Water Allocation Statement

12 October 2018

Lachlan Valley

Water allocation update

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

The estimated combined dam and tributary inflow volume required in October before a general security allocation can be made in November is approximately 177 gigalitres (GL). For context, dry conditions have produced inflows of just over 1 GL so far in October 2018.

Total Wyangala Dam inflow since 1 January 2018 is about 35 GL. Translucent flows are released from Wyangala Dam only after a total of 250 GL of inflow has occurred in a calendar year.

As Lake Brewster is effectively empty, irrigation and environmental demand below Brewster Weir this spring and summer will be delivered from Wyangala Dam. In order for the water order lead time to remain linked to travel time from Lake Brewster, WaterNSW will contact all water users below Brewster Weir, including those in regulated Willandra Creek, to compile details of their forecast monthly demand.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan	100%	0%	62%

Storage levels (as at 11 October 2018)

- Wyangala Dam is 52 per cent full – falling – currently at 635 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is 66 per cent full – falling – currently at 26 GL.
- Lake Brewster is effectively empty.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology outlook indicates that October to December is likely to be drier than average in the western and central parts of NSW and it forecasts lower than median flow this spring in the Abercrombie River which feeds Wyangala Dam.

The Bureau has raised the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook to El Niño Alert level. This means that the chances of El Niño occurring during spring are three times the normal risk. An El Niño in spring typically means below average rainfall across eastern and northern Australia and above-average temperatures in the southeast.

For further details: http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

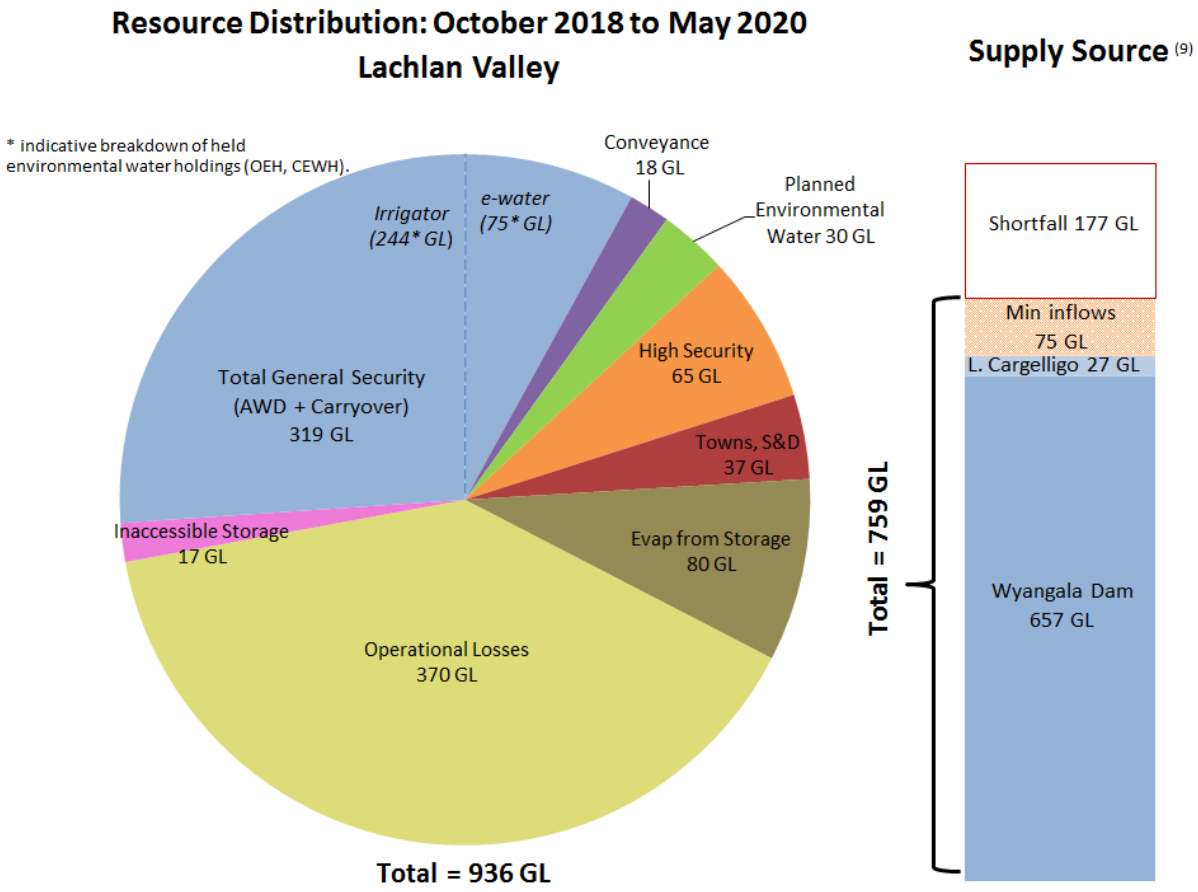
Next announcements

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Lachlan valley will be on **Wednesday 14 November 2018**.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (October 2018 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource[1]	759
less	
General Security 2018/2019 AWD [7],[8]	0 (0%)
Carryover remaining in accounts [2],[8]	319
Conveyance	18
Planned Environmental Water [3]	30
High Security [4]	65 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic [4]	37 (100%)
Evaporation from storage [5]	80
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) [6]	370
Inaccessible storage	17

See notes below.



Notes:

(1) Total available resource: End of July storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from now to May 2020.

(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 these high priority entitlements 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, increasing storage evaporation.

(6) Operational Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through May 2020 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into river bed sands. The volume includes S&D replenishment deliveries in autumn 2019 and 2020. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions going forward. The loss allowance is updated regularly.

(7) Volume represents the total cumulative AWD made to GS licences in the current water year.

(8) Held environmental water (HEW): held environmental water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portion of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 75 GL of GS, and 13 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on e-water holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

(9) The supply source of total available water, explained in Note (1) above, is provided. Note that Lake Brewster is empty now. It also indicates the current shortfall required before a further AWD can made.

Chances of improvement

Potential general security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are as follows:

Historical Inflow Scenario		Cumulative General Security AWD	
		For 2018/19 by 31 Jan 2019	For 2018/19 by 30 Jun 2019
Dry	(exceeded 4 times in 5 years)	0%[+]	0%[+]
Average	(exceeded once every 2 years)	0%[+]	4%[+]
Wet	(exceeded once in 5 years)	27%[+]	69%[+]

[+] Add remaining balances on 1 July 2018 carried forward to these forecasted AWD values.