12 August 2026

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

No change in general security allocation

Category	2026–27 allocation	Account balance	
Macquarie GS	-	41%	(243 GL)
Cudgegong GS	-	64%	(12 GL)
Macquarie EWA	-	13%	(22 GL)
Cudgegong EWA	-	59%	(7 GL)

Key information

- This resource assessment is based on information as of 1 August 2026.
- We are now accruing higher priority reserve of 2027-28. The reserve is assessed regularly. The current estimate of required volume is 114 gigalitre (GL).
- A total of 13 GL was released from translucent sub-allowance of Macquarie Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) on July.
- The Bulk Water Transfer from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam could commence in October 2026, with an initial pulse for platypuses in September 2026. However, the volume and actual timing for the transfer will depend on several conditions. For the latest update please visit WaterInsights.

Next statement

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Thursday, 10 September 2026.**

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Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (August 2026 to June 2028)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources [1]	543
less	
Planned environmental water balance	22
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance	22
High security balance	12
General security balance [2] [3]	243
Evaporation from Burrendong Dam [4]	35
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	149
Higher-priority reserve (2027–28) [6]	114
equals	
Surplus (or deficit) [7]	(54)

Notes:

(1) Active storage volume in Burrendong Dam at end of July (net of 34 GL of dead storage); plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from now to June 2027; plus the planned 185 GL transfer from Windamere Dam. The minimum inflow budget corresponds to August 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.

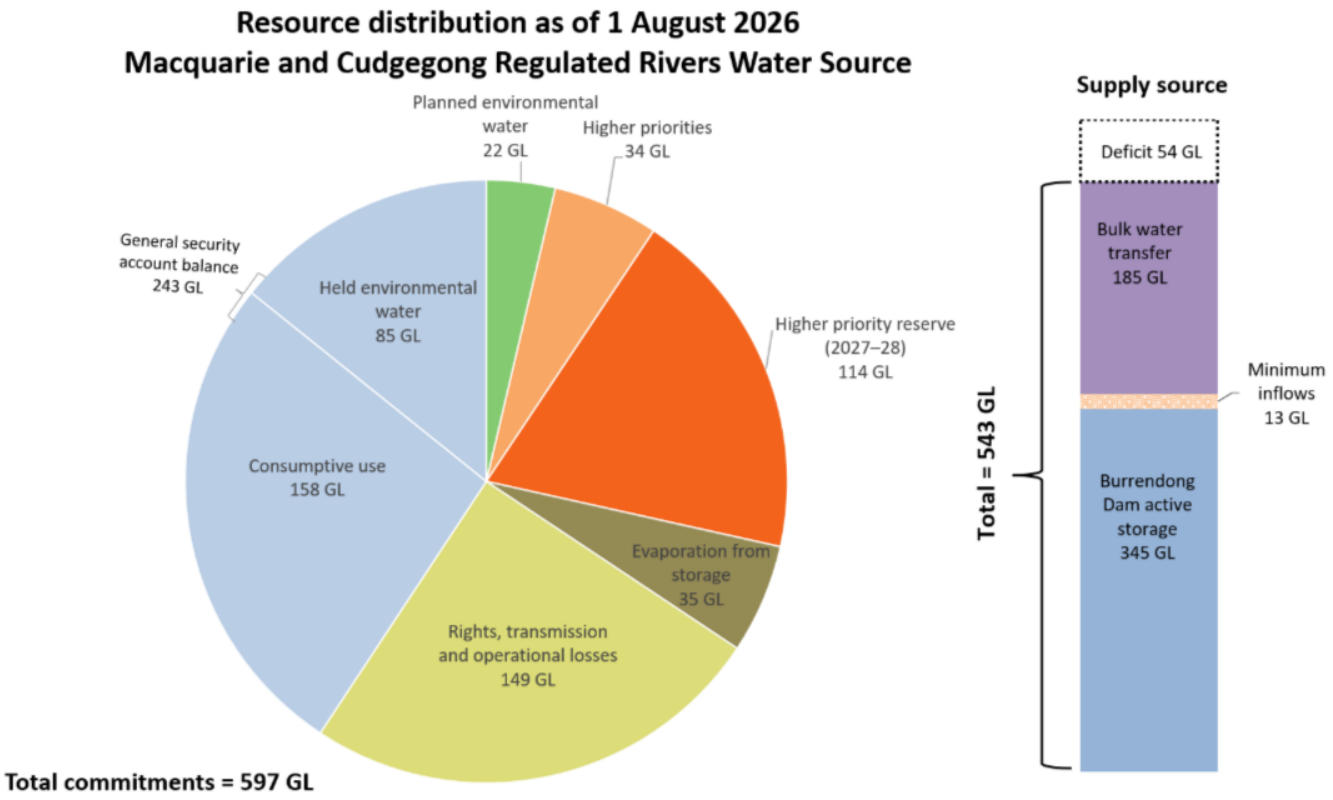
(3) The held environmental water is estimated to be 85 GL of general security entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

