

15 June 2017

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

There is sufficient water available in the Lachlan regulated river water source to **increase allocation to general security licences by two per cent, bringing the total allocation for general security water users so far in the 2016/17 water year to 131 per cent of entitlement.**

Wyangala Dam has received 14,480 megalitres of inflow since April 2017. Storage levels have remained steady since the last assessment at approximately 88 per cent of capacity. However, downstream tributary flows and storages have added to the resource improvement.

General security water users are reminded that the **Annual Use Limit** that will apply in the 2017/18 water year will be a volume equivalent to **100 per cent of entitlement**, plus any adjustments up or down for trade.

With the possibility of Wyangala Dam spilling early in the 2017-18 water year, water users are advised that, in the event of airspace operations or a physical spill, in accordance with the water sharing plan rules there will be the usual reset of accounts. However, to provide certainty, there will be **no reset in the following six months** should there be further airspace operations or spill events in that time.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	131%	0%*

* Due to physical spill and reset of accounts 5 August 2016

Dam releases

The main irrigation season has finished. Topping up of annual Stock and Domestic (S&D) replenishment flows to the lower Lachlan effluent creeks is currently being undertaken.

Dam levels (as at 14 June 2017)

- Wyangala Dam is 88 per cent full – steady - holding 1,072,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 119 per cent full (42,000 ML).
- Lake Brewster is 78 per cent full (113,000 ML).

Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has forecast likely drier and warmer than average conditions in the Lachlan Valley during the three month period June to August 2017.

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The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral, with the Bureau indicating around a 50 per cent chance of El Niño developing in 2017 – double the normal likelihood. However, several indicators have shown little or no increase for several weeks, suggesting El Niño development has stalled for now.

Next announcements

The next allocation announcement for the Lachlan regulated river water source will be the opening allocations for the 2017-18 water year that will be issued for all NSW valleys on **Monday 3 July 2017**. Subsequent to that announcement, the next Water Allocation Statement is scheduled for August 2017.

Further information

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

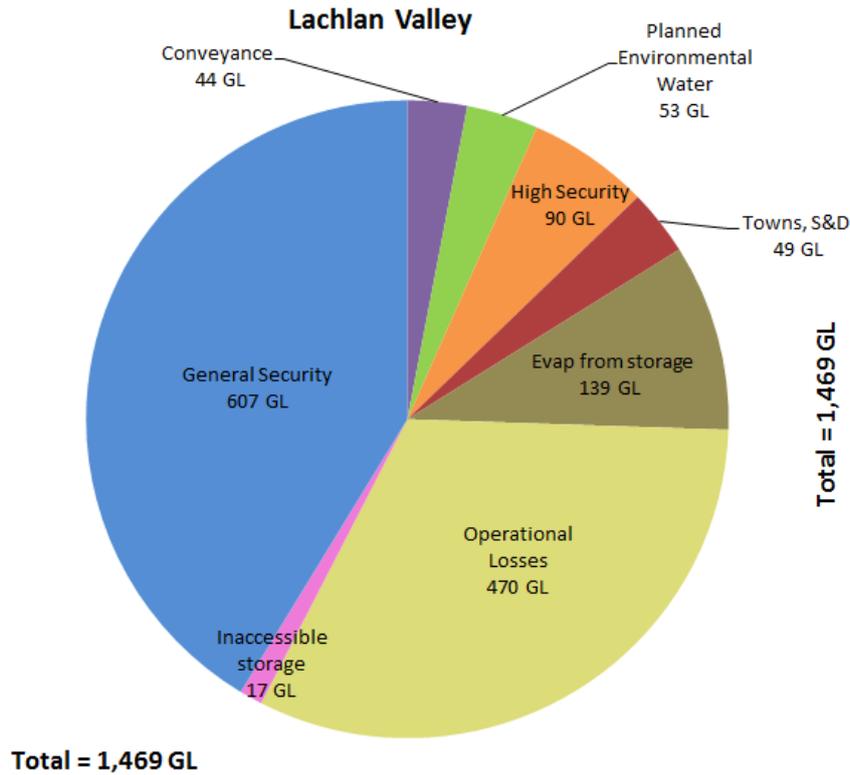
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution: June 2017 to May 2019		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,469	
less		
General Security ⁽⁷⁾	607 (131%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	0	
Conveyance	44	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	53	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	90 (100% + trade in)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	49 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	139	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	470	Total demand
Inaccessible storage	17	1,469

