Water Allocation Statement

15 January 2019

Lachlan Valley

Water allocation update

There is no change to allocations in the Lachlan regulated river water source.

Inflow conditions remain well short of providing any general security allocation. For context, over 224 gigalitres (GL) of system inflow is required in January while just 21 GL has been received.

The planning horizon for the Lachlan resource assessment runs through to May 2021, some 29 months. It ensures continued commitment to priority needs before further general security water is allocated. Despite the lack of allocation this year, valley-wide general security water availability is currently 237 GL, or about 40 per cent of entitlement.

As Lake Brewster is effectively empty, irrigation and environmental demand below Brewster Weir this summer is being delivered from Wyangala Dam. In ordering water, users must allow for the additional delivery travel times, particularly those in regulated Willandra Creek.

Storage levels (as at 15 January 2019)

- Wyangala Dam is 42 per cent full – rising – currently at 509 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is 51 per cent full – steady – currently at 22 GL.
- Lake Brewster is effectively empty.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Lachlan	100%	0%	Stage 1

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduces a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Lachlan regulated river water source is assessed to be in Stage 1, meaning there are no constraints to deliverability of account water forecast during the current water year.

Further information on the policy and related drought stages can be found at:
www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for January to March, issued on 20 December, indicates likely conditions being drier than average. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño ALERT level despite reduced, but above average, ocean surface temperatures and atmospheric ENSO indicators remaining neutral. The positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event, which was present late in 2018, has now ended.

For further details: **www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary**

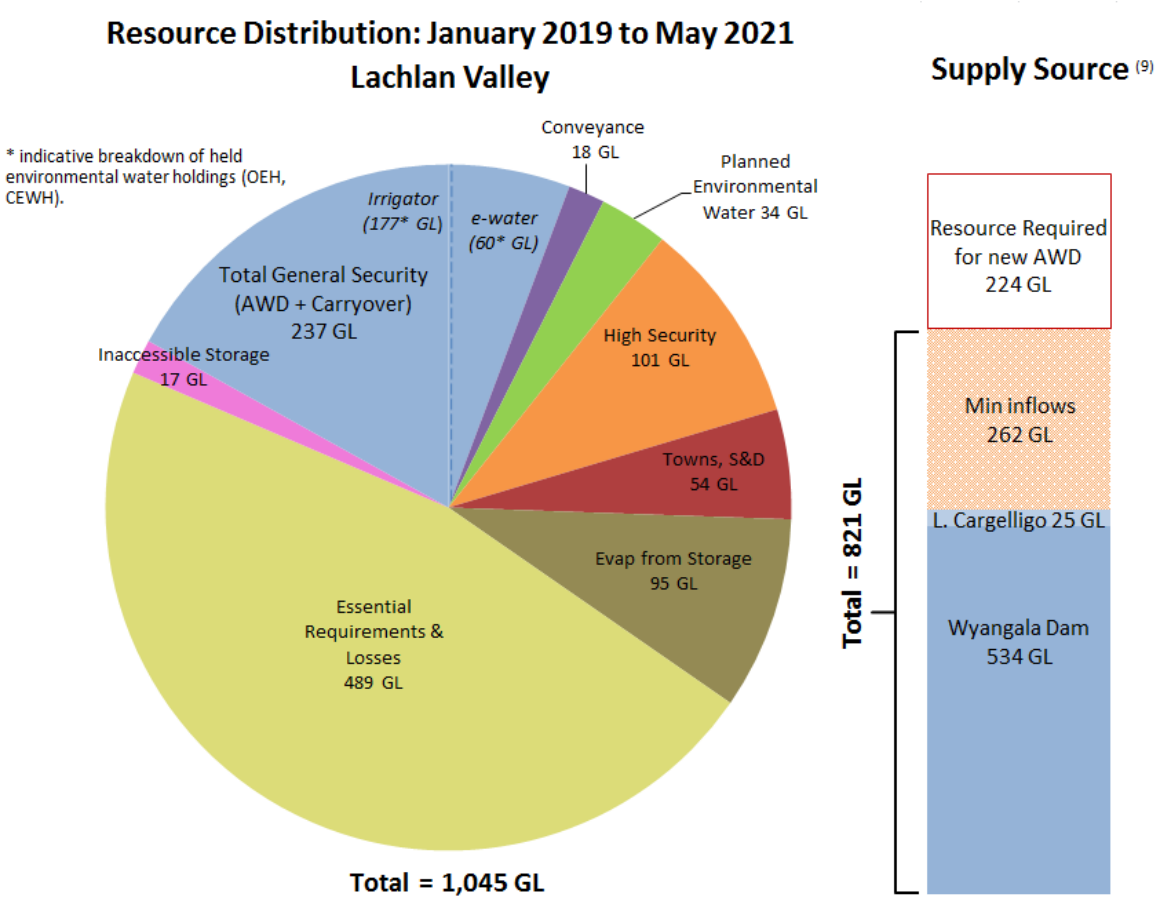
Next announcements

The next water allocation statement for the Lachlan regulated river water source will be on **Thursday 14 February 2019**.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (January 2019 to May 2021)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource[1]	821
less	
General Security 2018/2019 AWD [7],[8]	0 (0%)
Carryover remaining in accounts [2],[8]	237
Conveyance	18
Planned Environmental Water [3]	34
High Security [4]	101 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic [4]	54 (100%)
Evaporation from storage [5]	95
Essential Requirements and Losses (transmission, operations) [6]	489
Inaccessible storage	17

See notes below.



Notes:

(1) Total available resource: End of December 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) Essential Requirements and 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 60 GL of GS, and 20 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.

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 30 Jun 2019	For 2019/20 by 31 Oct 2019
Dry	(exceeded 4 times in 5 years)	0%+	0%^
Average	(exceeded once every 2 years)	0%+	6%^
Wet	(exceeded once in 5 years)	15%+	83%^

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

^ Add remaining balances on 1 July 2019 carried forward to these forecast AWD values.