

15 June 2018

## Lachlan Valley

### Water availability and allocation update

#### Allocations

The Lachlan regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at 2 per cent of entitlement** for the 2017-18 water year.

Currently it is estimated that a combined dam and tributary inflow volume of over 55 gigalitres (GL) will be required before a further general security allocation can be made. Dry conditions have produced inflows of just 1.1 GL so far in June 2018.

Total Wyangala Dam inflows from 1 January 2018 to date are about 15 GL. A total of 250 GL of inflow is required in a calendar year before any translucent environmental flows are released from Wyangala Dam.

General security water users are reminded that the **Annual Use Limit** that will apply in the 2018/19 water year will be a volume equivalent to **100 per cent of entitlement**, plus any adjustments up or down for trade.

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

#### Dam levels (as at 15 June 2018)

- Wyangala Dam is 61 per cent full – falling – currently at 747 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is 70 per cent full – steady – currently at 27.5 GL.
- Lake Brewster is now effectively empty.

#### Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting likely below median rainfall conditions in the Lachlan Valley during the three months from July to September, while winter temperatures are likely to be warmer than median.

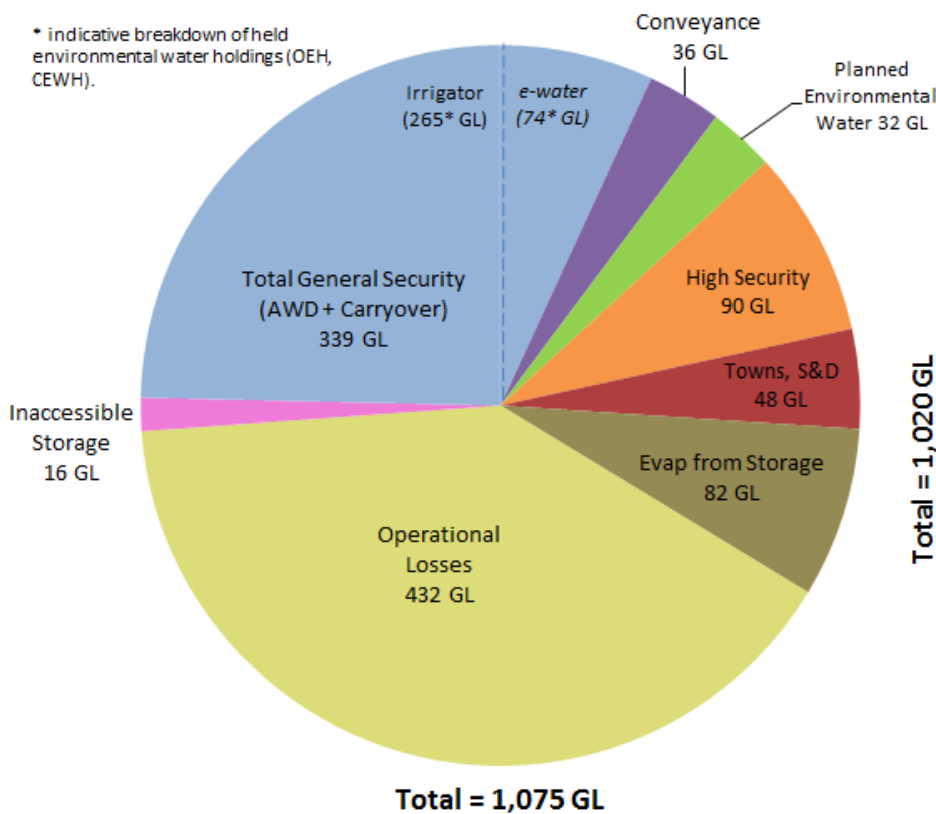
**Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

Resource Distribution (June 2018 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	1,020
<b>less</b>	
General Security 2017/2018 AWD <sup>(7),(8)</sup>	12 (2%)
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2),(8)</sup>	327
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	32
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	90 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	48 (100%)
Evaporation from storage <sup>(5)</sup>	82
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(6)</sup>	432
Inaccessible storage	16

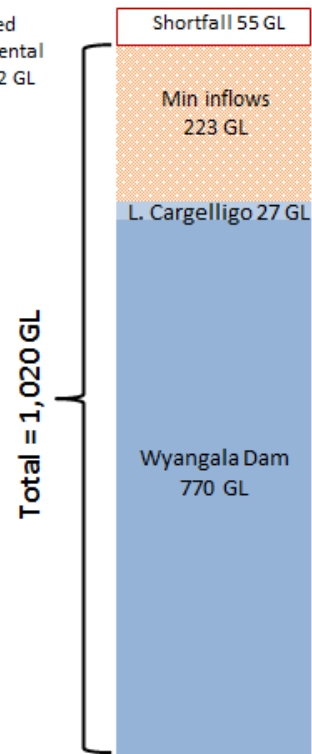
See notes below.

**Resource Distribution: June 2018 to May 2020**

**Lachlan Valley**



**Supply Source<sup>(9)</sup>**



**Notes:**

- (1) Total available resource: End of May storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from now to May 2020.
- (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 2020. 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) Operational Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through May 2020 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into the river bed sands. This volume includes S&D replenishment deliveries in autumn 2019 and 2020. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions from now onward. This loss allowance is updated across the year.
- (7) Volume represents the total cumulative AWD made to GS licences in the current water year.
- (8) Held environmental water (HEW): as a trial, reporting of 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 74 GL of GS, and 26 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental 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.

**Further information**

This is the final water allocation statement for the 2017/18 water year. State-wide opening allocations for the 2018/19 water year will be made on **Sunday 1 July 2018**. The next water allocation statement for the Lachlan regulated river will be available on Friday 13 July 2018.

Information on Available Water Determinations (AWD) and water sharing plans are available on the Department of Industry website - [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)