11 June 2026

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations** for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source at this time. The general security (GS) account balance for Macquarie River water users is 250 gigalitres (GL) or an average 41% of entitlement. The total volume on GS accounts for those on the Cudgegong River is about 13 GL or 68% of entitlement on average.

Burrendong Dam received around 3 GL of inflow in May. This inflow has been insufficient to support new allocations.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 May 2026. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

11 June 2026	Allocation increment	Average account balance
Macquarie GS	-	41% (250 GL)
Cudgegong GS	-	68% (13 GL)
Macquarie EWA	-	25% (41 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	-	59% (7 GL)

Key information

- No EWA was delivered in May to either the Macquarie or Cudgegong River.
- A bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam may be required from early next water year, under the minimum inflow planning scenario. However, the volume and actual timing for the transfer depends on future system conditions and operational requirements, which are being closely monitored.
- The planning horizon for this water source is being closely monitored due to ongoing dry conditions.

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Resource outlook for 2026–27

The outlook for likely 1 July 2026 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that the forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution.

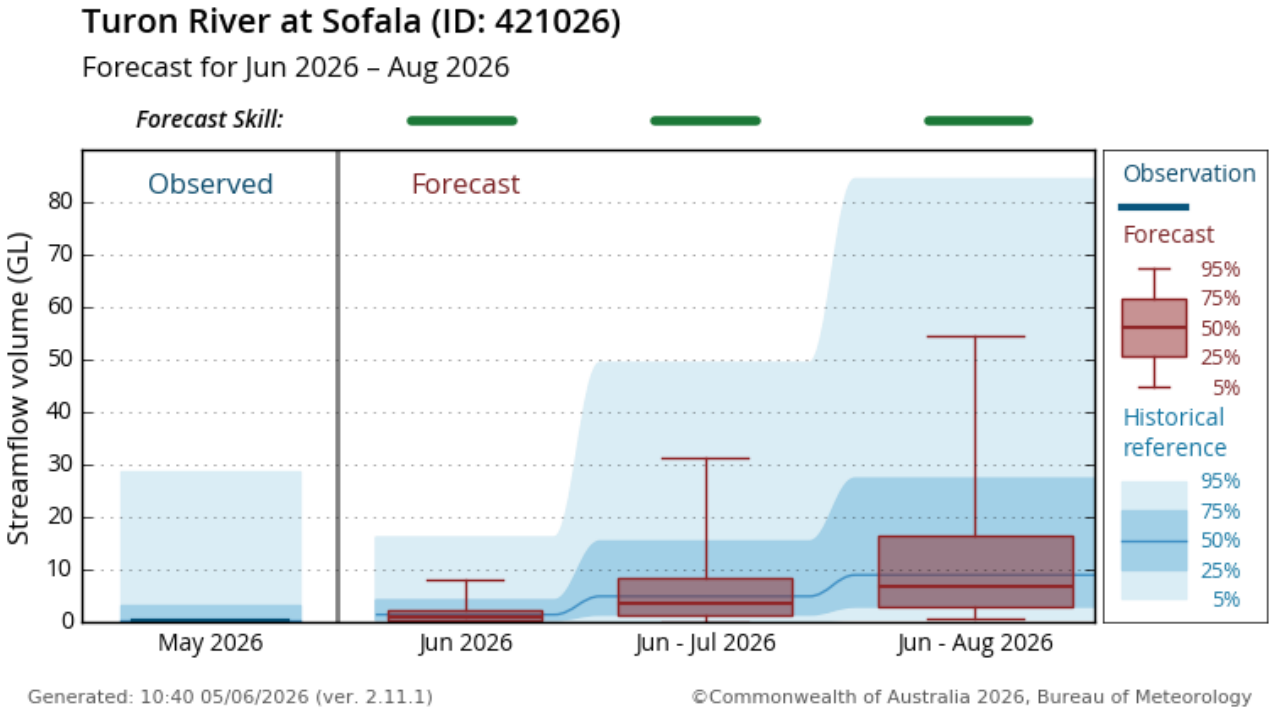
- Water for all critical human and environmental needs is secure for the 2026–27 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security can expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2026.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is moved to the carryover sub-accounts into the new water year. The Macquarie carryover sub-account has a maximum limit of 100% of entitlement.
- In Cudgegong carryover sub-account has a maximum limit of 100% of entitlement, except for the licences listed in Schedule 2 of the plan. The licences listed in the schedule can carryover volumes specified in that schedule.
- General security water users can expect full access to their carried over account water, but no new allocation will be announced on 1 July. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessments will continue, commencing in early July, and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2026–27.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can also expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July. However, access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow.

