



15 January 2018

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

The Lachlan regulated river general security allocation for 2017-18 **remains unchanged at 2 per cent of entitlement.**

Wyangala Dam received approximately 80,000 megalitres of inflow in December 2017 following significant rainfall over the dam catchment during the first week of that month. Storage level has decreased slightly to approximately 80 per cent of capacity, with December inflows not quite off-setting deliveries and evaporation since the last assessment.

Water users are reminded that the resource assessment period now extends to May 2020. It is estimated that a combined dam and tributary inflow volume of over 65,000 megalitres will be required in January before a further allocation can be made in February. Inflows so far in January 2018 have been less than 1,000 megalitres, with hot and dry conditions prevailing across the valley.

While there is a low probability of Wyangala Dam spilling in the 2017-18 water year, water users are reminded that, should airspace operations or a physical spill occur, there will be the usual reset of accounts in accordance with the water sharing plan rules. However, to be clear, after any reset, there will be **no subsequent reset in the following six months** even if further airspace operations or spill event/s should occur within that period.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	2%	108%

Dam levels (as at 15 January 2018)

- Wyangala Dam is 79 per cent full – falling – holding 960,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 84 per cent full (32,000 ML).
- Lake Brewster is 28 per cent full (41,000 ML).

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's three-month seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that near median rainfall is expected over the Lachlan catchment, with temperatures likely to be cooler than average.

Weak La Niña conditions are present and models suggest this event will end by mid-autumn. La Niña typically brings above average rainfall to eastern Australia during summer; however as the current event is forecast to be weak and short-lived, it is likely to have less influence on rainfall.

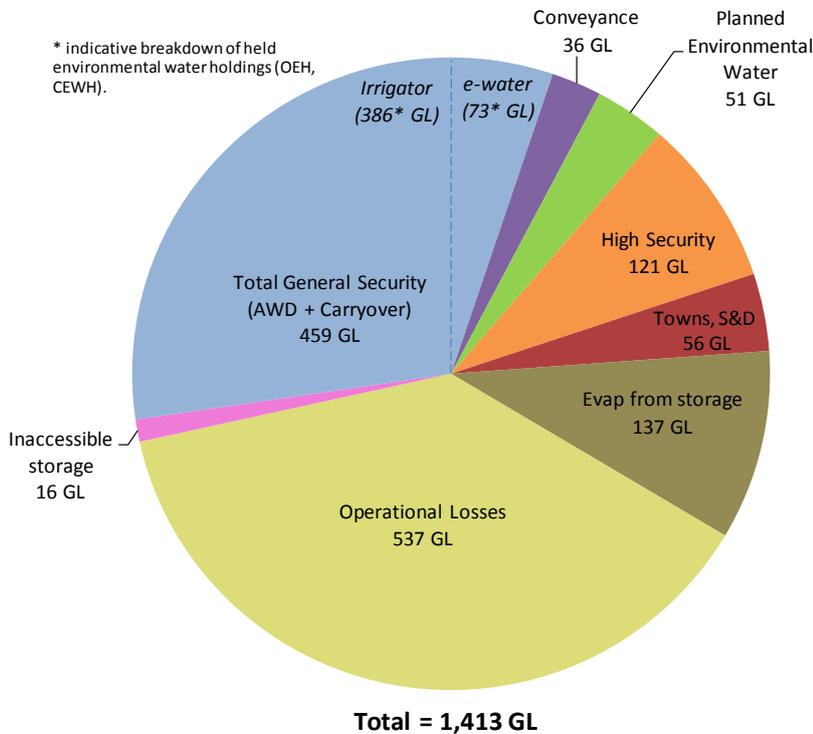
Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Lachlan Valley will be issued on **Wednesday 14 February 2018.**

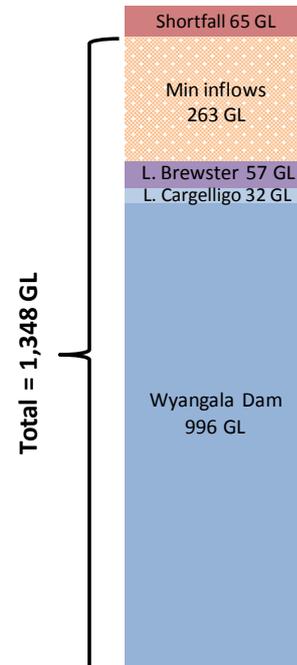
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution: January 2018 to May 2020		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,348	
less		
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	12 (2%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	447	
Conveyance	36	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	51	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	121 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	56 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	137	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	537	Total commitment
Inaccessible storage	16	1,413

**Resource Distribution January 2018 to May 2020
Lachlan Valley**



Supply Distribution



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of December storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from February 2018 to May 2020.
- (2) Carryover remaining in general security accounts, including held environmental water.
- (3) Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Contingency Allowances under the water sharing plan. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (4) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet 100% of these high priority entitlements to 31 May 2020. Balances in high security accounts include water traded in from general security licences.
- (5) It is assessed that the lakes are likely to be drawn down slowly in the current water year, increasing storage evaporation.
- (6) 'Operational Losses': best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through May 2020 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into the river bed sands. This volume includes S&D replenishment deliveries in autumn 2018, 2019 and 2020. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions from 1 February 2018. This loss allowance is updated across the year.
- (7) Volume represents the total cumulative AWD made to GS licences in the current water year.
- (8) Held environmental water (HEW): as a trial, general security account water administered by environmental water holders has been identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental holdings.

Chances of improvement

The chances of improved general security allocation, based on different inflow scenarios, are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions	Cumulative General Security AWD (per cent)	
	For 2017-18 by 30 Jun 2018	For 2018-19 by 31 Oct 2018
Dry (80%: 4 chances in 5)	2 + GS c/o [#]	0 + GS c/o ^{**}
Average (50%: 1 chance in 2)	8 + GS c/o [#]	27 + GS c/o ^{**}
Wet (20%: 1 chance in 5)	36 + GS c/o [#]	Possible spill and reset by Aug 2018 (123% AWD ^{^^})

Add water carried forward from 2016-17 water year to these forecasted AWD values.

** Add water carried forward from 2017-18 water year to these forecasted AWD values.

^^ Estimate should spill occur in August 2018.

Further information

Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the website - www.water.nsw.gov.au