

16 October 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 9,700 megalitres of inflow in the month of September. Storage levels have decreased slightly since the last assessment, with Wyangala Dam now at approximately 83 per cent of capacity.

While there is a low probability of Wyangala Dam spilling in the 2017-18 water year, water users are advised that should airspace operations or a physical spill still occur, there will be the usual reset of accounts in accordance with the water sharing plan rules.

However, after any reset, there will be **no subsequent reset in the following six months**, even if further airspace operations or spill event/s occur within that period.

It is estimated that a combined dam and tributary inflow volume in excess of 107,000 megalitres will be required in October before a further allocation can be made in November. Inflow to Wyangala Dam so far in October has been about 6,000 megalitres.

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

Dam levels (as at 16 October 2017)

- Wyangala Dam is 83 per cent full – falling – holding 1,008,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 95 per cent full (34,890 ML).
- Lake Brewster is 51 per cent full (74,720 ML).

Climate outlook

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

The Pacific Ocean is likely to cool towards La Niña levels over the coming months. However, the corresponding warm sea surface temperatures that typically develop to the north and northwest of Australia during La Niña events are less likely to develop. This means that NSW is unlikely to receive wetter than median rainfall condition at this time.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Lachlan Valley will be issued on **Tuesday 14 November 2017**.

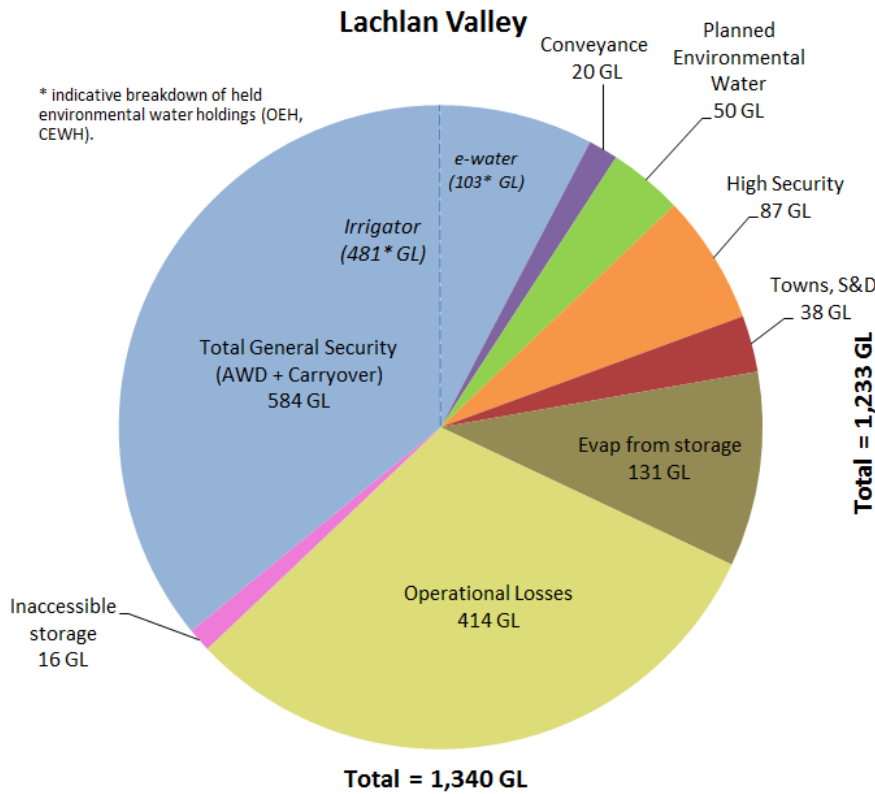
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution: October 2017 to May 2019		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,233	
less		
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	12 (2%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	572	
Conveyance	20	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	50	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	87 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	38 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	131	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	414	Total demand
Inaccessible storage	16	1,340

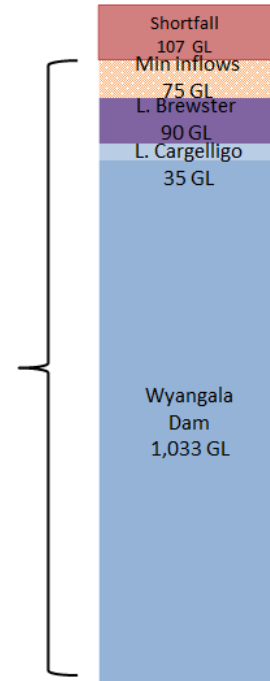
Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of September storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from 1 November onward.
- (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 entitlement to 31st May 2019. 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 and may hold some 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 20 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 November. 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.

Resource Distribution October 2017 to May 2019



Supply Distribution



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)	
	1 Feb 2018	1 Jul 2018
Dry (80%: 4 chances in 5)	2 + GS c/o [#]	2 + GS c/o [#]
Average (50%: 1 chance in 2)	2 + GS c/o [#]	13 + GS c/o [#]
Wet (20%: 1 chance in 5)	32 + GS c/o [#]	71 + GS c/o [#]

Add carryover from previous water year to these forecasted allocation values.

Further information

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