

5 September 2016

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

Lachlan regulated river storages are now full prior to significant forecast irrigation demands and, together with the forecast minimum future inflow volume, there is sufficient water available to increase **general security licence entitlement by nine (9) per cent**.

This follows the account reset in August, bringing the total allocation for general security water users so far in the 2016/17 water year to **124 per cent of entitlement**.

Wyangala Dam is currently spilling; however, DPI Water has advised that an account reset will not happen until at least 5 February 2017.

Further rainfall through August on already wet catchments resulted in approximately 137,000 megalitres of inflow to Wyangala Dam (11 per cent of full storage volume) during the month.

General security water users are reminded of the Annual Use Limit that applies. A volume equivalent to **100 per cent of entitlement is the maximum amount that can be used in the 2016/17 water year**, plus any adjustments up or down for trade.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	124%	0%

Dam releases

WaterNSW is continuing to release water from Wyangala Dam as part of airspace operations. These releases are important in providing flood mitigation and reducing flood risk, based on current and forecast conditions. However, water allocations continue to be assessed on a more conservative basis assuming a return to dry conditions.

The translucent flow period at Wyangala Dam for the 2016/17 water year has now ended. The total translucent volume (including any surplus flows) past Lake Brewster Weir since 1 June will shortly exceed the maximum limit of 350,000 megalitres.

Dam levels

- As of 5 September, Wyangala Dam was 101 per cent full, holding 1,234,000 megalitres.
- The storage volume has risen from a low of 38 per cent (468,000 megalitres) in early June following significant rainfall events in the upper catchment during June and July, with further minor falls continuing through August.
- Lake Cargelligo is surcharged to 121 per cent full (43,000 megalitres) and Lake Brewster is surcharged to 124 per cent full (181,000 megalitres).

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a 55 to 60 per cent chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the Lachlan Valley during the September to November 2016 period.

The current outlook reflects a weakening negative Indian Ocean Dipole and tropical Pacific Ocean temperatures that may briefly approach La Niña thresholds.

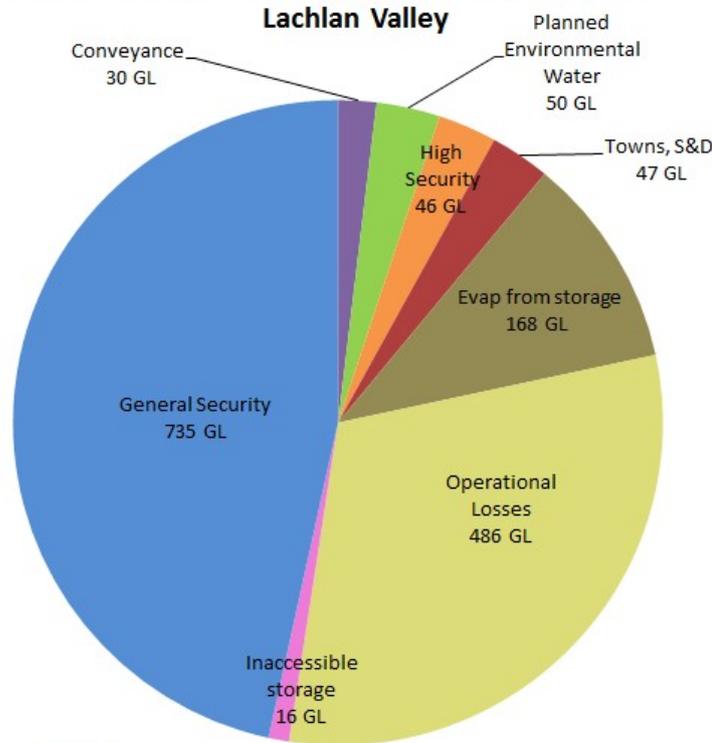
Next announcement

DPI Water will provide the next water outlook update in the week commencing 5 October 2016.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

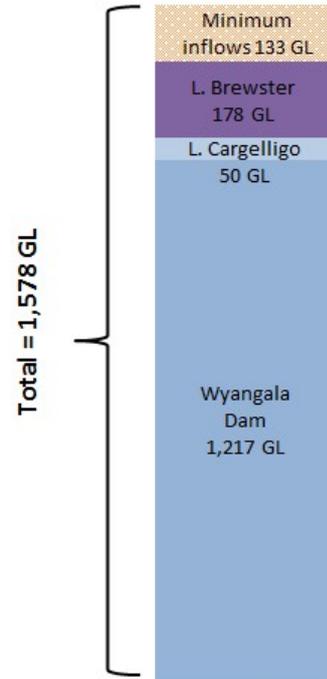
Resource Distribution: September 2016 to April 2018		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,578	
less		
General Security	735 (120%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	0	
Conveyance	30	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	50	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	46 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	47 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage	168	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	486	Total demand
Inaccessible storage	16	1,578

Resource Distribution September 2016 to April 2018



Total = 1,578 GL

Supply Distribution



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: Current storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, minimum forecast inflows from 1 Sep.
- (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 required to meet 100% of entitlement through to 1 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 return to dry conditions. This loss allowance is regularly refined as the year unfolds.

Further information

DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au