

4 August 2020

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Interim water allocation update

Following recent rains, Wyangala Dam has gained about 85,000 megalitres (ML), with more inflows expected from river recessions. Downstream tributaries, including the Belubula, have also responded well. This interim assessment and statement is to give water users an indication of what can be expected in the next scheduled water allocation announcement on 10 August 2020.

There is expected to be enough water to:

- Lift high security allocation to 100 per cent of entitlement.
- Lift the 2020-21 temporary water restriction, meaning all active water at the end of 2019-20 will be made available for general security water users.
- In addition, a large proportion of the 2019-20 temporary water restriction, which moved around 70 gigalitres (GL) to inaccessible drought sub-accounts, will be returned to active accounts.

This can be achieved without reducing water supply security for high priority commitments going forward. The next statement will also provide the inflow scenarios needed for general security entitlement holders to receive a new allocation.

It should be noted that the water sharing plan activates translucent release requirements when a total of 250,000 ML of inflow is received into Wyangala Dam in any year from 1 January. The inflows so far this calendar year are estimated to be around 230,000 ML.

The Lachlan regulated river water source remains in Drought Stage 3 (Severe) and conditions are being closely monitored. Despite forecasts of further wet periods, water users are encouraged to maintain and improve their water use efficiencies and plan ahead with caution.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	70%	0%	 Stage 3

Storage levels (as at 3 August 2020)

- Wyangala Dam is about 24 per cent full – rising – currently holding about 292,000 ML.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 61 per cent full – currently holding about 25,000 ML and falling.
- Lake Brewster is holding about 60,000 ML is about 42 per cent and rising.

Next announcement

The next detailed water allocation statement will be issued on **Monday 10 August 2020**.

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