

14 January 2026

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is **no increase** in allocation for **general security (GS)** entitlement holders and likewise no increase in **the environmental water allowance (EWA)** for both Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source. The GS account balance for the Macquarie River water users is 377 gigalitres (GL) or an average 61% of entitlement. The total volume on GS accounts for those on the Cudgegong River water source is about 19 GL or 102% of entitlement on average.

For the month of December, Burrendong Dam received around 7 GL inflows, the lowest since the start of this water year. This inflow has been insufficient to support any new allocation after accounting against the change in future inflow budget at this month.

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

Current allocation

14 January 2026	Allocation increment	Average account balance
Macquarie GS	-	61% (377 GL)
Cudgegong GS	-	102% (19 GL)
Macquarie EWA	-	29% (46 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	-	77% (9 GL)

Key information

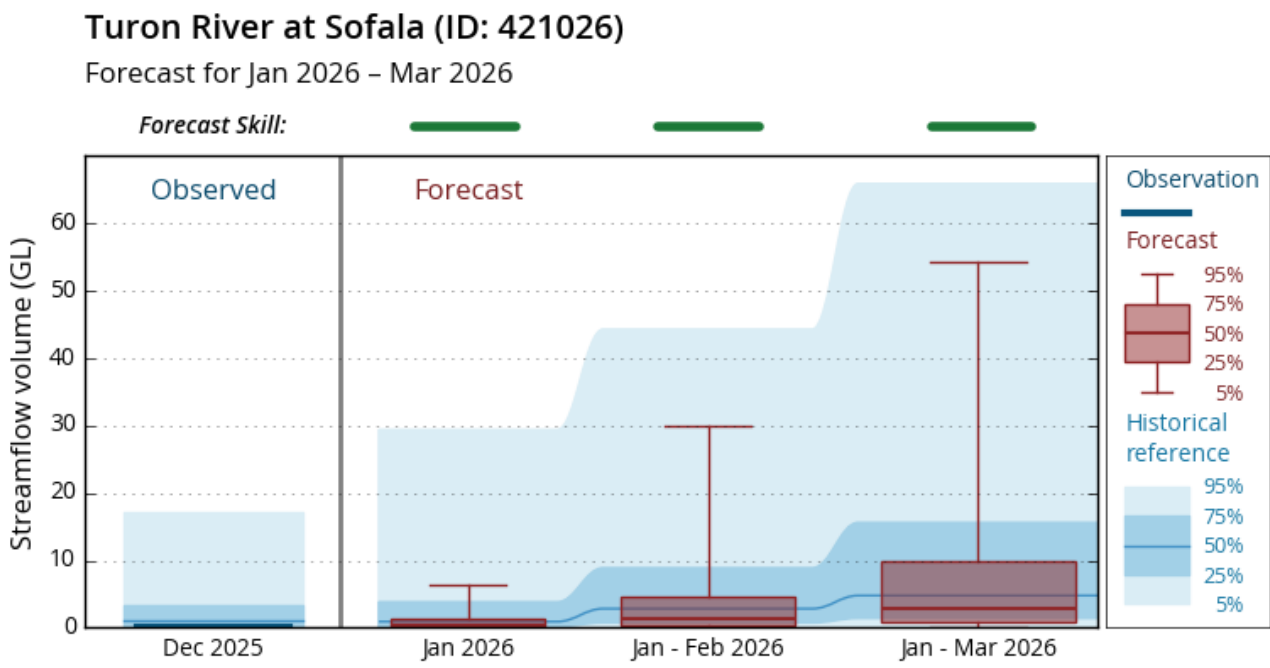
- In December, 86 megalitres (ML) of EWA was delivered in the Macquarie River from active sub accounts, and 990 ML EWA was delivered in in the Cudgegong River.
- No bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam are expected before July 2026.
- Evaporation reduction applied for the quarter ending December 2025 with 2.3% to Macquarie and 1.2% to Cudgegong respectively. Refer to [WaterNSW's evaporation reduction update](#).

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 January to March 2026 period, the median and higher flow forecast quantiles sit significantly below their historical equivalents, suggesting that lower than historical inflows are likely for this period.

The graph from January to March 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/seasonal-streamflow-forecasts/water-information/)



