

14 September 2017

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

There is **no increase** in Lachlan regulated river general security allocation at this time.

Wyangala Dam received approximately 18,000 megalitres of inflow in the month of August. Storage levels have remained steady since the last assessment at approximately 87 per cent of capacity. The minimal inflows to the system in recent months have effectively offset evaporation losses and system requirements.

With a low probability of Wyangala Dam spilling early in the 2017-18 water year, water users are advised that, in the event of airspace operations or a physical spill, there will be the usual reset of accounts in accordance with the water sharing plan rules. However, to provide certainty, there will be **no reset in the following six months** should there be any further airspace operations or spill event/s in that time.

It is estimated that a combined dam and tributary inflow volume in excess of 105,000 megalitres will be required in September before a further allocation can be made in October. Inflow to Wyangala Dam so far in September has been less than 3,000 megalitres.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	2%	108%

Dam levels (as at 14 September 2017)

- Wyangala Dam is 87 per cent full – steady – holding 1,057,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 97 per cent full (35,700 ML).
- Lake Brewster is 70 per cent full (102,000 ML).

Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has forecast roughly equal chances of wetter or drier conditions in the valley from October to December, with above average temperatures.

Both of Australia's major climate drivers at this time of year, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are neutral, suggesting no strong or widespread trending toward wetter or drier conditions in the coming months.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Lachlan Valley will be issued on **Monday 16 October 2017**.

Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507

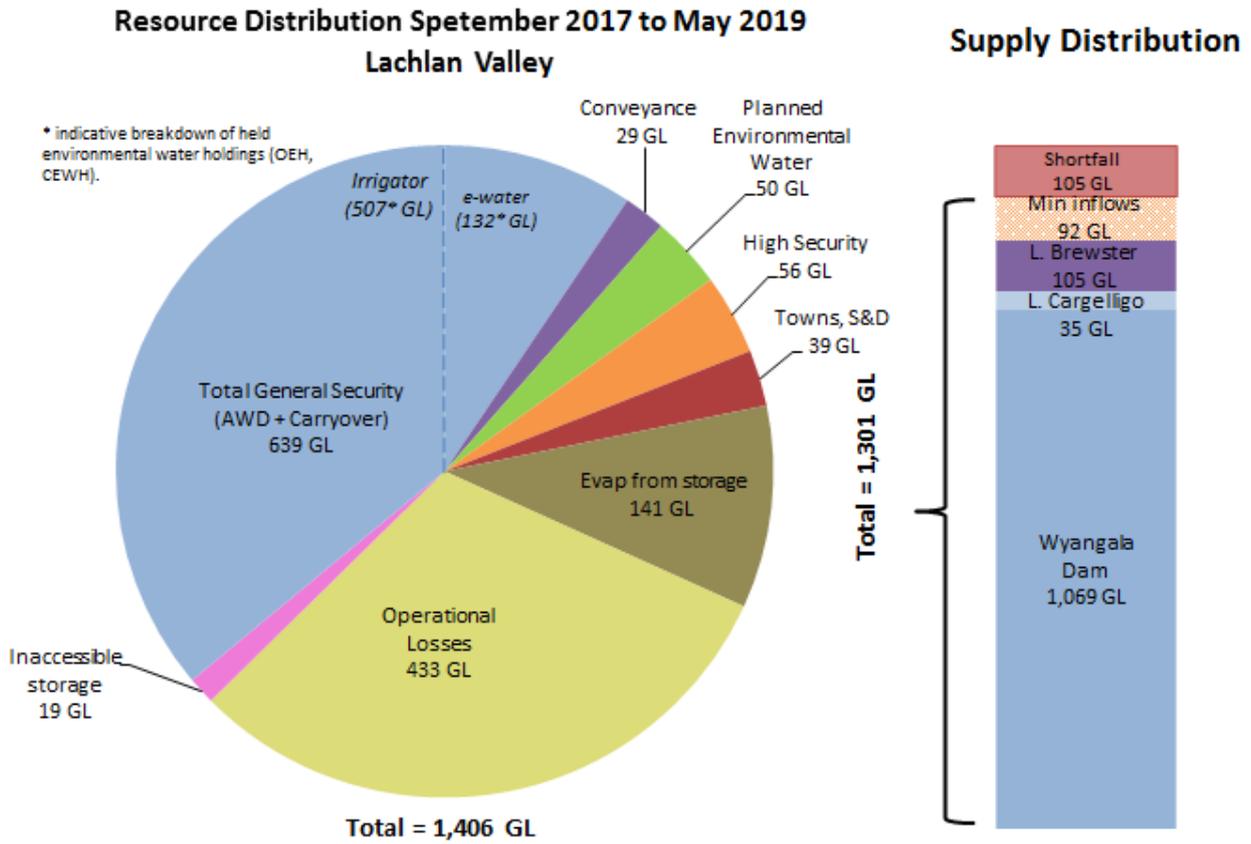
www.water.nsw.gov.au

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution: September 2017 to May 2019		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,301	
less		
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	12 (2%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	627	
Conveyance	29	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	50	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	56 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	39 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	141	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	433	Total demand
Inaccessible storage	19	1,406

