

17 June 2016

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

The sum of general security allocations in the 2015/16 water year **remains unchanged on 25 per cent of entitlement**. Rainfall in early June has not been sufficient to make any new allocations following a warm and relatively dry autumn.

Approximately **101,000 megalitres** of inflow to regulated river storages is required by the end of June 2016 to make a new available water determination. Approximately 30,000 megalitres of inflow has arrived so far this month.

Despite this shortfall to allow new general security allocations, delivery of all existing commitments is **guaranteed for the 2016/17 water year**.

The annual use limit for the upcoming 2016/17 water year is **100 per cent of entitlement**, which is unchanged from the 2015/16 water year. This is the maximum general security extraction allowable in any given year and is adjusted for any water traded into or out of the account. It should not be confused with an allocation announcement, which occurs when there is an improvement in resources.

Delivery of domestic and stock replenishment flows to effluent creeks in 2016 is underway utilising flows from recent rainfall. Additional releases from storage will be made as required. In 2015, all required replenishment flows were completed in early-spring.

The translucent flow release period at Wyangala Dam is from 15 May to 15 November. The water sharing plan requires a total inflow of 250,000 megalitres into Wyangala Dam in a calendar year before delivery of translucent environmental flows can commence. Inflows to Wyangala Dam from 1 January to 16 June 2016 have only totalled 40,000 megalitres.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	25%	29%

Dam levels

- Wyangala Dam is currently 41 per cent full, holding 497,000 megalitres.
- The storage volume has risen from a low of 38 per cent (468,000 megalitres) earlier this month following rainfall in the upper catchment during the first weeks of June 2016. It had previously fallen from a high in late-September 2015 of 62 per cent (760,000 megalitres).
- Conditions in the Wyangala Dam catchment were very dry throughout the autumn months, with only 5,000 megalitres of inflow received in total. Historically, autumn has the highest chance of low inflows.
- Recent rainfall has provided some moisture to the upper catchment. River flows have restarted leading into the typically wetter winter/spring period.

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology has **forecast at least a 75 to 80 per cent** chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the Lachlan Valley during the June to August period.

The current outlook reflects a neutral ENSO/La Niña, with very warm sea surface temperatures surrounding northern and eastern Australia.

Despite the favourable rainfall outlook, new general security allocations can only be made once sufficient usable inflows are received to guarantee delivery of existing allocations.

Next Announcements

DPI Water will provide the next water outlook update in September 2016.

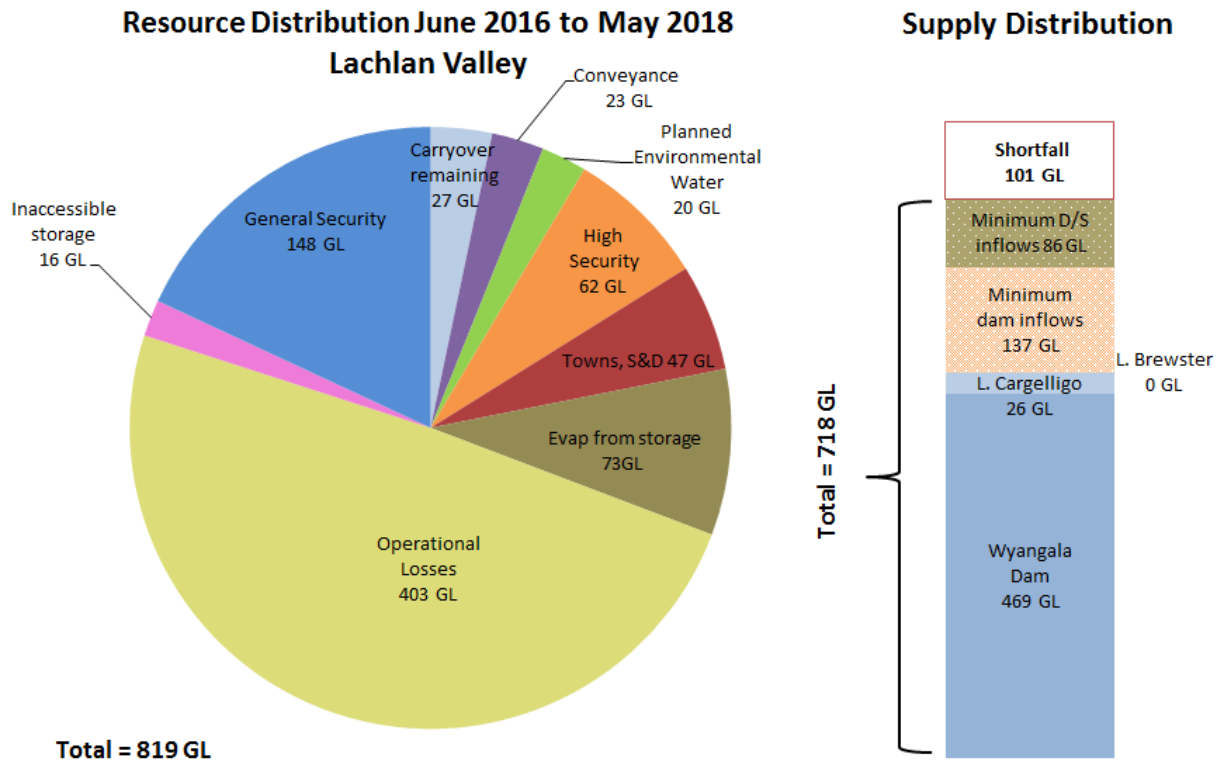
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution: July 2016 to June 2018	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	718
less	
General Security	148 (25%)
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	27 (4%)
Conveyance	23
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	20
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	62 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	47 (100%)
Evaporation from storage	73
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	403
Inaccessible storage	16
	Total demand
	819

Inflows required in March to meet total demand ⁽⁶⁾	101
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Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: end-May storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: 1 July 2015 carryover volume minus general security usage to end of May.
- (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 required to meet 100% of entitlement through to 1 June 2018.
- (5) 'Operational Losses': best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into the river bed sands. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions. This loss allowance is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Usable inflows required in the upcoming month to assure delivery through the minimum forecast scenario and begin to make additional general security allocations.



Chances of improvement

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

Potential Inflow Conditions	General Security AWD (per cent) #	
	31 Oct 2016	31 Jan 2017
Extremely dry (99% inflows: 99 chances in 100)	0	0
Dry (80%: 4 chances in 5)	0	0
Average (50%: 1 chance in 2)	24	28
Wet (20%: 1 chance in 5)	72	90

Add carryover from previous water years to these values

Further information

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