



Friday, 3 August 2012

Allocation increase for the Macquarie Valley

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced an increase of 28 percent for Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers general security water users.

Mr Harriss said that 213,000 megalitres of inflow was received in Burrendong Dam last month, and water levels remained within the *Flood Mitigation Zone*.

“Under the rules of the *Water Sharing Plan*, an equivalent volume of account water from carryover sub-accounts is withdrawn from both Macquarie general security licences and the Environmental Water Allowance,” said Mr Harriss.

“This volume has been re-credited to available water determination sub-accounts and the EWA, so that while there is a technical increase, the overall allocation for Macquarie general security users remains at 128 percent.”

“This rule does not apply to Cudgegong general security water users, meaning their allocation has increased to 156 percent of entitlement.”

The current storage level at Burrendong Dam is at 107 percent of full supply capacity, down from a peak of 115 per cent in mid July.

Mr Harriss said that once the storage level falls to 105 percent, releases will reduce from a target of 9,000 megalitres per day at Gin Gin to 5,000 megalitres per day at Warren, as agreed by the Macquarie Flood Mitigation Zone Reference Panel.

“If dry conditions persist in the coming weeks, irrigation demand could commence by late-August.”

Windamere Dam currently has a storage capacity at 60 percent, holding 220,000 megalitres.

The Bureau of Meteorology forecasts a slightly drier spring season driven mostly by warmer waters in the Pacific Ocean. This will mean a 45-50 per cent chance of exceeding the median rainfall across the eastern half of New South Wales during the coming months.

The NSW Office of Water will continue to closely monitor inflows and seasonal contributions and may make further allocation announcements for general security access licence holders in the coming months.

More information on water allocations is available at www.water.nsw.gov.au

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