



7 December 2015

Lachlan Valley:

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

The sum of general security allocations in the 2015/16 water year **remains unchanged on 25 per cent of entitlement.**

Approximately **95,000 megalitres** of inflow to Wyangala Dam is required by the end of December to make a new available water determination.

Domestic and stock replenishment flows to effluent creeks for 2015 were completed in early-spring. Delivery in 2016 will largely rely on the timing of rainfall and tributary flows but will be released from storage if required.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	25%	29%

Dam levels

- Wyangala Dam is currently 56 per cent full, holding 684,000 megalitres.
- The storage volume has fallen from a high in late-September of 62 per cent (760,000 megalitres), and continues to fall as demand increases.
- During October and November, approximately 22,000 megalitres of inflow was received in total, received mostly following rainfall during the first half of November.

Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology has **forecast a 40 to 45 per cent** chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the upper Lachlan Valley during December to February.
- The current outlook reflects a combination of a strong El Niño in the Pacific, a decaying positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

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As at 30 November 2015, DPI Water can provide advice under the following scenarios:

Conditions	2015/16 General security AWD
Extremely dry	25% allocation and carryover from 2014/15
Dry	25% allocation and carryover from 2014/15
Median	25% by 31 January 2016 rising to 29% by 30 June 2016
Wet	26% by 31 January 2016 rising to 98% by 30 June 2016

DPI Water will provide the next water outlook update in early-2016.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

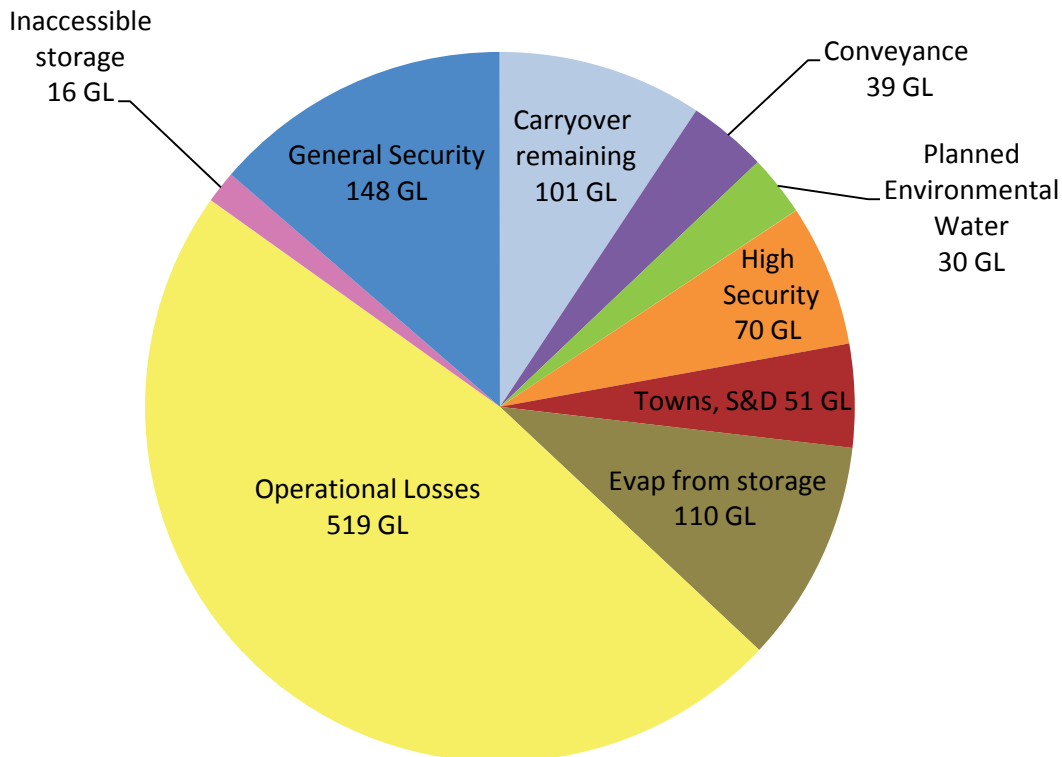
Resource Distribution: December 2015 to May 2018	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	989
less	
General Security	148 (25%)
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	101 (17%)
Conveyance	39
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	30
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	70 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	51 (100%)
Evaporation from storage	110
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	519
Inaccessible storage	16
Inflows required in December ⁽⁶⁾	95

Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: end-November storage volume in Wyangala Dam plus minimum forecast inflows.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: 1 July carryover volume minus general security usage to end of November.
- (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 required to meet 100% of entitlement through to May 2018.
- (5) 'Operational Losses': best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into the river bed sands. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will returns to dry conditions. This loss allowance is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Usable inflows required in the upcoming month to assure delivery through the minimum forecast scenario and begin to make additional general security allocations.

1 December 2015

**Allocation Distribution Dec 2015 to May 2018
Lachlan Valley**



Total = 989 GL

Further information

Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the [DPI Water website](#).