



## Critical water planning for the Macquarie Valley

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### Current water availability

Rainfall in early November resulted in some storage inflows totalling approximately 23,000 megalitres (ML). This improved the water level in Burrendong Dam slightly, but was not enough to increase licence allocations.

The following table shows storage levels in gigalitres (GL) as at 30 November 2007.

	Volume (GL)	Percentage of Capacity	Change in volume (GL) since 1 July
<b>Burrendong Dam</b>	200.4	14.4%	+ 64.0
<b>Windamere Dam</b>	86.5	23.5%	+4.0

### What this means

#### *Macquarie River*

A 70 per cent water allocation is available for town water supply and a 50 per cent allocation for high security and stock and domestic users until 30 June 2008. No allocation or carryover water is currently available for general security users.

On the 6 November the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water Phil Koperberg announced an increase in town water supply to 85 per cent of allocation for Cobar Shire Council. This has allowed the relaxation of Level 5 water restrictions to equivalent Level 3A.

#### *Cudgegong River*

An 80 per cent water allocation is available for town water supply, high security and stock and domestic users until 30 June 2008. General security users currently have access to 25 per cent of any unused water carried over from last season.

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## **River management during 2007/08**

Due to the ongoing drought conditions, the normal water allocation rules set out in the water sharing plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source are suspended to allow for extraordinary allocations. However, wherever possible the Macquarie River will still be managed to the intent of the water sharing plan. This means that downstream tributary flows will still be managed to the supplementary access provisions of the water sharing plan.

## **Water trading in 2007/08**

At the present time, no temporary transfers from Cudgegong licences into Macquarie licences are permitted. However, trading may continue within the Cudgegong and Macquarie valleys. Consideration is being given to maximise the tradability of all allocations.

## **Water availability outlook**

Windamere Dam will need a further 12 GL of inflow (or be approximately 26 per cent full) to allow full access to town water supply, stock and domestic, high security and general security carryover, enabling similar extraction as in 2006/07.

Burrendong Dam will need a further 130 GL of inflow (or be approximately 25 per cent full) to allow full access to town water supply, stock and domestic, high security and general security carryover and to make all environment account water available.

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