

13 October 2026

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers

General security allocation increased by 2%

Category	2026–27 allocation	Account balance
Macquarie GS	2%	36% (224 GL)
Cudgegong GS	2%	63% (12 GL)
Macquarie EWA	2%	10% (16 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	2%	61% (7 GL)

Key information

- This resource assessment is based on information as of 1 October 2026.
- The increase in allocation was made possible by reasonable net inflow into Burrendong Dam, reductions in commitments and efficient delivery of orders.
- No EWA was delivered in September to either the Macquarie or Cudgegong River.
- WaterNSW completed a two-week period of high flow releases in the Cudgegong River.
- Evaporation reduction applied for the quarter ending September 2026 with 0.9% to Macquarie and 0.4% to Cudgegong respectively. The volume debited will contribute to general resources at next resource assessment.
- A water restriction order is now active and extended up to 30 June 2027, prohibiting take by floodplain harvesting and supplementary water access licence holders at this water source. Please [click here](#) for the latest status.
- The next increment of general security allocation will be possible if inflow exceeds the budgeted minimum volume and the losses remain lower than the budget.

Next statement

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Wednesday 11 November 2026**.

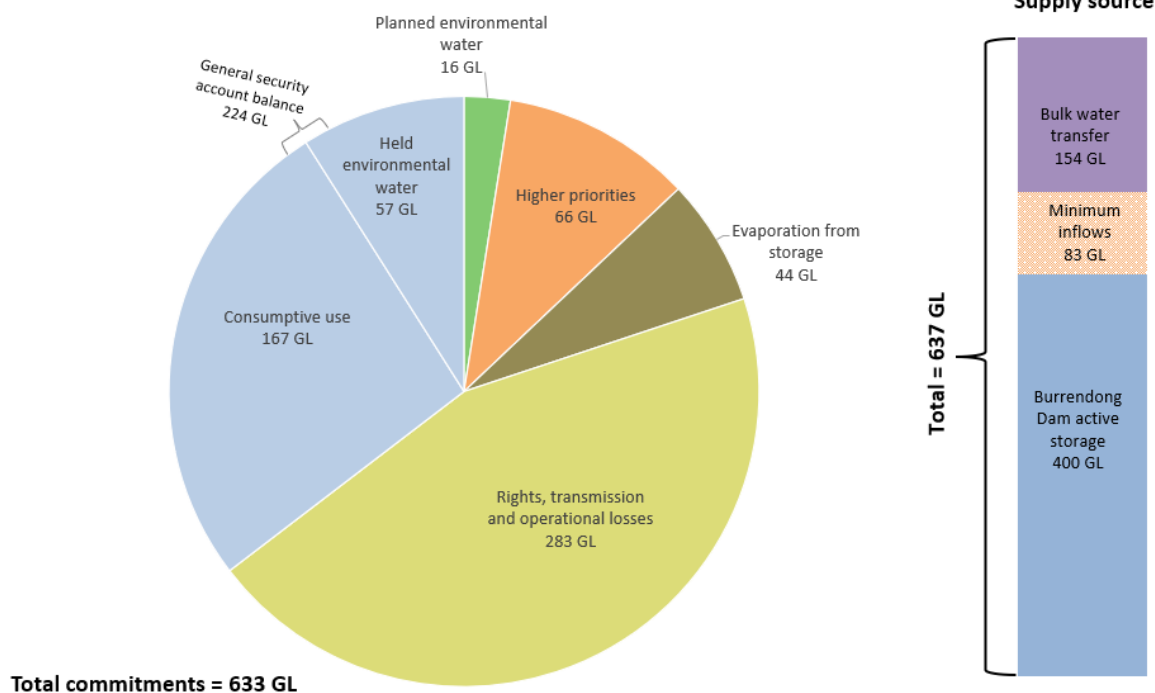
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (October 2026 to June 2028)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources ⁽¹⁾	637
<i>less</i>	
Planned environmental water balance	16
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance	20
High security balance	11
General security balance ^{(2) (3)}	224
Evaporation from Burrendong Dam ⁽⁴⁾	31
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	146
Burrendong reserve for 2027–28	
Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security ⁽⁶⁾	35
Evaporation from Burrendong Dam ⁽⁴⁾	13
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	137
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	4

Notes:

- (1) Active storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of September (net of 34 GL of dead storage); plus minimum budgeted dam inflows to Burrendong Dam (October 1918 to May 1920); plus the planned 154 GL transfer from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume in general security accounts below Burrendong Dam inclusive of balances of current water year allocation, and carryover amount.
- (3) The held environmental water is estimated to be 57 GL of general security entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.
- (4) Evaporation loss from Burrendong Dam 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.
- (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, insufficient for a full percentage increment in allocation, which will be rolled over to the next resource assessment.

