Water Allocation Statement

15 November 2018

Lachlan Valley

Water allocation update

The Lachlan regulated river general security water allocation **remains unchanged at zero per cent of entitlement.**

The estimated combined dam and tributary inflow volume required in November before a general security allocation can be made in December is approximately 225 gigalitres (GL). For context, dry conditions have produced inflows of just 4 GL so far in November 2018.

At this time of year the planning horizon for Lachlan resource assessment steps out a further year and is now looking to May 2021, some 31 months. It ensures continued commitment to priority needs before further general security is allocated. This expanded horizon is the main reason for the increase in the inflow volume required before further allocations can be made.

Valley-wide general security water availability is currently 297 GL, about 50 per cent of entitlement.

As Lake Brewster is effectively empty, irrigation and environmental demand below Brewster Weir this summer will be delivered from Wyangala Dam. In order for the water order lead time to remain linked to travel time from Lake Brewster, WaterNSW will contact all water users below Brewster Weir, including those in regulated Willandra Creek, to compile details of their forecast monthly demand.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan	100%	0%	62%

Storage levels (as at 14 November 2018)

- Wyangala Dam is 49 per cent full – falling – currently holding 595 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is 81 per cent full – falling – currently holding 31 GL.
- Lake Brewster is effectively empty.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting very low flow for November to January period in the Abercrombie River which drains into Wyangala Dam.

The Bureau's seasonal outlook for November to January indicates that rainfall conditions are likely to be generally below average across the region. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño ALERT and observations indicate that a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is likely underway. Models indicate that El Niño thresholds may be met during November, while the positive IOD event will dissipate. When combined, an El Niño and positive IOD event increase the chances of dry and warm conditions, particularly during spring.

Chances of improvement

Potential general security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are as follows:

Historical Inflow Scenario		Cumulative General Security AWD	
		For 2018/19 by 31 Jan 2019	For 2018/19 by 30 Jun 2019
Dry	(exceeded 4 times in 5 years)	0%+	0%+
Average	(exceeded once every 2 years)	0%+	0%+
Wet	(exceeded once in 5 years)	0%+	42%+

+ Add remaining balances on 1 July 2018 carried forward to these forecasted AWD values.

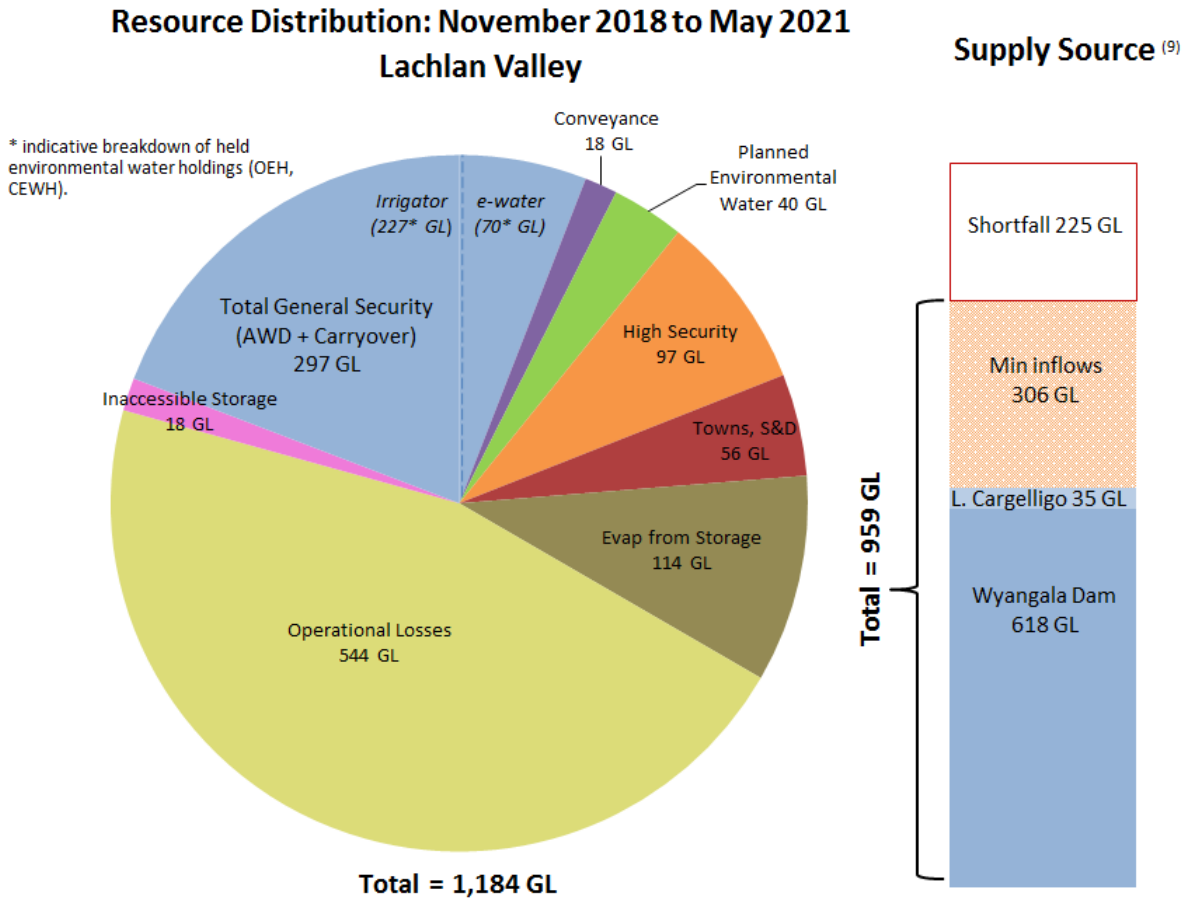
Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Lachlan Valley will be on **Friday 14 December 2018**.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (November 2018 to May 2021)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource(1)	959
less	
General Security 2018/2019 AWD (7),(8)	0 (0%)
Carryover remaining in accounts (2),(8)	297
Conveyance	18
Planned Environmental Water (3)	40
High Security (4)	56 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic (4)	97 (100%)
Evaporation from storage (5)	114
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) (6)	544
Inaccessible storage	18

See notes below.



Notes:

(1) Total available resource: End of October storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from now to May 2021.

(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 2021. 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 to May 2021 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into river bed sands. The volume includes S&D replenishment deliveries in autumn 2019, 2020, and 2021. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions going forward. The loss allowance is updated regularly.

(7) Volume represents the total cumulative AWD made to GS licences in the current water year.

(8) Held environmental water (HEW): held environmental water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portion of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 70 GL of GS, and 17 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on e-water holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

(9) The supply source of total available water, explained in Note (1) above, is provided. Note that Lake Brewster is empty now. It also indicates the current shortfall required before a further AWD can made.