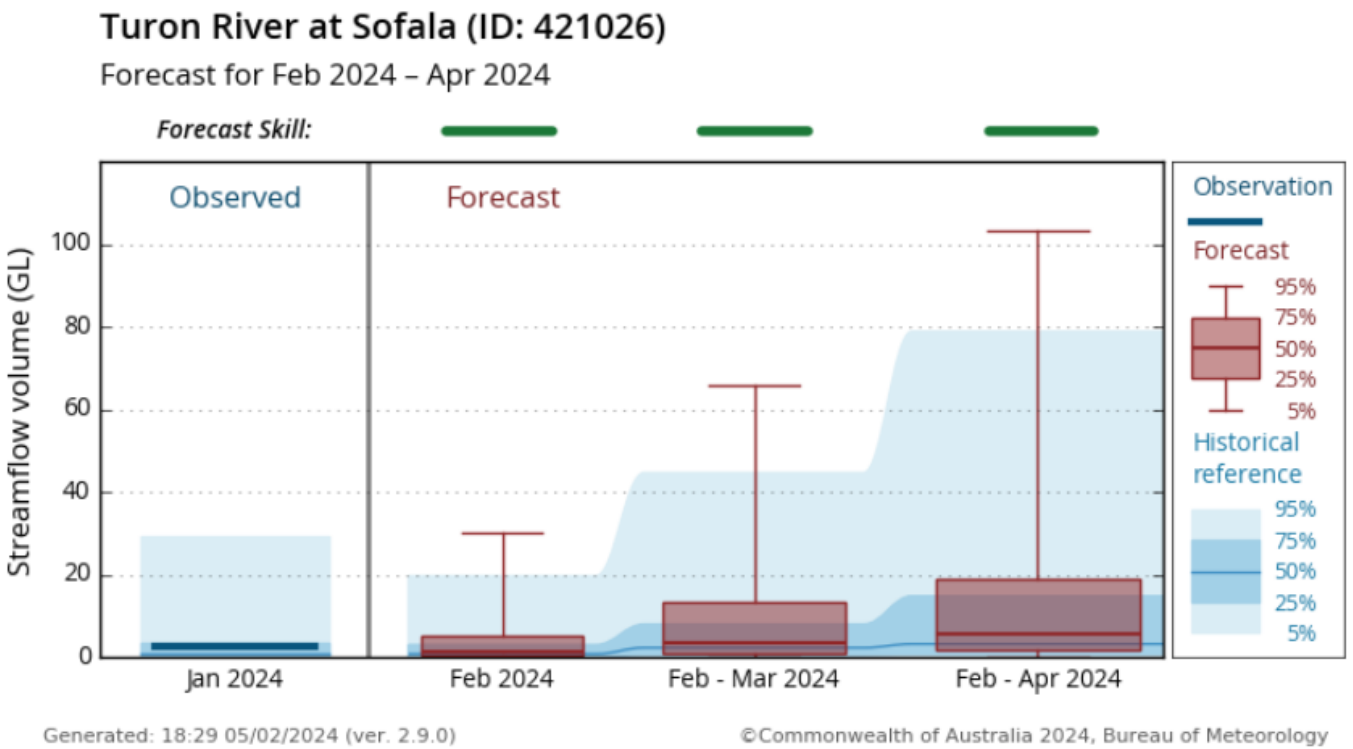
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for March to May 2024 indicates that rainfall is likely to be below median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months for the catchment.

For further details: 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 forecast quantile of total flow volumes from February to April 2024 are mostly marginally higher than the historical flows, indicating the chance of slightly more inflow than historically over this three month period. The graph from February to April 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026>



Resource Distribution

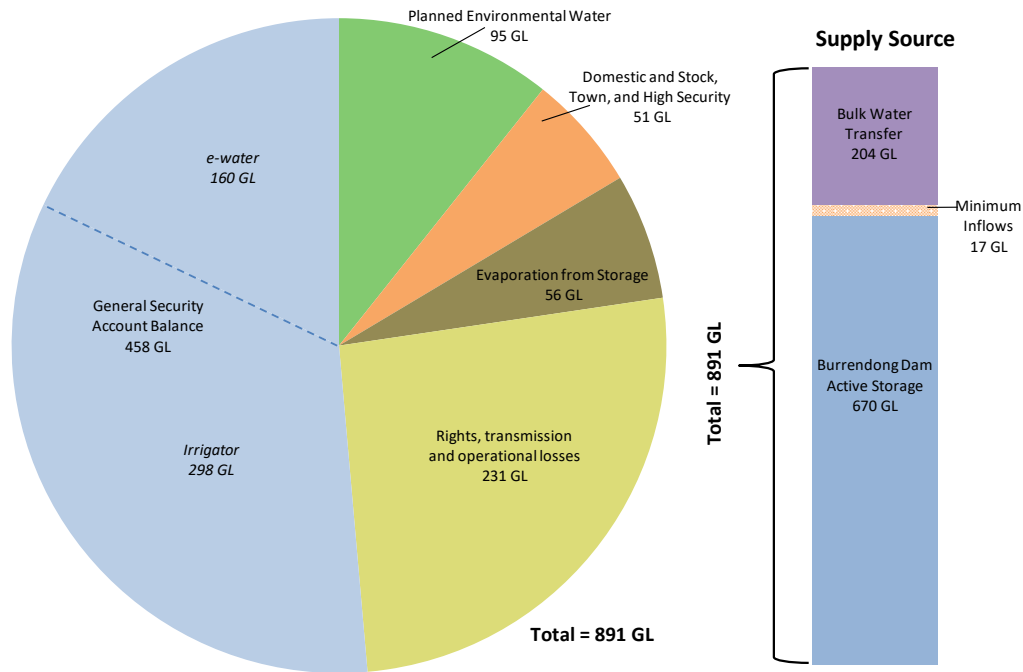
Macquarie and Cudgong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

| Resource Distribution (March 2024 to April 2025) | Volume (GL) |
|---|-------------|
| Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾ | 891 |
| <i>less</i> | |
| This water year (03/2024 to 06/2024) | |
| Environmental Water Allowance | 95 |
| Domestic, Stock, Town balance | 11 |
| High Security balance | 6 |
| General Security balance ^{(2) (3)} | 458 |
| Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁴⁾ | 17 |
| Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾ | 70 |
| Burrendong reserve for 2024/25 | |
| Domestic, Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁶⁾ | 34 |
| Evaporation from Burrendong ⁽⁴⁾ | 39 |
| Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾ | 161 |
| <i>equals</i> | |
| Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾ | 0 |