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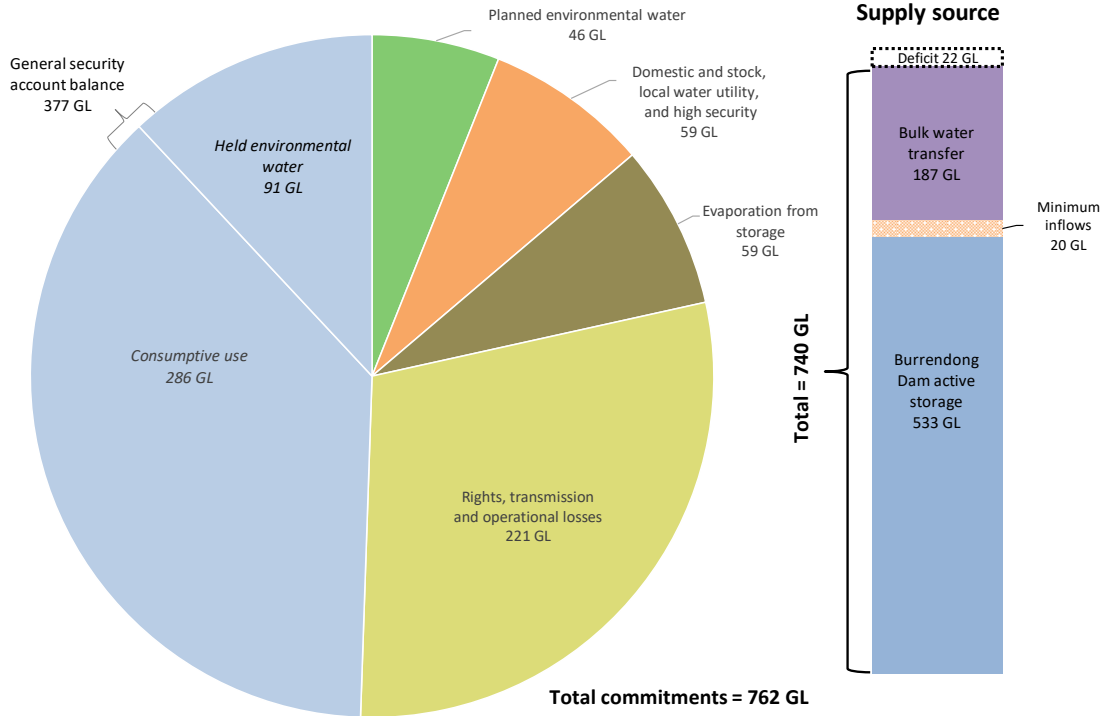
Macquarie resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (January 2026 to June 2027)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources ⁽¹⁾	740
<i>less</i>	
This water year (1/2026 to 06/2026)	
Planned environmental water balance	46
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance	16
High security balance	8
General security balance ^{(2) (3)}	377
Evaporation from Burrendong Dam ⁽⁴⁾	29
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	69
Burrendong reserve for 2026–27	
Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security ⁽⁶⁾	35
Evaporation from Burrendong Dam ⁽⁴⁾	30
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	152
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	(22)

Notes:

- (1) Active storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of December (net of 34 GL of dead storage); plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from now to June 2027; plus the planned 187 GL transfer from Windamere Dam. The minimum inflow budget corresponds to January 1980 to April 1981 record, excludes high inflows of May and June 1981.
- (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 91 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. This assessment is returning a deficit which will be monitored closely.

**Resource distribution as of 31 December 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%

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26	Average account balance
12-Nov	Macquarie EWA	3%	30%	33%
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.

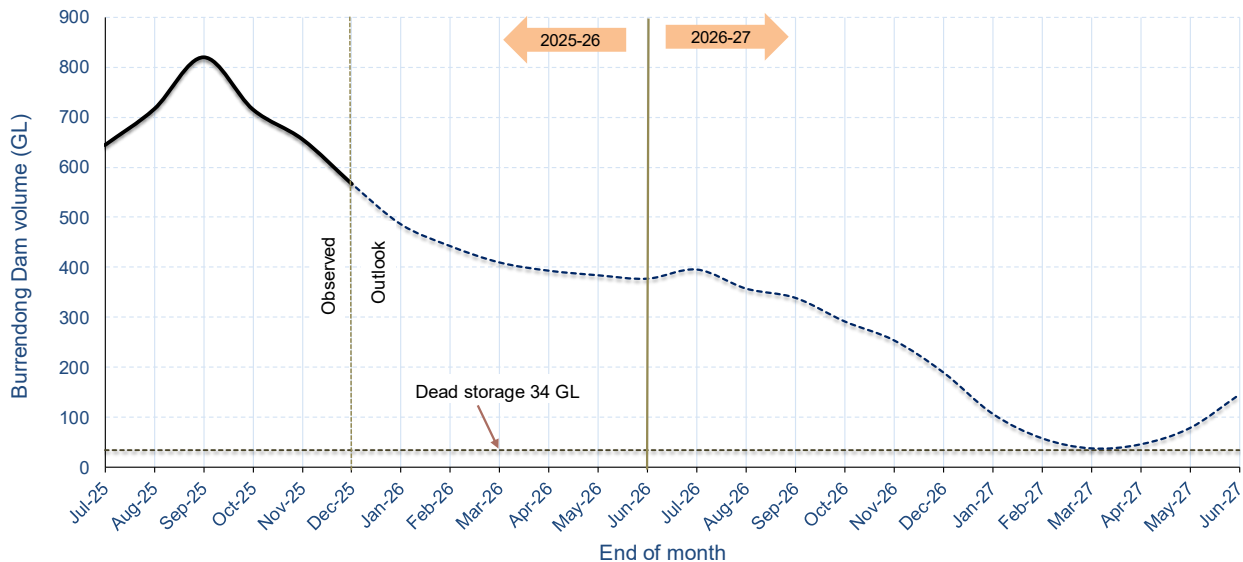


Figure: Simulated depletion of Burrendong Dam storage volume

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.

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](#)

Further information

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

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