Notes:

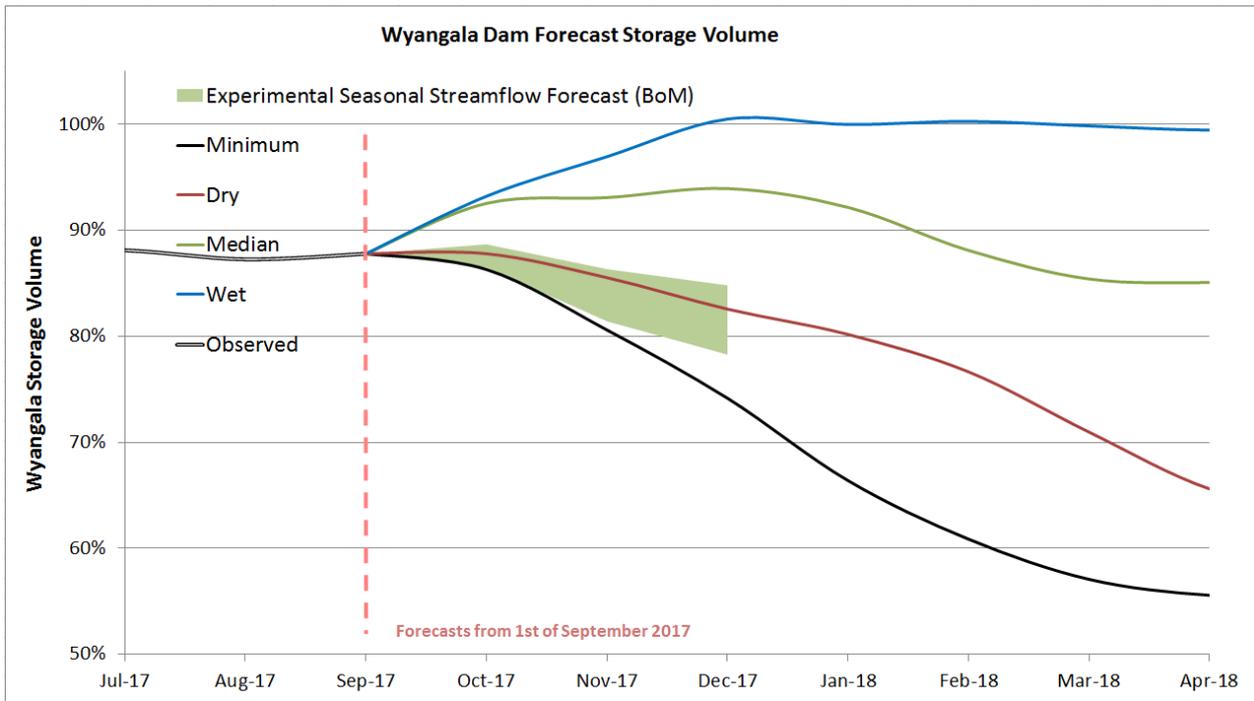
- (1) Total available resource: End of August storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus flows in transit to the end of September, and minimum forecast inflows from 1 October onward.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts, including held environmental water.
- (3) Planned 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 entitlement to 31st May 2019.
- (5) It is assessed that the lakes are likely to be drawn down slowly in the current water year and will hold significant water until next summer, increasing storage evaporation.
- (6) 'Operational Losses': best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions over the next 21 months to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into the river bed sands. This volume includes S&D replenishment deliveries in autumn 2018 and 2019. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions from 1 September. This loss allowance is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (7) Volume represents the total cumulative AWD made to GS licences in the current water year.
- (8) Held environmental water (HEW) – as a trial, general security account water administered by environmental water holders has been identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental holdings.



Further information

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

Forecast Storage Volume



Forecast storage volumes, shown in the solid lines above, use historical daily inflow data over the full period of record (1898 to present). They represent the chances of specific storage levels being exceeded assuming that past climatic and hydrological sequences are indicative of likely future conditions.

- Minimum Minimum forecast inflows represent the **lowest on record to 2004**
- Dry Dry inflows represent an **80 percent chance** of being exceeded
- Median Median inflows represent a **50 percent chance** of being exceeded
- Wet Wet inflows represent a **20 percent chance** of being exceeded
- Experimental Seasonal Streamflow Forecast (BoM)

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal forecast inflows use relationships between climate indicators (particularly global ocean and climate conditions), past catchment conditions and historical rainfall and streamflow to **forecast the total inflow volume for the next three month period**. The shaded area represents the range of likely storage levels (using the 20th and 80th percentile bounds) resulting from the BoM forecast inflow volume. For more detail, refer to the BoM website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf>

The BoM seasonal streamflow forecast for storage inflows therefore provides a new method to narrow the range of likely storage levels over the next three months by including current climate indicators, compared with using historical inflows alone.

The Bureau’s seasonal streamflow forecasts are not used directly in the resource assessment process.

Please note that the Bureau’s seasonal streamflow forecast inflows to Wyangala Dam are still experimental at this stage and are not published on the Bureau’s website. The information provided here by DPI Water is only intended to provide additional information about likely storage levels over the next three months.