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 June to August 2026 period, most forecast quantiles are lower than the historical equivalents, suggesting that lower than historical inflows are likely for this period.

The graph for June to August 2026 is shown below, and updates can be found at: Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au)


Turon River at Sofala (ID: 421026)
Forecast for Jun 2026 – Aug 2026
Forecast Skill:
Observed
Forecast
Streamflow volume (GL)
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
May 2026
Jun 2026
Jun - Jul 2026
Jun - Aug 2026
Observation
Forecast
95%
75%
50%
25%
5%
Historical reference
95%
75%
50%
25%
5%
Generated: 10:40 05/06/2026 (ver. 2.11.1)
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Macquarie resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (June 2026 to June 2027)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources [1]	513
less	
This water year (06/26)	
Planned environmental water balance	41
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance	7
High security balance	2
General security balance [2] [3]	250
Evaporation from Burrendong Dam [4]	1
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	5
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]	149
equals	
Surplus (or deficit) [7]	(7)

Notes:

(1) Active storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of May (net of 34 GL of dead storage); plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from now to June 2027; plus the planned 184 GL transfer from Windamere Dam. The minimum inflow budget corresponds to June 1982 to April 1983 record, excludes high inflows of May and June 1983.

(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 85 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.

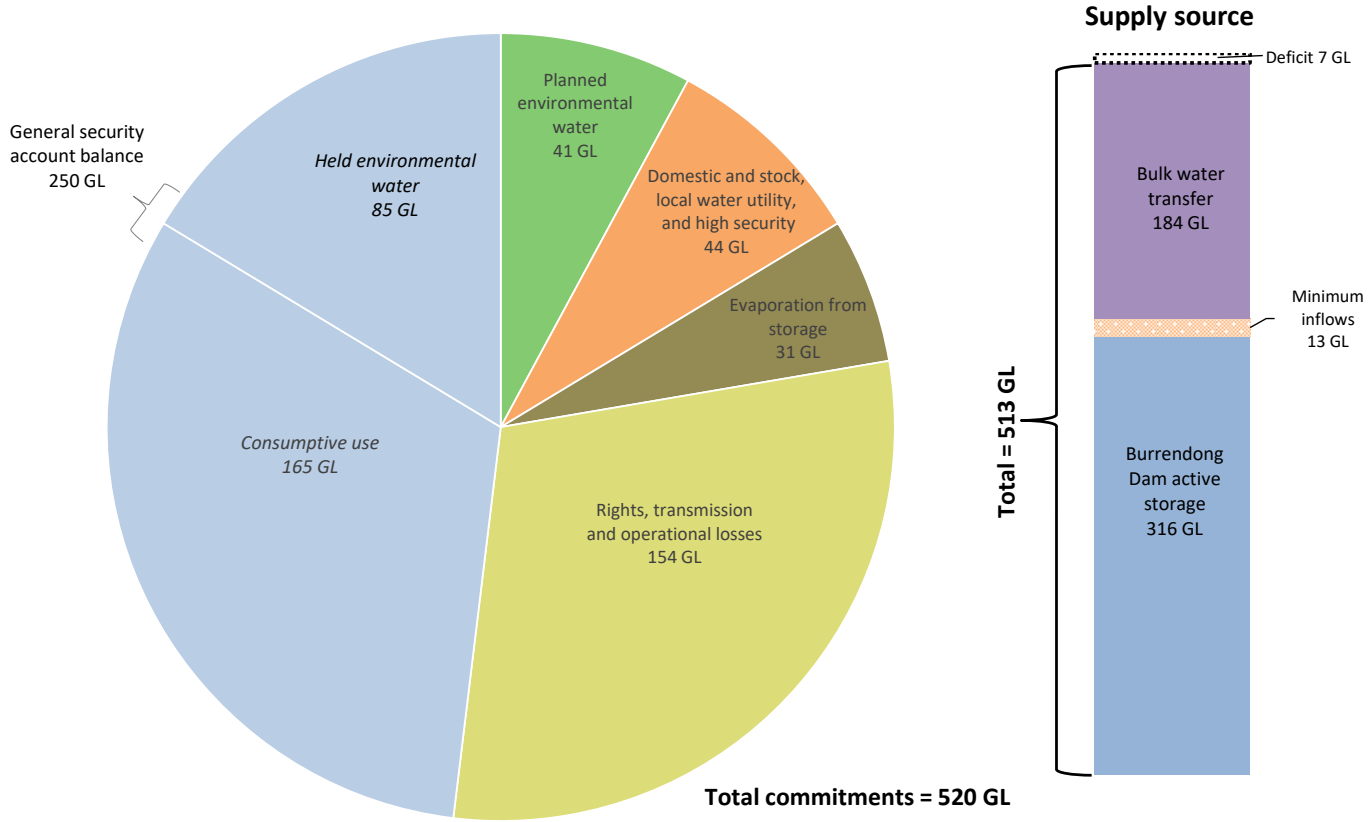
(4) Evaporation loss from Burrendong Dam is based on projected storage depletions.