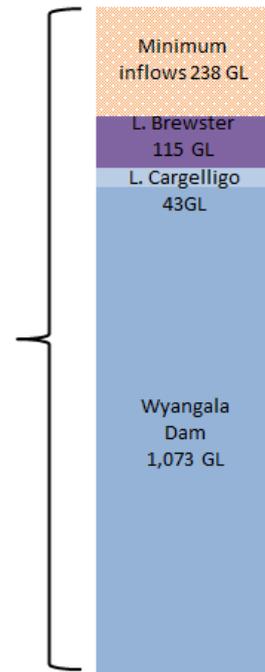
Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of May storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, and minimum forecast inflows from 1 June.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: Zero following account reset.
- (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.
- (5) It is assessed that the lakes are likely to be drawn down slowly in the current water year and will hold significant 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 24 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 top up flows this year and complete deliveries in autumn 2018 and 2019. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions from 1 June. This loss allowance is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (7) Volume includes AWD of 2% made from this assessment. The GS carryover into 2017-18 is likely to be higher as remaining allocations in HS and Conveyance licences are expected to be traded in before the end of June 2017.

Resource Distribution June 2017 to May 2019



Supply Distribution



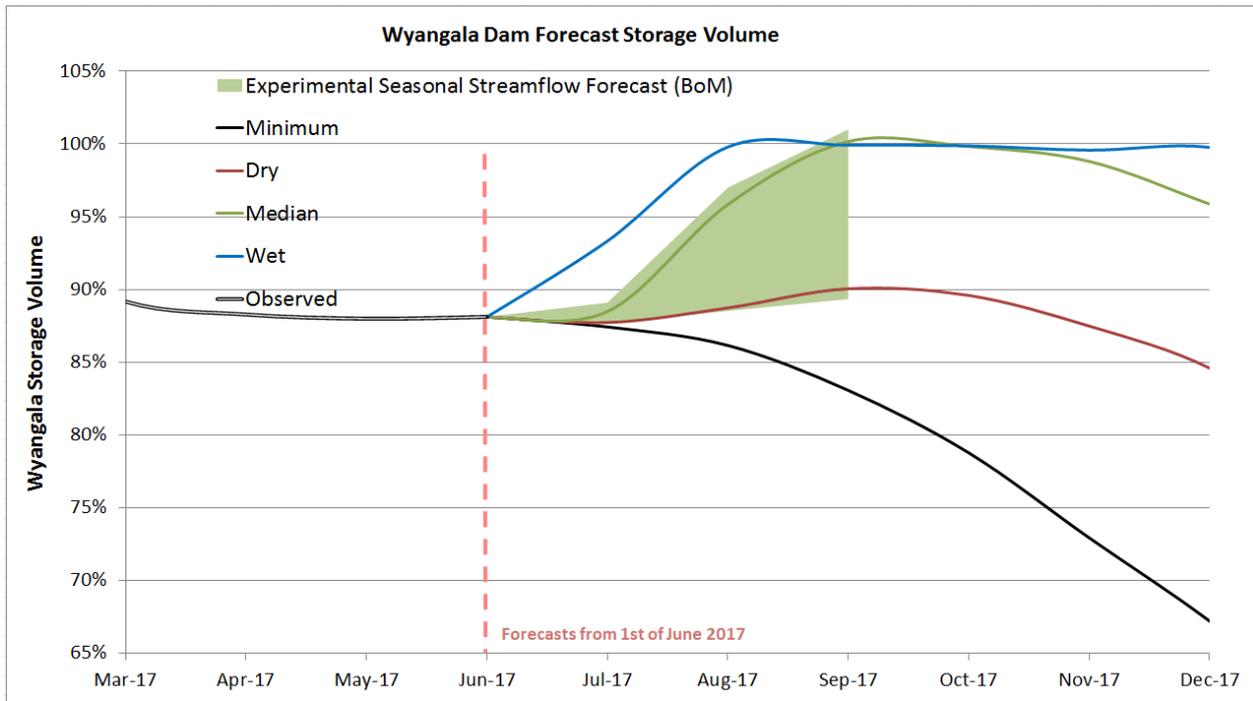
Chances of improvement

The chances of improved general security allocation, based on different inflow scenarios, are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions	General Security AWD (per cent)	
	31 Oct 2017	31 Jan 2018
Extremely dry (99%: 99 chances in 100)	0 [#]	0 [#]
Dry (80%: 4 chances in 5)	1 [#]	1 [#]
Average (50%: 1 chance in 2)	Storage spill/Reset 131	Storage spill/Reset 133
Wet (20%: 1 chance in 5)	Storage spill/Reset 135	Storage spill/Reset 136

[#] Add carryover from previous water year to these values.

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 conditions can help predict the likelihood of future storage levels.

- 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 forecast for inflows provides a new method to narrow the range of likely storage levels over the next three months, compared with using historical inflows alone.

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 DPI Water is only intended to provide a more accurate estimate of likely storage levels over the next three months.