

14 December 2017

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

The Lachlan regulated river general security allocation for 2017-18 **remains unchanged at 2 per cent of entitlement.**

Wyangala Dam received approximately 11,500 megalitres of inflow in November. The storage level has improved slightly, reaching approximately 84 per cent of capacity since the last assessment following rainfall in early December.

Water users are advised that the resource assessment period now extends to May 2020; therefore, most of the latest resource improvement is required for water security extension.

The increased volume reserved for essential requirements and delivery of all account water during this extended period has been included in the current assessment and it is estimated that a combined dam and tributary inflow volume of over 170,000 megalitres will be required in December 2017, before a further allocation can be made in January 2018.

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.

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

Dam levels (as at 13 December 2017)

- Wyangala Dam is 84 per cent full – steady – holding 1,025,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 98 per cent full (36,000 ML).
- Lake Brewster is 39 per cent full (56,800 ML).

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's three-month seasonal outlook for December 2017 to February 2018 detects no clear wetter or drier trend in the valley. Average temperatures are also likely over this period.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook has been raised to LA NIÑA, as the Tropical Pacific Ocean has reached La Niña thresholds. However, forecasting models suggest that Australia is unlikely to experience the increased wetter conditions often seen with La Niña events.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

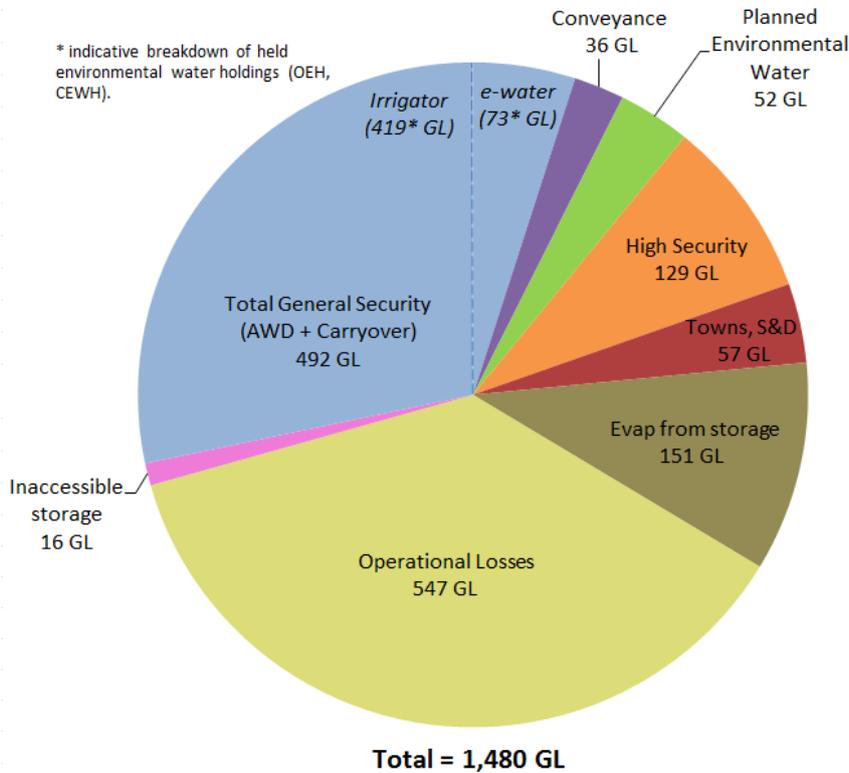
Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Lachlan Valley will be issued on **Monday 15 January 2018**.

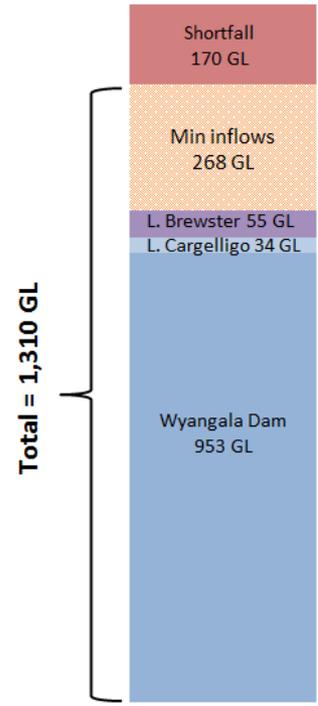
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution: December 2017 to May 2020		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,310	
less		
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	12 (2%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	480	
Conveyance	36	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	52	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	129 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	57 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	151	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	547	Total commitment
Inaccessible storage	16	1,480

**Resource Distribution December 2017 to May 2020
Lachlan Valley**



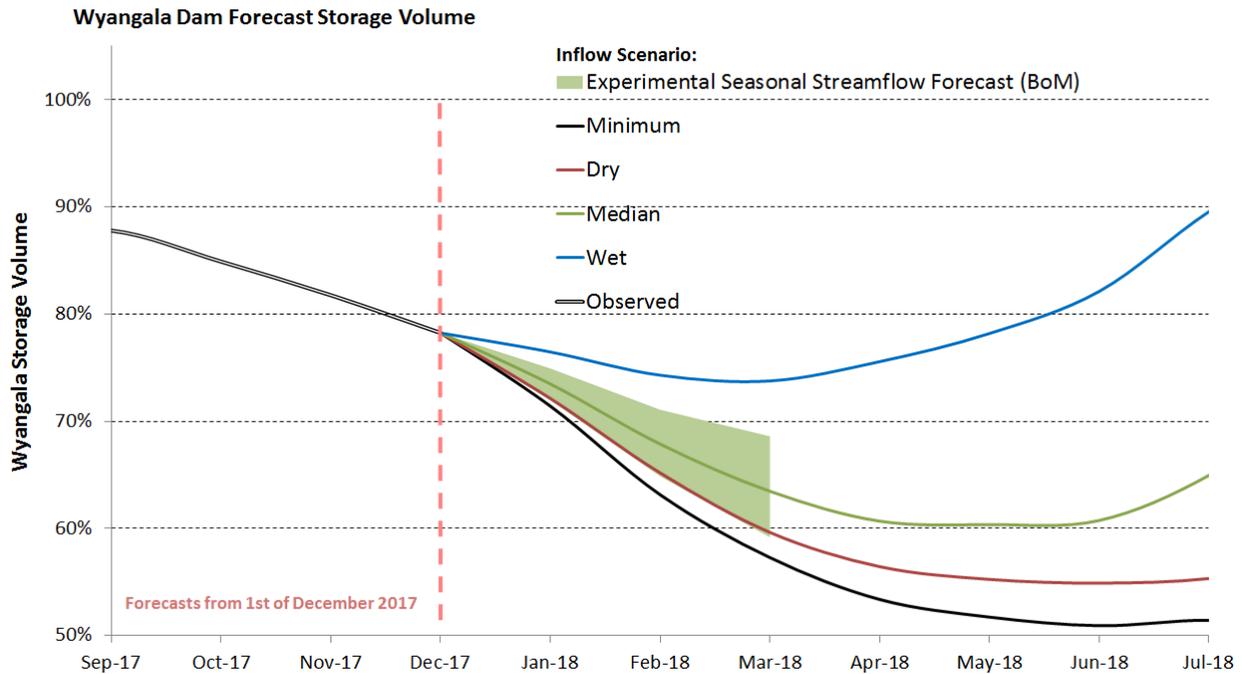
Supply Distribution



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of November storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from 1 January 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 31 May 2020. 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 29 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, 2019 and 2020. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions from 1 January. This loss allowance is updated across the year.
- (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.

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 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 the Department of Industry - Water is only intended to provide additional information about likely storage levels over the next three months.

Further information

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