

14 November 2017

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

The Lachlan regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at 2 per cent of entitlement.**

Wyangala Dam received approximately 17,100 megalitres of inflow in the month of October. Storage levels have decreased slightly since the last assessment with Wyangala Dam now at approximately 80 per cent of capacity.

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

However, to be clear, 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 over 91,000 megalitres will be required in November before a further allocation can be made in December. Inflow to Wyangala Dam so far in November has been less than 3,000 megalitres.

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

Dam levels (as at 13 November 2017)

- Wyangala Dam is 78 per cent full – falling – holding 958,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 92 per cent full (34,200 ML).
- Lake Brewster is 46 per cent full (67,100 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 slightly warmer than 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 during this period.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Next announcement

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

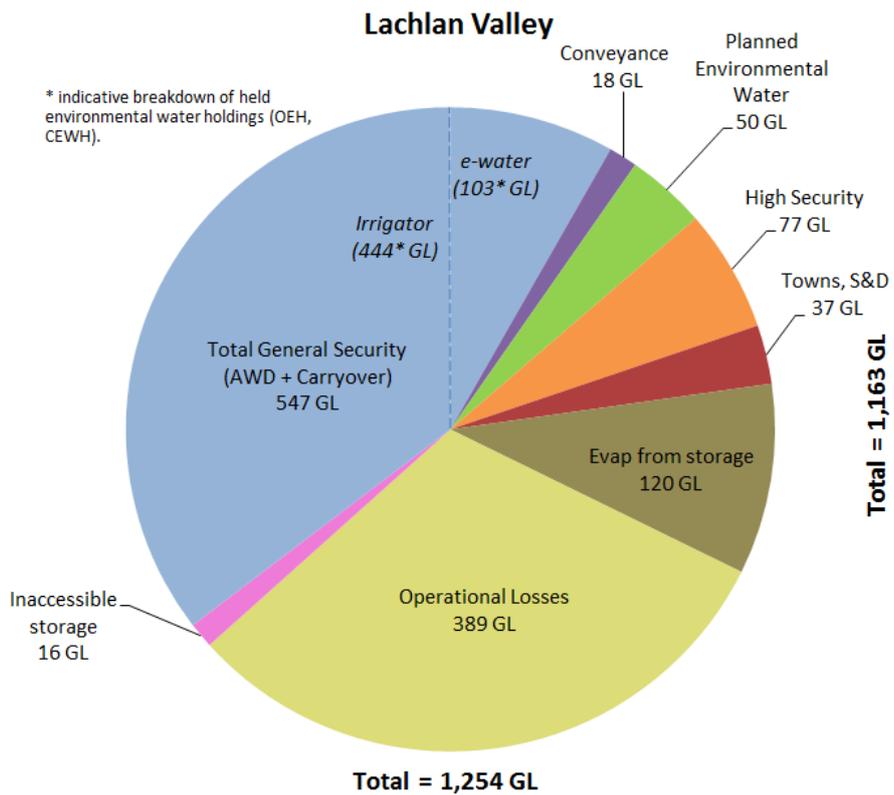
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution: November 2017 to May 2019		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,163	
less		
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	12 (2%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	535	
Conveyance	18	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	50	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	77 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	37 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	120	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	389	Total demand
Inaccessible storage	16	1,254

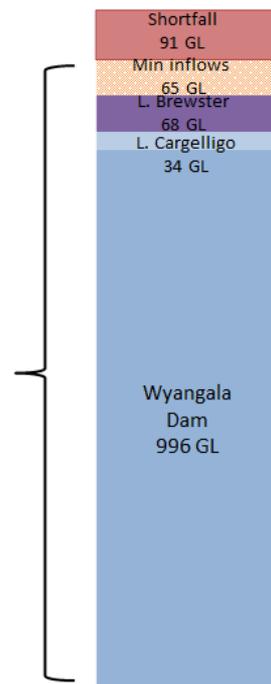
Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of October storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from 1 December 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 19 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 December. 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 November 2017 to May 2019



Supply Distribution



Further information

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