



Critical water planning for the Macquarie Valley

Issue 2 | 3 November 2008

Current water availability

The Macquarie catchment has received minimal inflows which has improved the water level in Burrendong Dam slightly, but was not enough to increase licence allocations significantly.

The following table shows storage levels in gigalitres (GL) as at 3 November 2008.

	Volume (GL)	Percentage of Capacity	Change in volume (GL) since 1 July
Burrendong Dam	289	22%	+52
Windamere Dam	92	24%	+3

What this means

Macquarie River

The allocations for town water supply, stock and domestic and high security allocations remain at 100 per cent.

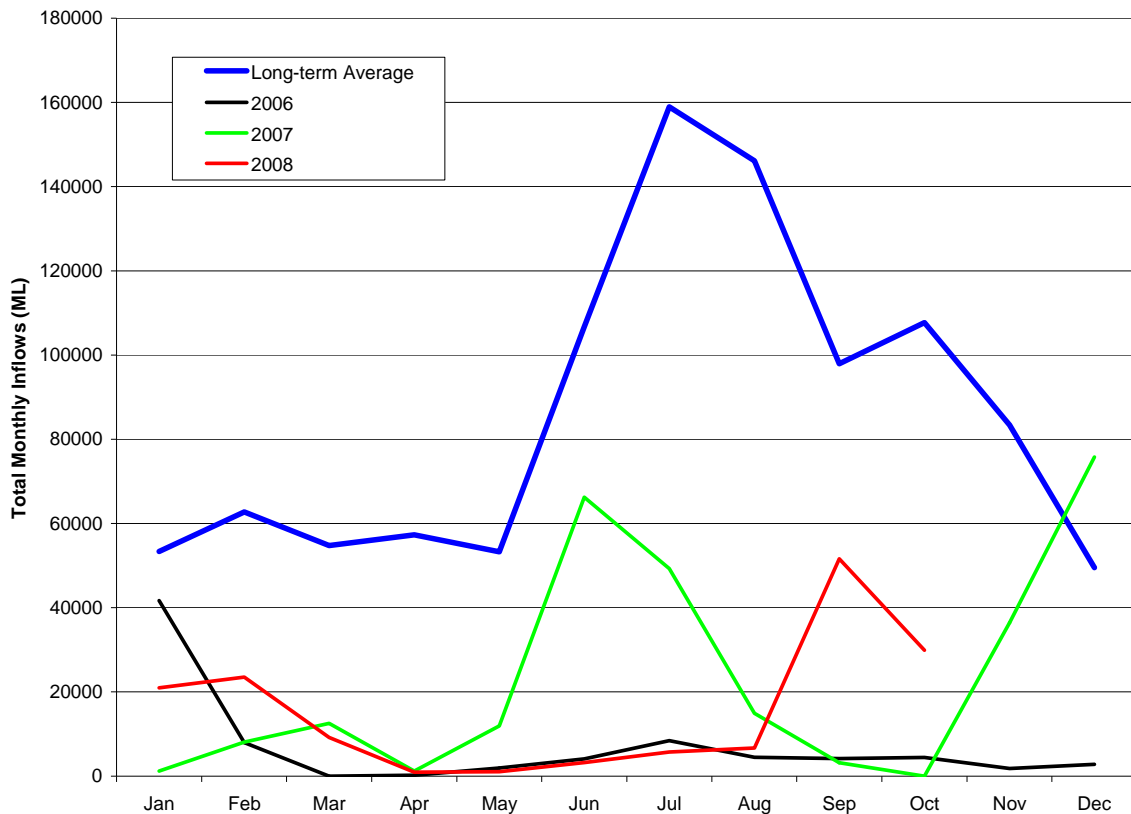
General Security users can access any unused water carried over from last season and effective from 3 November 2008 can access an allocation of 1 per cent of their entitlement.

Cudgegong River

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Long term average inflows into the Macquarie Valley



River management during 2008/09

Even though drought conditions continue and the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source* remains suspended there is sufficient water for allocations to be made in accordance with the provisions of the plan.

Consideration will be given to reinstating the plan when there is sufficient water in storage to assure town water supplies, stock and domestic and high security for the remainder of the current water year and the next water year. It is estimated an additional 25,000ML (~2%) in Burrendong Dam would be required for such consideration.

Meanwhile, downstream tributary flows will still be managed to the supplementary access provisions of the water sharing plan.

Water trading in 2008/09

Currently there are no restrictions to trading of account water between Cudgegong and Macquarie Rivers.