Resource distribution as of 1 October 2026 Macquarie and Cudgong Regulated Rivers Water Source



Storage volume simulation

The storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current allocations and commitments against a repeat of the historical minimum inflow sequence (known prior to 2004) plus bulk water transfer, the volume behind Burrendong Dam will reduce to a minimum by May 2028 then begin to recover. Note that this is not a forecast but a simulation to show that delivery to higher priority needs is secure.

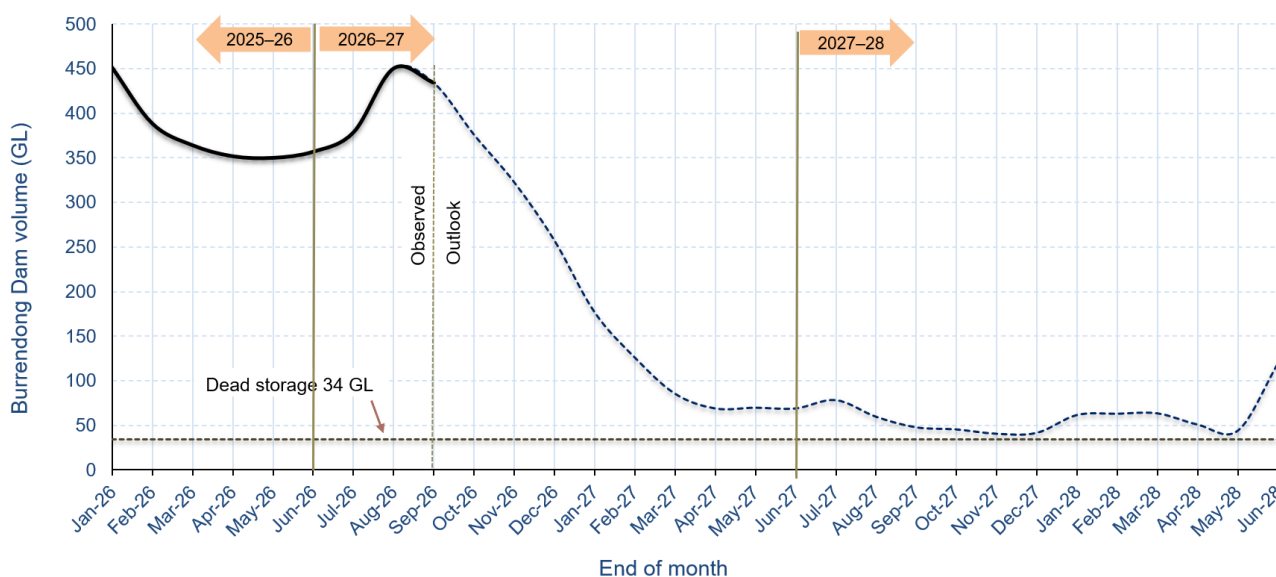


Figure: Simulated depletion of Burrendong Dam storage volume

Useful links



Allocation statements for all water sources are available at: [Water allocation statements | Water](#)



A series of guides that describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems are available at: [Resource assessment process | Water](#)



The dashboard on water availability and allocations for all water sources is available at: [Allocations dashboard | Water](#)



The water sharing plan for these water sources is available at: [Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016](#)

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Annexure

Allocations in 2026–27

Table 1: Water allocation history in 2026–27 for the licences below Burrendong Dam

Date	Category	Increment	Total 2026–27	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/share*	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary water	1.00 ML/share*	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Jul	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/share*	1.00 ML/share*	425%
13-Oct	General security	0.02 ML/share	0.02 ML/share	36%
13-Oct	Macquarie EWA	2%	2%	10%

* Maximum allowable.

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2026–27 for the licences above Burrendong Dam

Date	Category	Increment	Total 2026–27	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/share*	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary water	1.00 ML/share*	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
13-Oct	General security	0.02 ML/share	0.02 ML/share	63%
13-Oct	Cudgegong EWA	2%	2%	61%

* Maximum allowable.

Water sharing plan rules

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decision.

- Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security access licences for water users in both the Macquarie and Cudgegong rivers are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year. These licences cannot carryover the closing balance into the next water year.
- General security (GS) access licences receive allocations after all higher priority requirements have been fully allocated. Allocation each year cannot exceed 100% of entitlement. Unused water can be carried over into the next water year. For specific GS licences on the Cudgegong River, carryover is limited to volumes resulting from the previous year's account balance.
- The Macquarie Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) and the Cudgegong EWA are both credited incrementally at the same ratio with general security allocations. They can carry over any unused water up to their maximum account balances of 160 GL and 11.4 GL respectively.
- Supplementary water access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance cannot be carried over into the next water year.
- Floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance can be carried over to the next water year, but the account balance must not exceed 500% of entitlement.