

10 December 2025

# Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

## Water allocation update

General security (GS) licences in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source have received an allocation increment of 1% 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 improvement in resources come largely from inflows received in November, above the budgeted minimum. The increment takes the GS account balance for the Macquarie River water users to 444 GL, or an average 72% of entitlement. The total volume on GS accounts for those on the Cudgegong River is now about 23 GL or 123% of entitlement on average.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 November 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

## Current allocation

10 December 2025	Allocation increment	Average account balance
Macquarie GS	1%	72% (444 GL)
Cudgegong GS	1%	123% (23 GL)
Macquarie EWA	1%	29% (47 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	1%	86% (10 GL)

## Key information

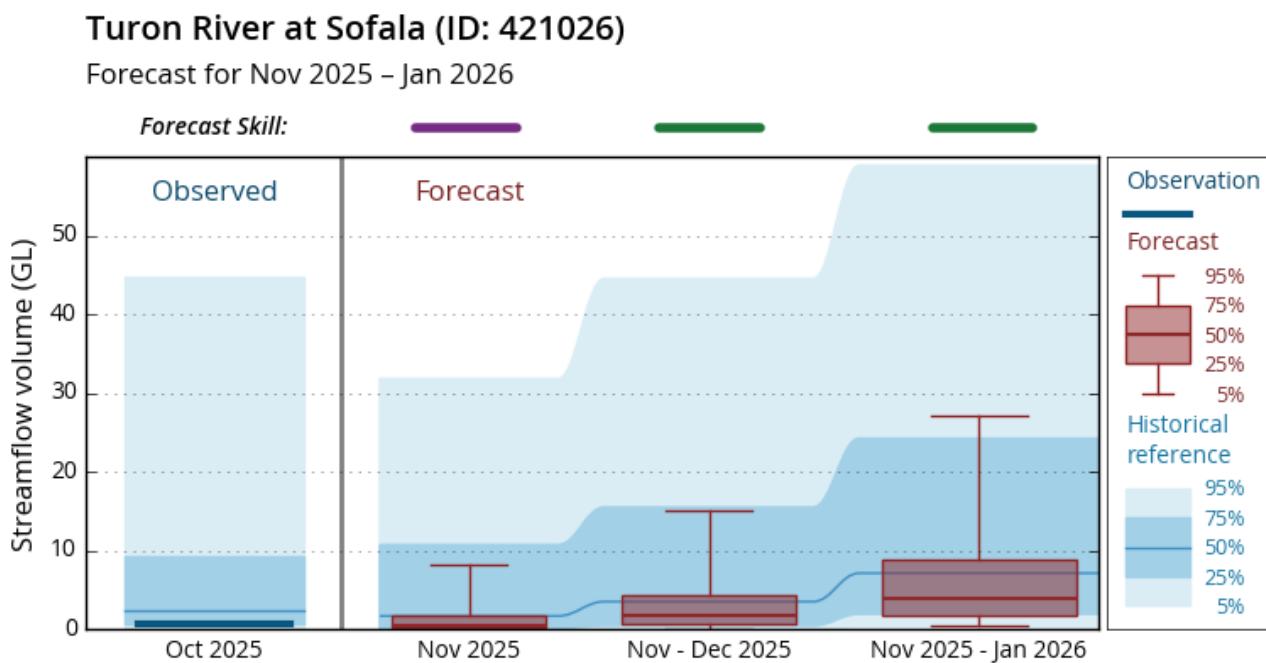
- In November, 7.8 GL of EWA was delivered in the Macquarie River from active sub accounts, and 1.8 GL EWA in Cudgegong River.
- No bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam are expected before June 2026.

## Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal streamflow forecast for the Turon River at Sofala, which flows into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam in the coming months.

For the November 2025 to January 2026 period, the higher flow forecast quantiles sit significantly below their historical equivalents, suggesting that low inflows are likely for this period.

The graph from November 2025 to January 2026 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/waterinfo/forecasts/)



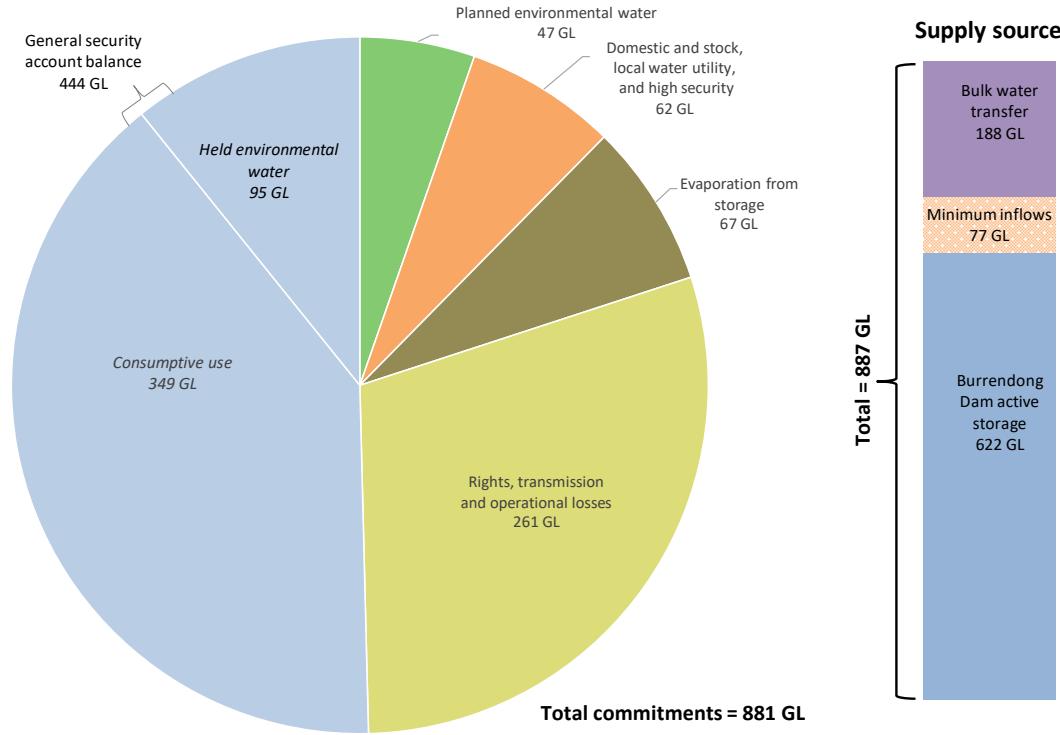
## Macquarie resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (December 2025 to June 2027)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources <sup>(1)</sup>	887
<i>less</i>	
This water year (12/2025 to 06/2026)	
Planned environmental water balance	47
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance	18
High security balance	9
General security balance <sup>(2) (3)</sup>	444
Evaporation from Burrendong Dam <sup>(4)</sup>	39
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	107
Burrendong reserve for 2026–27	
Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security <sup>(6)</sup>	35
Evaporation from Burrendong Dam <sup>(4)</sup>	28
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	154
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	6