(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.

(6) The current estimate of the required reserve behind Burrendong Dam for the next water year is about 114 GL. This includes domestic and stock, local water utilities and high security allocations, plus overheads to run the river, offset by minimum inflows expected in 2027–28.

(7) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. The deficit is indicating the additional volume required to meet 2027-28 higher priority demands in full.



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. Note that this is not a forecast but a simulation to show that delivery to higher priority needs is secure.

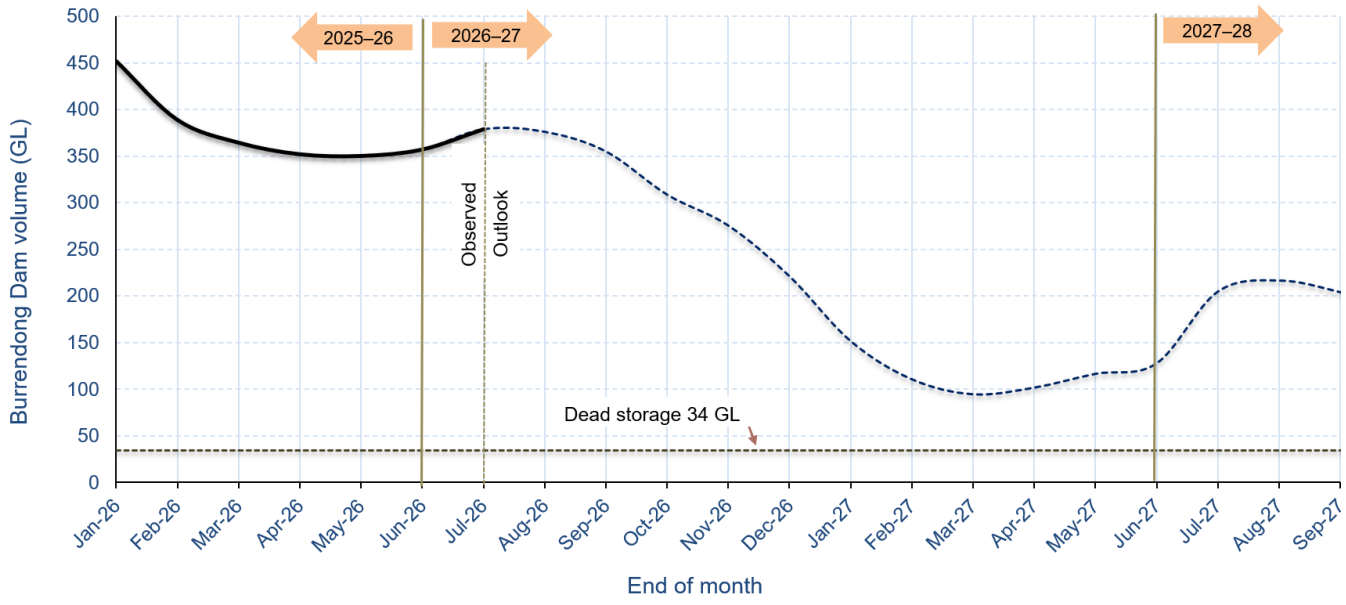


Figure: Simulated depletion of Burrendong Dam storage volume

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

Water sharing plans for this water sources is available at: Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016

Contact

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

You can also follow the department on X: @NSWDCCEEW_Water

Contact information for water enquiries and other water-related matters can be found on the department's website: Contact us - DCCEEW | Water

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	1.00 ML/share*	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Jul	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/share*	1.00 ML/share*	425%

* 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	1.00 ML/share*	1.00 ML/share*	100%*

* 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.