(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 1 June 2026
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%
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%

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26	Average account balance
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 behind Burrendong Dam will reduce to a minimum by March 2027 then begin to recover after April 2027. Note that this is not a forecast but a simulation to show that (1) delivery to higher priority need is secure, (2) all available volume has been fully allocated.

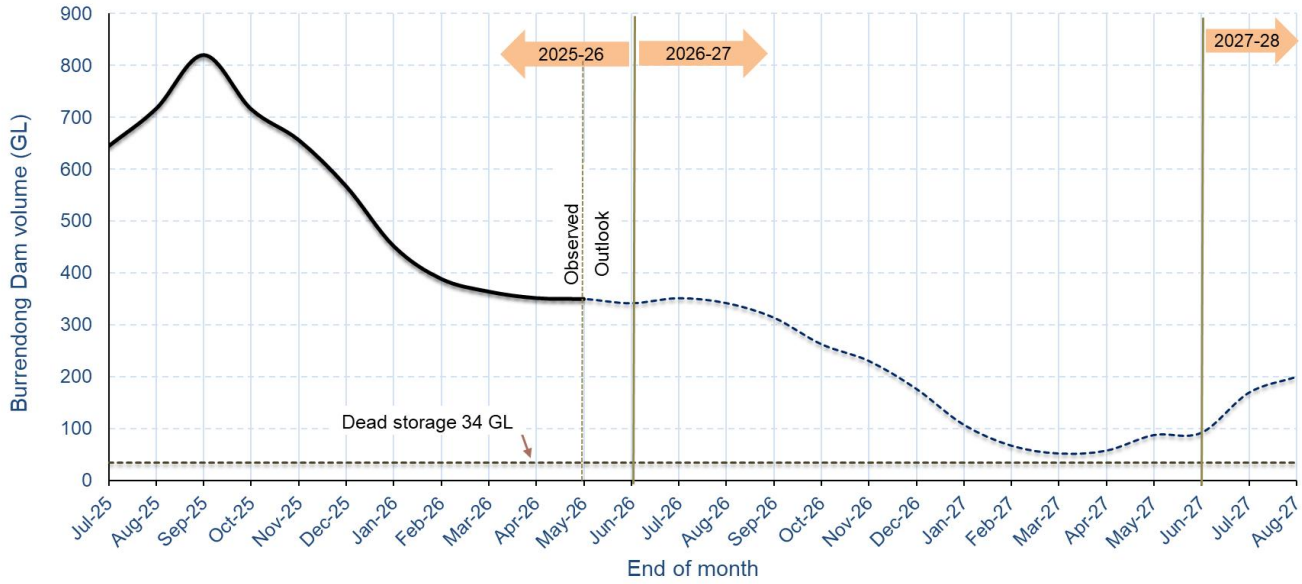


Figure: Simulated depletion of Burrendong Dam storage volume

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 water allocation statement for these water sources will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statements on **Wednesday 1 July 2026 at 6.00am**.

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Friday 10 July 2026.**

Subscribe here to receive water allocation statements and email updates from Water Group of the department.

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