Water availability outlook

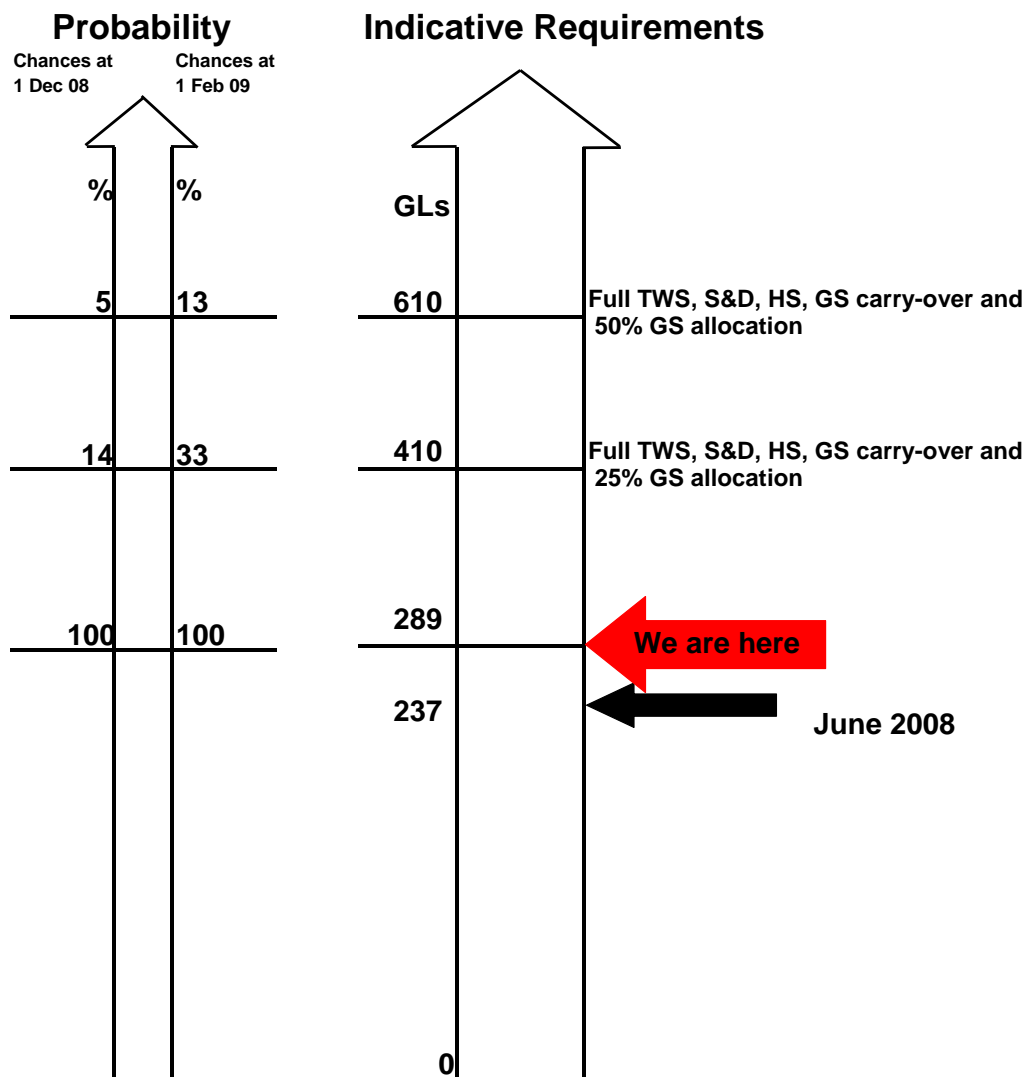
Windamere Dam

Resources in Windamere Dam combined with historical low inflows are adequate to provide full supply to town water supply, stock and domestic and high security for 2008/09. Bulk Water Transfer between Windamere and Burrendong Dams may not be required.

Burrendong Dam

Resources in Burrendong Dam combined with historical low inflows are adequate to provide full supply to town water supply, stock and domestic and high security for 2008/09. Annual stock and domestic replenishment flows will largely rely on rain and tributary flows downstream of the dam.

Macquarie Valley Indicative Outlook – Downstream Burrendong Dam



Environmental water

With the improvement of water availability some 1,600 megalitres will be credited to the environmental water account held in Burrendong Dam.

Water will also be credited to adaptive environmental water licences held by the Australian Government and NSW Government, which will assist in improving and sustaining the condition of rivers and wetlands.

This water will be released at the most opportune time to target specific environmental outcomes in the Valley, such as maintaining the health of the Macquarie Marshes. The decisions on the delivery of environmental water allocations are made by DECC on the advice of Environmental Flow Reference Group.

As the Windamere Dam storage volume is below the trigger level of 110,000ML, no environmental flows will be delivered translucently from this dam.

Compliance

The Department of Water and Energy's Drought Contingency Planning Program will only work if everyone adheres to the restrictions and is careful with all water use. To ensure that the system is run fairly, the community should report any suspected breaches to the Department's Compliance Unit on 1800 633 362 or by email to watercompliance@dwe.nsw.gov.au. All reports are confidential.

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