



5 August 2016

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

The onset of airspace operations by WaterNSW at Wyangala Dam this week has triggered an **account reset** for general security and conveyance licence holders in the Lachlan Valley.

In accordance with the rules in the water sharing plan, DPI Water announces that:

- All water allocations remaining in the water allocation accounts of general security licences and the spillable sub-accounts of high security licences are **withdrawn**.
- Current and assured future water resources are sufficient to make an available water determination of **115 percent of entitlement** to general security licence holders.

This assessment accounts for existing flows in the river system and their natural recessions through the month of August. If inflows later this month are received greater than those forecast, then a further allocation improvement will be announced in the September update.

Consistent rainfall throughout July on already wet catchments resulted in approximately **423,000 megalitres** of inflow to Wyangala Dam (35 per cent of full storage volume) during the month.

General security water users are reminded of the Annual Use Limit that applies. A volume equivalent to **100 per cent of entitlement** is the **maximum amount** that can be **used in the 2016/17 water year**, plus any adjustments up or down for trade.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	115%	0%

Dam releases

On Tuesday 2 August, WaterNSW began releasing 700 megalitres per day from Wyangala Dam as part of airspace operations. This was based on an assessment, consistent with the water sharing plan rules, that the probability of the storage being full and potentially spilling prior to significant irrigation demand is at least 80 per cent.

The current release is important in providing flood mitigation capacity and reducing flood risk, based on seasonal outlooks. However, water allocations continue to be assessed on a more conservative basis. The current assessment of resources plus minimum future inflows would not produce a full Wyangala Dam. Therefore, the current allocation is less than the maximum 136 per cent. If additional inflows do eventuate, as is likely, further allocations can then be made.

Translucent flows were first triggered on 7 July. To date, flow targets at Lake Brewster Weir have been met in full from tributaries below Wyangala Dam without requiring any releases from the dam. Any excess inflows from the tributaries are being stored in Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster with the aim to fill them by the end of current inflow recession.

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Dam levels

- Wyangala Dam is currently 91 per cent full, holding 1,112,000 megalitres.
- The storage volume has risen from a low of 38 per cent (468,000 megalitres) in early June following significant rainfall events in the upper catchment during June and July.
- Conditions in the Wyangala Dam catchment remain saturated and subsequent rainfall events will provide further inflows to storage in the coming months.
- Lake Cargelligo is surcharged to 127 per cent full (44,700 megalitres) and Lake Brewster is 85 per cent full (125,000 megalitres) and rising.

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a 70 to 75 per cent chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the Lachlan Valley during the August to October period.

A strong negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event continues to influence the climate outlook, with ocean temperatures well above average in the eastern Indian Ocean and below average near Africa. All international climate models surveyed by the Bureau indicate the negative IOD will persist until the end of spring, which historically has brought increased rainfall to southern Australia during this period.

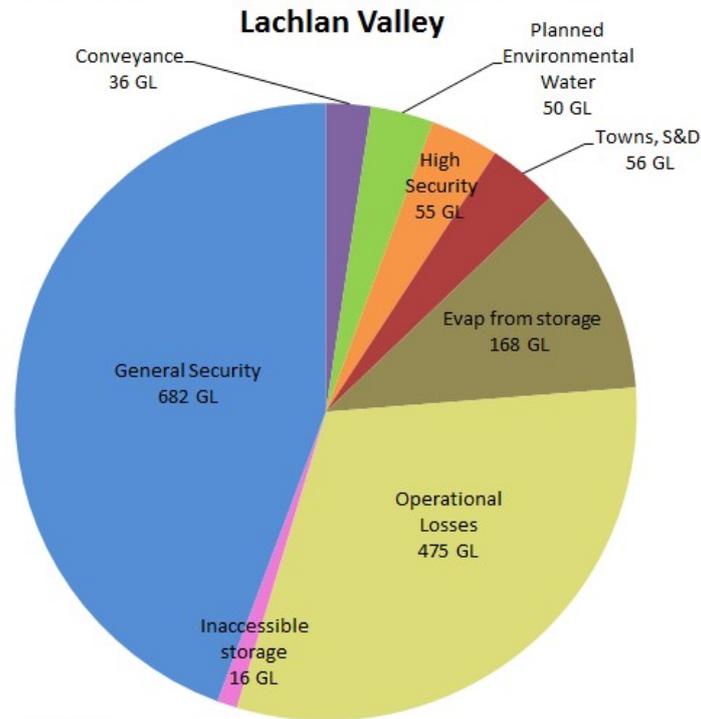
Next announcement

DPI Water will provide the next water outlook update in the week of 5 September 2016.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

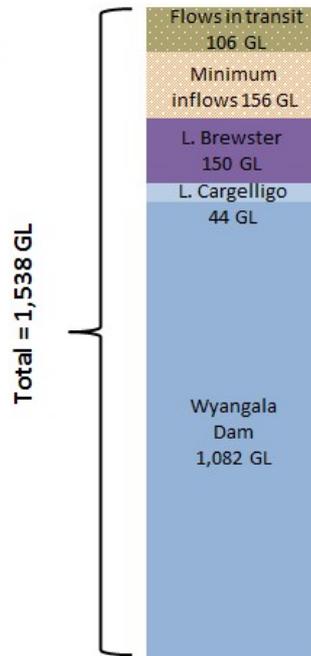
Resource Distribution: June 2016 to May 2018		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,538	
less		
General Security	682 (115%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	0	
Conveyance	36	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	50	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	55 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	56 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage	168	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	475	Total demand
Inaccessible storage	16	1,538

Resource Distribution August 2016 to June 2018



Total = 1,538 GL

Supply Distribution



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: end-July storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus flows already in the system plus minimum forecast inflows from 1 Sep.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: Zero following account reset.
- (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 July 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.