



Thursday, 9 February 2012

Seven per cent increase for Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley general security water users

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss today announced a seven per cent increase to the general security surface water allocation in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Valley, bringing the allocation to 49 per cent of entitlement.

“Today’s increase is the result of storage inflows from rainfall received in the catchment over the last couple of weeks,” he said.

“This is the sixth allocation announcement for this water year in the Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated system, and with average carryover in accounts of approximately 80 per cent means general security water users have on average access to approximately 129 per cent of entitlement.”

Mr Harriss said that Burrendong Dam is currently at 80 per cent of capacity holding some 958,000 megalitres, a decrease of 5 per cent from last month due to increased demand.

Windamere Dam is steady at 48 per cent of capacity and 176,000 megalitres.

This allocation also results in a credit to the planned Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) as provided for in the Water Sharing Plan. For every one per cent of general security water announced, 1,600 megalitres is credited to this account, resulting in an additional 11,200 megalitres to the Environmental Water Account. This compares to a total of approximately 44,000 megalitres that has been credited to general security accounts in the Macquarie-Cudgegong.

This EWA water is stored in Burrendong Dam and used to provide downstream environmental benefits, including the internationally significant Macquarie Marshes wetlands. Releases are made upon advice from the Environmental Flow Reference Group, whose membership includes a cross-section of community and government representatives.

The seasonal rainfall outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology is for drier than average conditions over the period February to April for the central west of NSW.

The NSW Office of Water will continue to carefully monitor inflows and will make further allocation announcements for general security access licence holders as water becomes available.

Additional information on Available Water Determinations is available on the NSW Office of Water’s website at www.water.nsw.gov.au.

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