

10 August 2020

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update


High security water users in the Lachlan valley have received a **30 per cent increase** in allocation. There has been a commensurate increase in Conveyance allocation in accordance with the water sharing plan. In addition, all temporary water restrictions have been lifted, enabling full access to general security water in accounts.

Significant resource improvement has accrued in the Lachlan Valley in recent weeks, following well above average rainfall. Around 124,000 megalitres (ML) has arrived since the last assessment, with Wyangala Dam alone receiving 83,000 ML in July. Downstream tributaries, including the Belubula River, have also responded well with Lake Brewster forecast to gain another 30 gegalitres (GL) by the end of August. More rain is predicted in coming weeks.

However, inflow conditions still remain short of enabling a new general security allocation, with over 234 gegalitres (GL) of system inflow required in August 2020. The planning horizon for the Lachlan resource assessment runs through to May 2022, some 22 months, ensuring security to higher priority needs, including town water supplies, before allowing further general security allocation.

Translucent release requirements under the water sharing plan have been activated. Due to strong tributary flows and risk of flooding, most of the translucence release obligation is currently being met from downstream storages, maximising water capture in Wyangala Dam. This strategy is providing positive resource management and environmental outcomes.

General security water users are advised that the Annual Use Limit that will apply in the 2020-21 water year is a volume equivalent to 100 per cent of entitlement. This is the maximum amount that can be used in the 2020-21 water year, plus any adjustments up or down for trade.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	100%	0%	 Stage 3

Storage levels (as at 10 August 2020)

- Wyangala Dam is about 30 per cent full – rising – currently at about 365 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 75 per cent full – rising – currently at about 29 GL.
- Lake Brewster is rising holding about 60 GL.

Drought stage

Under the NSW Extreme Events Policy, the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source is at Stage 3 (severe) drought criticality. However, the useful inflows to the system since June are helping to

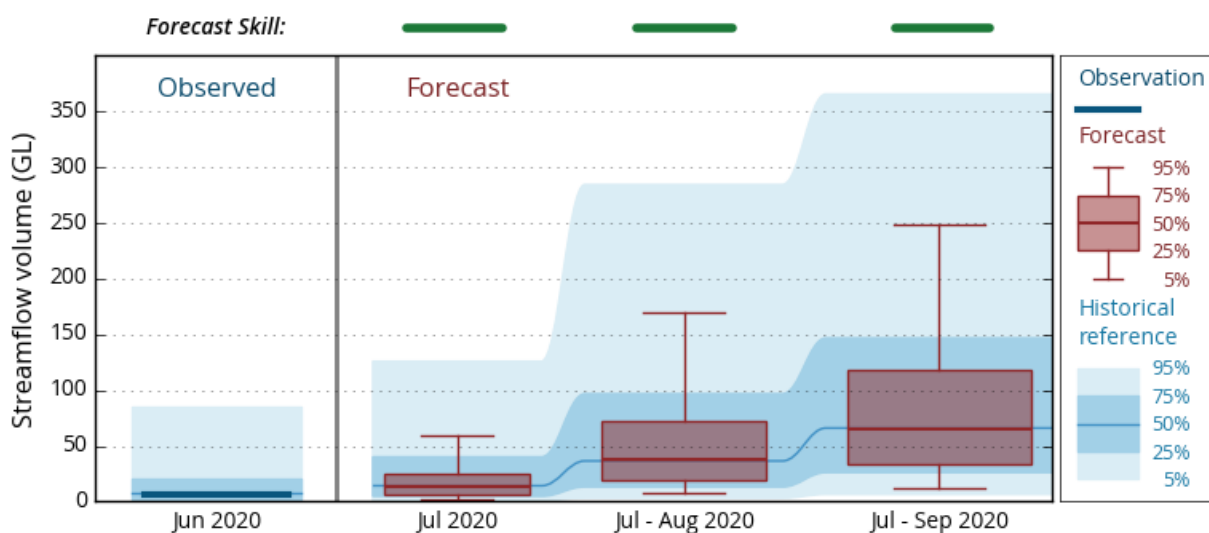
ease conditions. Inflows are being closely monitored and it is likely that the drought criticality level can be eased to Stage 2 in coming weeks.

