

14 August 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 of entitlement.**

Wyangala Dam received just 6,440 megalitres of inflow in the month of July. Storage levels have remained steady since the last assessment at approximately 87 per cent of capacity. Despite minimal inflows to the system in recent months, finalisation of carryover figures from 2016-17 has resulted in a small improvement in resource availability.

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 a low probability 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, there will be the usual reset of accounts in accordance with the water sharing plan rules. However, to provide certainty, there will be **no reset in the following six months** should there be any further airspace operations or spill event/s in that time.

As a drought inflow sequence starting in September produces approximately 79,000 megalitres less inflow than the August sequence, it is estimated that a combined dam and tributary inflow volume in excess of 80,000 megalitres will be required in August before a further allocation can be made in September.

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

#### Dam levels (as at 14 August 2017)

- Wyangala Dam is 88 per cent full – steady - holding 1,070,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 99 per cent full (36,000 ML).
- Lake Brewster is 71 per cent full (103,000 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 from August to October 2017.

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[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

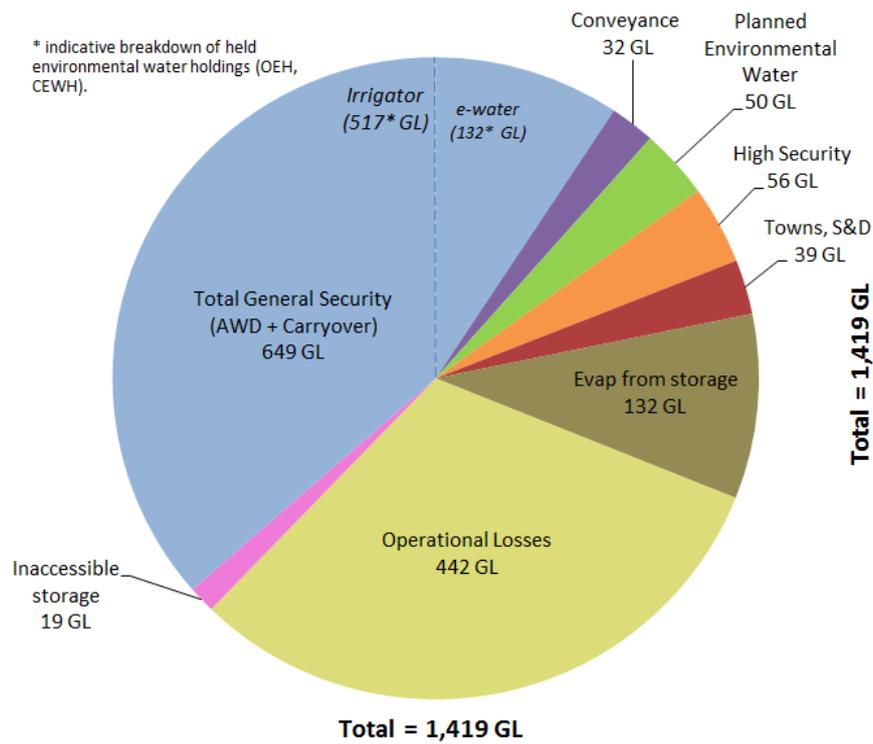
## Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution: August 2017 to May 2019		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	1,419	
<b>less</b>		
General Security 2017/2018 AWD <sup>(7),(8)</sup>	12 (2%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2),(8)</sup>	637	
Conveyance	32	
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	50	
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	56 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	39 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage <sup>(5)</sup>	132	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(6)</sup>	442	Total demand
Inaccessible storage	19	1,419

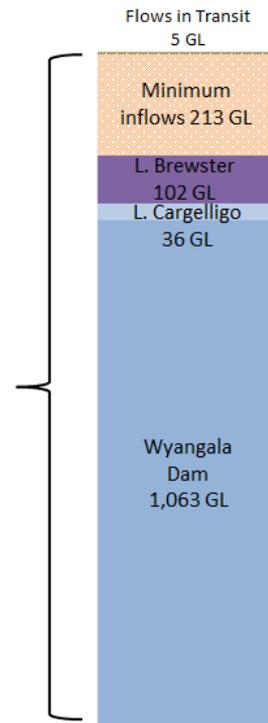
### Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of July storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, flows in transit, and minimum forecast inflows from 1 August.
- (2) Carryover remaining in 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.
- (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 22 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 August. This loss allowance is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (7) Volume represents AWD of 2% made from this assessment. This is the first 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 have been identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only. 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 August 2017 to May 2019 Lachlan Valley



### Supply Distribution



#### Next announcements

The next allocation announcement for the Lachlan will be issued on **Thursday 14 September 2017**.

#### Further information

Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)