### Notes:

- (1) Active storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of November (net of 34 GL of dead storage) plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from December 2025 to May 2027 plus the future planned 188 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 95 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. 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 the next resource assessment.

**Resource distribution as of 30 November 2025**  
**Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source**



**Allocations in 2025–26 for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source**

Table 1: Water allocation history in 2025–26 for the licences below Burrendong Dam

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26	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	0.10 ML/unit share	0.10 ML/unit share	81%
10-Jul	Macquarie EWA	10%	10%	41%
12-Aug	General security	0.06 ML/unit share	0.16 ML/unit share	87%
12-Aug	Macquarie EWA	6%	16%	37%
13-Oct	General security	0.11 ML/unit share	0.27 ML/unit share	90 %
13-Oct	Macquarie EWA	11%	27%	39%
12-Nov	General security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.30 ML/unit share	78%
12-Nov	Macquarie EWA	3%	30%	33%

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26	Average account balance
10-Dec	General security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.31 ML/unit share	72%
10-Dec	Macquarie EWA	1%	31%	29%

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2025–26 for the licences above Burrendong Dam

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26	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	0.10 ML/unit share	0.10 ML/unit share	124%
10-Jul	Cudgegong EWA	10%	10%	95%
12-Aug	General security	0.06 ML/unit share	0.16 ML/unit share	130%
12-Aug	Cudgegong EWA	6%	16%	101%
13-Oct	General security	0.11 ML/unit share	0.27 ML/unit share	125 %
13-Oct	Cudgegong EWA	11%	27%	112%
12-Nov	General security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.30 ML/unit share	126 %
12-Nov	Cudgegong EWA	3%	30%	101%
10-Dec	General security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.31 ML/unit share	123 %
10-Dec	Cudgegong EWA	1%	31%	86%

\*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 March 2027 then begin to recover by May 2027.

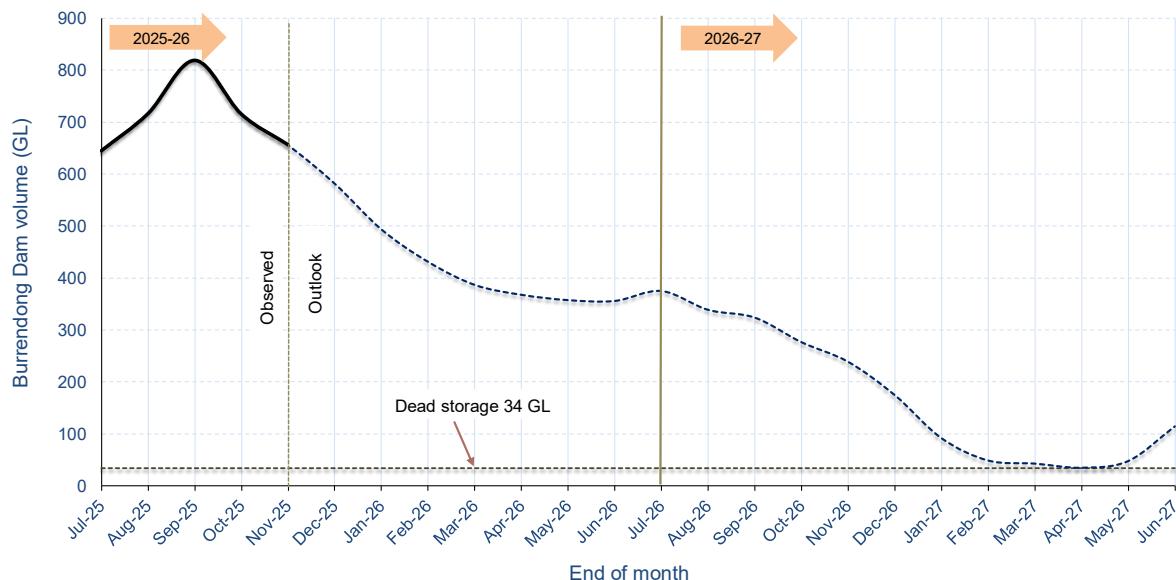


Figure: Simulated depletion of Burrendong Dam storage volume

## 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.

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## Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We produced 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 following link: [Resource assessment process | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation statement - The water allocation statement for all water sources is available at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources is available at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water sharing plan – The water sharing plan for this water source is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016](#)

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## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on Wednesday 14 January 2025.

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