

Dam Facts and Figures

Burrendong Dam

State
water

Location: On the Macquarie River, 30km south-east of Wellington

Nearest town: Wellington

Local Government Area: Wellington Shire

Year completed: 1967

Dam type: Rockfill with clay core

Dam height: 76m

Length of crest: 1,113m

Water depth: 57m

Full supply level: 344m above sea level

Storage capacity: 1,188,000ML

Surface area: 7,200ha

Catchment area: 13,900km²

Spillway: Gated concrete chute

Spillway capacity: 1,199,000ML/day



For more information phone 1300 662 077

Burrendong Dam

Burrendong Dam is situated on the Macquarie River, just below its junction with the Cudgegong River, 30km upstream from Wellington in central west NSW.

Burrendong Dam is a large inland storage and has a capacity of 1,188,000 megalitres (ML) or three times the capacity of Sydney Harbour.

The dam has a surface area of 7,200ha or nearly 10,000 football fields and a wall height of 76m, taller than a 25-storey building.

About the Dam

Burrendong Dam was proposed immediately after World War II as a means of improving water supplies and boosting agricultural production in the Macquarie valley. Construction commenced in 1946, but was not completed until 1967.

The name Burrendong is an Aboriginal word for koala.

The main purpose of the dam is to supply irrigation, stock and household needs in the Macquarie valley and also to provide environmental flows to the Macquarie Marshes.

Water Supply

Burrendong Dam provides water for town water supplies, river flows and domestic requirements, irrigated agriculture, industry, flood mitigation, environmental flows and recreation.

The largest area of benefit is devoted to cotton growing in the Macquarie valley, however other significant crops grown under irrigation are lucerne, cereals, oilseed, wheat and vegetables.

Dam Upgrade

Burrendong is one of eight dams in regional NSW earmarked for a major dam safety upgrade. While safe for day to day operations, the dam needs upgrading to meet modern-day safety standards. This \$32million first phase of this upgrade is scheduled for completion in 2014.

For up-to-date storage level information, visit www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au.

Water Supply Licences

Burrendong Dam operates in conjunction with Windamere Dam to supply water to the Cudgegong and Macquarie valleys. Together there are 1,505 licences with a 724,345ML entitlement within 920km of river.

- High security/industry entitlements 18,000ML
- General security entitlements 631,716ML
- Stock and domestic requirements 5,568ML
- Town water supplies 18,845ML
- Supplementary flows 50,000ML

Burrendong Dam provides 50,000ML a year to the Macquarie Marshes which also has first call on any surplus water in the river.

Water users hold access licences which determine their share component. Share components specify how much of the valley's resource is available for each licence holder to use. Examples of high security licence holders are local councils for town water supply and permanent crops such as orchards.

Available Water Determinations (AWDs) credit access licence accounts with water, based on the water sharing plan for that valley.

Hydro-Power Capability

AGL Southern Hydro operates a 19 megawatt power station at Burrendong Dam. On average, it generates enough power annually to supply 9,000 people.

Water is made available for power generation only when releases are made for water users, the environment and during flood operations.

Recreation

Burrendong Dam offers year-round attractions for fishing enthusiasts, water sports, nature lovers, bushwalkers, campers and picnickers. There is an arboretum with native plants and animals, and a mass of subtropical vegetation and local bird life. The dam is stocked with redfin, catfish, Murray cod and golden perch (yellow belly).

If you plan to visit this dam, we recommend you contact State Parks by phone on (02) 6846 7435 or email burrendong@stateparks.nsw.gov.au.