Notes:

- (1) Active Storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of February (net of 34 GL of dead storage) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from March 2024 to April 2025 plus the future planned 204 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 (HEW). This is estimated to be 160 GL of GS, 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 (BCS) 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.

**Resource Distribution as at 29 February 2024
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 | 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%* |
| 12-Jul | General Security | 0.5 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 131% |
| 12-Jul | EWA- Macquarie | 50% | 50% | 123% |
| 10-Aug | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 132% |
| 10-Aug | EWA- Macquarie | 0% | 50% | 123% |
| 12-Sep | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 128% |
| 12-Sep | EWA- Macquarie | 0% | 50% | 104% |
| 12-Oct | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 124% |
| 12-Oct | EWA- Macquarie | 0% | 50% | 85% |
| 10-Nov | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 113% |
| 10-Nov | EWA- Macquarie | 0% | 50% | 70% |
| 12-Dec | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 107% |

| Date | License Category | Increment | Total 2023/24 | Average Account Balance |
|--------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 12-Dec | EWA- Macquarie | 0% | 50% | 60% |
| 11-Jan | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 96% |
| 11-Jan | EWA- Macquarie | 0% | 50% | 59% |
| 12-Feb | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 83% |
| 12-Feb | EWA- Macquarie | 0% | 50% | 59% |
| 12-Mar | General Security | 0.01 ML/unit share | 0.51 ML/unit share | 75% |
| 12-Mar | EWA- Macquarie | 1% | 51% | 60% |

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

| Date | License Category | Increment | Total 2023/24 | 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%* |
| 12-Jul | General Security | 0.5 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 130% |
| 12-Jul | EWA-Cudgegong | 50% | 50% | 213% |
| 10-Aug | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 129% |
| 10-Aug | EWA-Cudgegong | 0% | 50% | 213% |
| 12-Sep | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 126% |
| 12-Sep | EWA-Cudgegong | 0% | 50% | 213% |
| 12-Oct | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 114% |
| 12-Oct | EWA-Cudgegong | 0% | 50% | 213% |
| 10-Nov | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 111% |
| 10-Nov | EWA-Cudgegong | 0% | 50% | 155% |
| 12-Dec | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 110% |
| 12-Dec | EWA-Cudgegong | 0% | 50% | 143% |
| 11-Jan | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 106% |
| 11-Jan | EWA-Cudgegong | 0% | 50% | 140% |
| 12-Feb | General Security | 0 ML/unit share | 0.5 ML/unit share | 105% |
| 12-Feb | EWA-Cudgegong | 0% | 50% | 138% |
| 12-Mar | General Security | 0.01 ML/unit share | 0.51 ML/unit share | 103% |

| Date | License Category | Increment | Total 2023/24 | Average Account Balance |
|--------|------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 12-Mar | EWA-Cudgegong | 1% | 51% | 132% |

*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 together with forecast demands, the volume in Burrendong Dam will reduce to a minimum by the end of April 2025 then begin to recover.

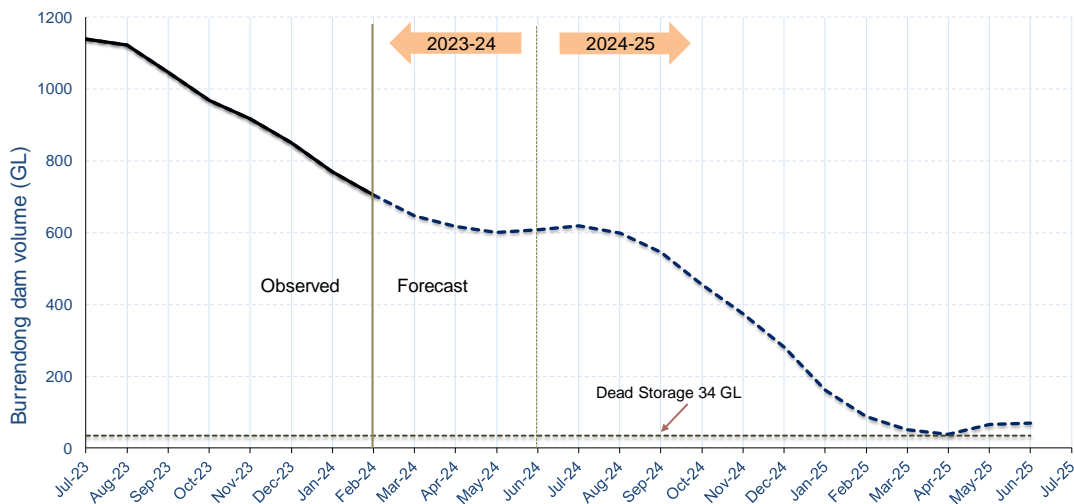


Figure: Simulated Depletion of Burrendong Dam Storage Volume

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 the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source is available at the link below.

For further details: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/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 11th April 2024**.

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

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www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/contact.