

# Dam Facts and Figures

# Burrinjuck Dam

State  
water

**Location:** On the Murrumbidgee River, 60km from Yass

**Nearest town:** Yass

**Local Government Area:** Yass Valley

**Year completed:** 1928 original, 1957 enlarged

**Dam type:** Concrete gravity

**Dam height:** 93m

**Length of crest:** 233m

**Water depth:** 61m

**Full supply level:** 361m above sea level

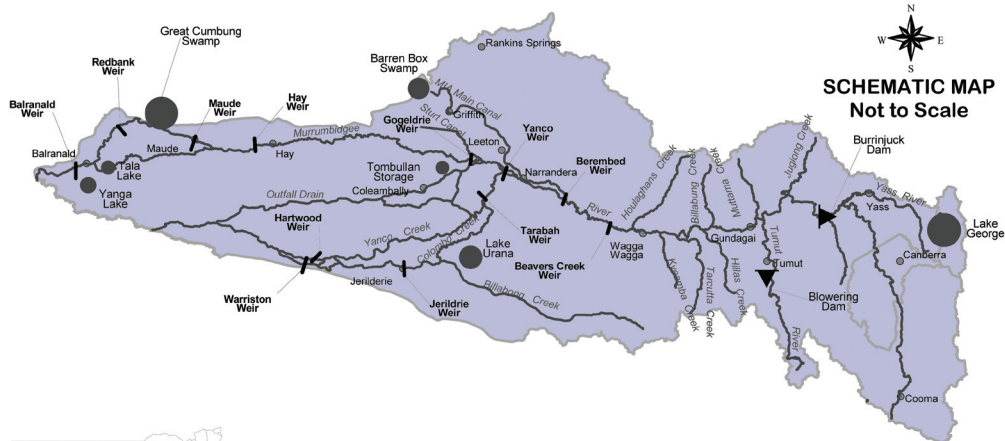
**Storage capacity:** 1,028,000ML

**Surface area:** 5,500ha

**Catchment area:** 12,953km<sup>2</sup>

**Spillway:** Three sector gates plus two side channel spillways

**Spillway capacity:** 2,506,000ML/day



LOCALITY MAP

## MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER SYSTEM

STATE WATER  
July 2005



For more information phone 1300 662 077

## Burrinjuck Dam

Burrinjuck Dam, situated high in the mountains of the Great Dividing Range, is near the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee River, 60km from Yass.

Burrinjuck Dam holds 1,026,000 megalitres (ML), almost twice as much water as Sydney Harbour.

It covers an area of 5,500ha, or more than 8,000 football fields. The catchment area of Burrinjuck Dam is 12,953km<sup>2</sup>, which is larger than the catchment area of the whole of the Snowy Mountains.

## About the Dam

Construction of Burrinjuck Dam began in 1909, but due to delays caused by the labour and material shortage during World War I, the original design was not completed until 20 years later. However irrigation supplies from the dam began in 1912.

Burrinjuck was the first major dam built for irrigation in NSW. It was the fourth largest dam in the world when construction began. It was also one of the first dams in NSW to have environmental flow releases based on inflows.

The name Burrinjuck comes from the Aboriginal words "Booren Yiack", meaning precipitous mountain.

The dam is appropriately named as it lies between the Barren Jack and Black Andrew Mountains.

## Water Supply

Burrinjuck Dam provides an average of about 1.2 million ML a year for the irrigation of crops in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, including fruit and vegetables, as well as pastures for fat lambs and beef cattle.

Burrinjuck Dam supplies water for towns, river flows, stock and domestic requirements, irrigated agriculture, industry, flood mitigation and environmental flows.

For up-to-date storage level information, visit [www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au).

## Water Supply Licences

Burrinjuck operates in conjunction with Blowering Dam to supply water to the Murrumbidgee valley. Together there are 1642 licences with a 2,911,263.7ML entitlement within 1340km of 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

Earing Energy operates a 28 megawatt hydro power station. On average, it generates enough power annually to supply 13,500 people.

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

## Recreation

Burrinjuck Dam attracts about a quarter of a million tourists a year. Camping, boating, fishing and water sports are a few of the highlights. The dam is stocked with trout, Murray cod, perch and Atlantic salmon.

If you plan to visit this dam, we recommend you contact State Parks by phone on (02) 6227 8114 or email [burrinjuck@stateparks.nsw.gov.au](mailto:burrinjuck@stateparks.nsw.gov.au).