

14 February 2019

## Lachlan Valley

### Water allocation update

There is **no change** to allocations in the Lachlan regulated river water source.

Inflow conditions remain well short of providing any general security allocation. Over 201 gigalitres (GL) of system inflow is required in February, while just 9 GL has been received.

The planning horizon for the Lachlan resource assessment runs through to May 2021, some 28 months. It ensures continued commitment to priority needs before further general security water is allocated. Despite the lack of allocation this year, valley-wide general security water availability through carryover is currently 192 GL, or about 32 per cent of entitlement.

As Lake Brewster is effectively empty, irrigation and environmental demand below Brewster Weir this summer is being delivered from Wyangala Dam. In ordering water, users must allow for the additional delivery travel times, particularly those in regulated Willandra Creek.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Lachlan	100%	0%	 Stage 1

### Storage levels (as at 14 February 2019)

- Wyangala Dam is 37 per cent full – falling – currently at 446 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is 65 per cent full – rising – currently at 26 GL.
- Lake Brewster is effectively empty.

### Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Lachlan regulated river water source is assessed to be in Stage 1, meaning there are no constraints expected to the deliverability of account water during the current water year.

Further information on the policy and related drought stages can be found at:  
[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events)

### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for February to April shows no clear indication of drier or wetter conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño WATCH as key atmospheric and ocean indicators are neutral. There is an even chance of an El Niño event forming in autumn or winter. The Indian Ocean Dipole, which has little influence on the Australian climate from December to April, is neutral.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/##/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/##/overview/summary)

## Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Lachlan regulated river water source will be on **Thursday 14 March 2019**.

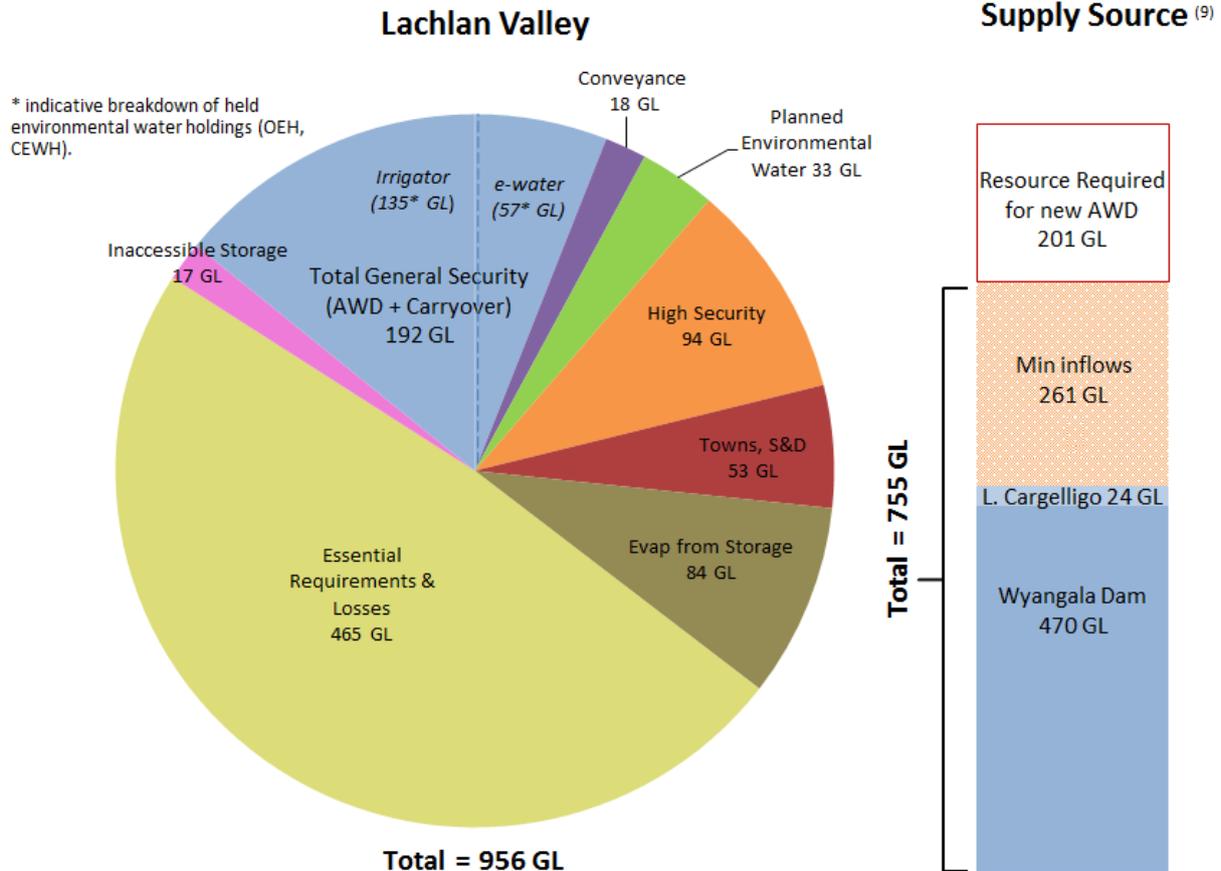
From March, the statements will provide an indicative outlook on water availability for 2019/20, particularly the deliverability of carryover water. The aim is to assist water users with their end of year water management decisions. However, forecast conditions are indicative only and not guaranteed. Forecasts should be used with caution and can change, particularly when they project many months ahead.

## Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (February 2019 to May 2021)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	755
<b>less</b>	
General Security 2018/2019 AWD <sup>(7),(8)</sup>	0 (0%)
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2),(8)</sup>	192
Conveyance	18
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	33
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	94 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	53 (100%)
Evaporation from storage <sup>(5)</sup>	84
Essential Requirements and Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(6)</sup>	465
Inaccessible storage	17

*\*See notes below.*

## Resource Distribution: February 2019 to May 2021



### Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of January storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from now to May 2021.
- (2) Carryover remaining in general security 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 these high priority entitlements to 31 May 2021. Balances in high security accounts include water traded in from general security licences.
- (5) It is assessed that the lakes are likely to be drawn down slowly in the current water year, increasing storage evaporation.
- (6) Essential Requirements and Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to May 2021 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into river bed sands. The volume includes S&D replenishment deliveries in autumn 2019, 2020, and 2021. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions going forward. The loss allowance is updated regularly.
- (7) Volume represents the total cumulative AWD made to GS licences in the current water year.
- (8) Held environmental water (HEW): held environmental water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portion of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 57 GL of GS, and 20 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on e-water holdings can be found on individual agency websites.
- (9) The supply source of total available water, explained in Note (1) above, is provided. Note that Lake Brewster is empty now. It also indicates the current shortfall required before a further AWD can be made.

## Chances of improvement

Potential general security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below.

These are indicative improvements only and are not guaranteed allocations. Estimates may change based on weather variability, water management decisions and other events. This means water users should use this information with caution and at their own risk, as it projects many months ahead.

Historical Inflow Scenario	Cumulative General Security AWD*	
	For 2018/19 by 30 Jun 2019	For 2019/20 by 31 Oct 2019
Dry (exceeded 4 times in 5 years)	0% <sup>+</sup>	0% <sup>^</sup>
Average (exceeded once every 2 years)	0% <sup>+</sup>	6% <sup>^</sup>
Wet (exceeded once in 5 years)	13% <sup>+</sup>	87% <sup>^</sup>

<sup>+</sup> Add remaining balances on 1 July 2018 carried forward to these forecast AWD values.

<sup>^</sup> Add remaining balances on 1 July 2019 carried forward to these forecast AWD values.

\* Estimated values indicative only, not guaranteed and subject to change based on actual events unfolding.