Seasonal inflow and rainfall forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology issues seasonal flow forecast of Abercrombie River that drains into the Wyangala Dam. The forecast total median flow from July to September is of similar volume of the historical median flow. This indicates a welcoming shift to the normal inflow conditions for next two months. The forecast dry quartile volume is higher than the historical volume, which is encouraging.

Abercrombie River at Abercrombie (ID: 412028)

Forecast for Jul 2020 – Sep 2020



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The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to November indicates that rainfall conditions are likely to be wetter than average across the catchment, while temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Next announcement

The next water allocation announcement for the Lachlan regulated river water source is scheduled for **Tuesday 8 September 2020**.

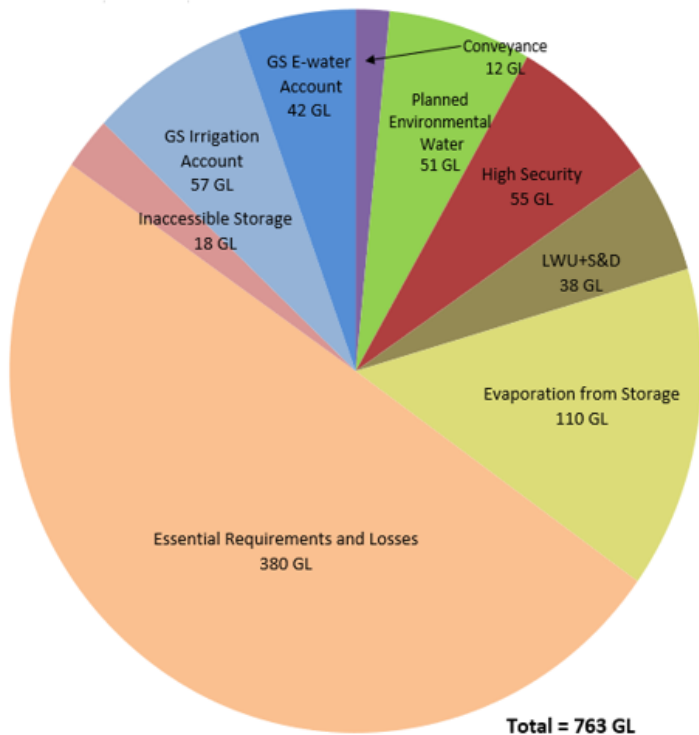
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (August 2020 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		529
<i>less</i>		
General Security 2020/2021 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	0	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	99	
Conveyance	12	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	51	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	55	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	38	
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	110	
Essential Requirements and Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	380	
Inaccessible storage	18	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation (or deficit)		(234)

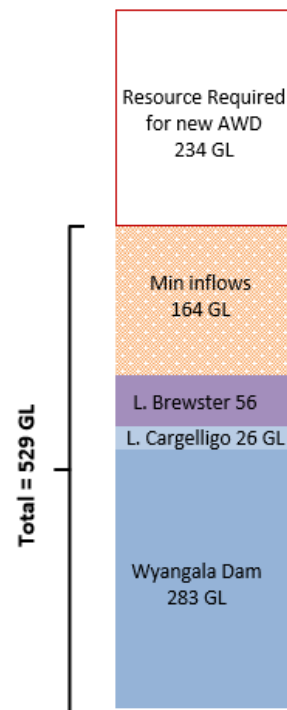
Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of July 2020 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from Sept 2020 to May 2022 and water in transit yet to be stored from tributary flows.
- (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 (EWA) under the water sharing plan. 51 GL (includes 10 GL per year to May 2022 for WQA + 31 GL set aside for Translucency releases). 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 2022 under the minimum inflow scenario. Balances in high security accounts include water traded in from general security licences.
- (5) It is assumed the lakes will be drawn down slowly over the assessment period, increasing storage evaporation.
- (6) Essential Requirements and Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to May 2022 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into riverbed sands. The volume includes any S&D replenishment deliveries required in winter 2020, 2021, and 2022. It is assumed that any 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 42 GL of GS, and 3 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by environmental water holder groups, including the NSW DPIE - Environment, Energy and Science (EES) 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. It also indicates the current shortfall and inflows required in August before a further AWD can be made.

**Resource Distribution: August 2020 to May 2022
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source**



Supply Source ⁽⁹⁾



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