

4 September 2020

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

An allocation of **28% of entitlement has been made to general security licence holders** in the Lachlan regulated river water source. The drought criticality level has been eased to the minimum Stage 1 reflecting normal river operations.

The improvement stems from significant system inflows in August. The wet conditions in recent weeks have boosted resources in the valley by about 400 gigalitres (GL) since the last assessment to the end of July. The improvement has been allocated to general security entitlements, with a commensurate increase in conveyance entitlements, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

This statement has been brought forward from its scheduled 8 September release due to the significant resource improvement and to assist water users to plan ahead with confidence.

Translucent release conditions were triggered in August and have mostly been met from downstream tributary inflows. As natural inflows reduce, the translucency obligation will be met from Lake Brewster to maximise water capture in Wyangala Dam. This strategy is providing positive resource management and environmental outcomes.

Inflows in excess of 40 GL will be required in September to enable a further general security allocation next month. This is subject to river operations and losses remaining as forecast. The planning outlook for the Lachlan assessment runs through to May 2022, some 21 months, and ensures security to higher priority needs before further general security allocations are made.

General security water users are advised that the Annual Use Limit that will apply in the 2020-21 water year is a volume equivalent to 100% of entitlement. This is the maximum amount that can be used in the 2020-21 water year, plus any adjustments up or down for trade.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	100%	28%	 Stage 1

Storage levels (as at 4 September 2020)

- Wyangala Dam is about 57.6% full – rising – currently at about 702,000 ML.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 84% full – rising – currently at about 32,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is holding about 106, ML (69%) full and rising.

Drought stage

Under the NSW Extreme Events Policy, the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source has been moved to Stage 1 (normal river operations). The recent high inflows have meant that there is

enough water to meet critical human and high priority needs for at least two years based on assumed minimum future inflows.

Seasonal inflow and rainfall forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to November indicates that rainfall conditions are likely to be wetter than average across the catchment, while temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau indicates that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are neutral. The Bureau has issued a La Niña WATCH alert, with some models indicating that La Niña conditions may develop over spring. There is also a possibility of negative IOD conditions developing over spring. La Niña and negative IOD conditions typically increase the probability of above average rainfall during spring.

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

Next announcement

The next water allocation announcement for the Lachlan regulated river water source will be issued on **Tuesday 6 October 2020**.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (September 2020 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	964
<i>less</i>	
General Security 2020/2021 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	166
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	96
Conveyance	29
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	20
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	57
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	40
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	132
Essential Requirements and Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	407
Inaccessible storage	<u>17</u>
	964

Notes:

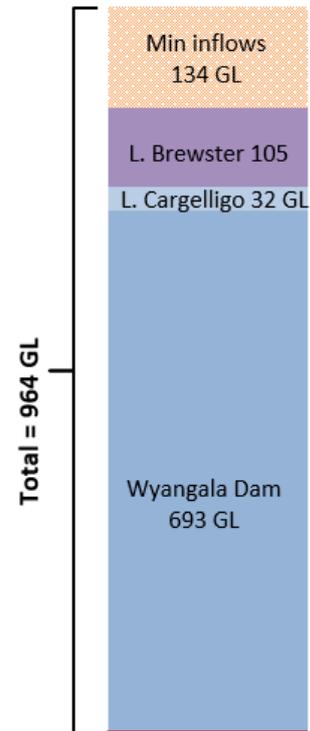
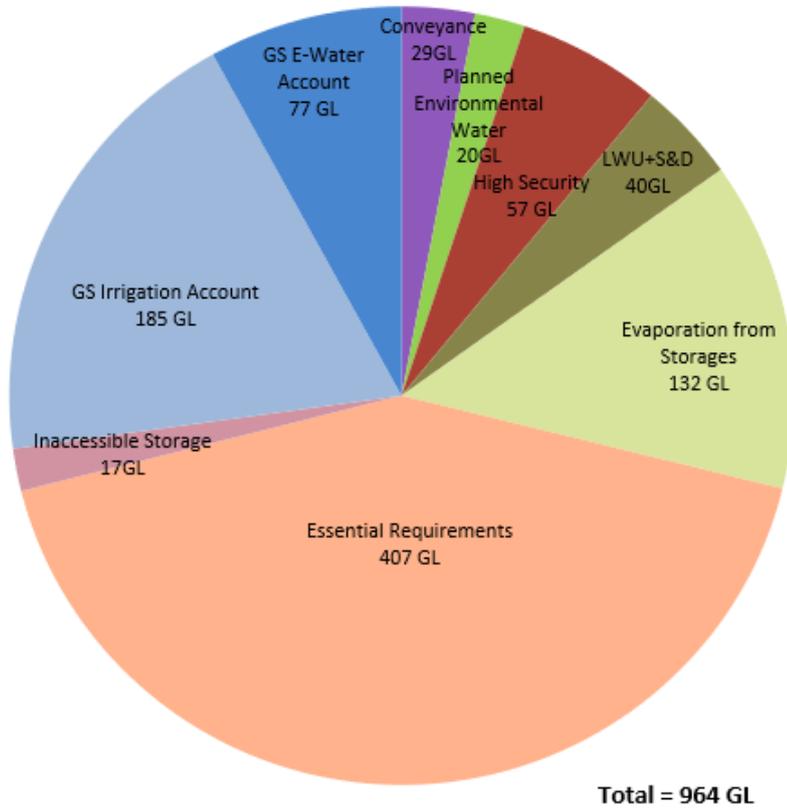
- (1) Total available resource: End of August 2020 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus expected minimum inflows from September 2020 to May 2022.
- (2) Carryover remaining in general security accounts, including held environmental water.
- (3) Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA) under the water sharing plan. 20 GL (includes 10 GL per year to May 2022 for WQA). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. EWA allocation for 2020-21 is zero currently.
- (4) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet 100% of these high priority entitlements to 31 May 2022 under the minimum inflow scenario. 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 over the assessment period, increasing storage evaporation.
- (6) Essential Requirements and Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to May 2022 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into riverbed sands. The volume includes any S&D replenishment deliveries required in spring 2020, 2021, and 2022. It is assumed that any 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 77 GL of GS, and 3 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by environmental water holder groups, including the NSW DPIE - Environment, Energy and Science (EES) 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. It also indicates the current shortfall and inflows required in September before a further AWD can be made.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Supply Source ⁽⁹⁾



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