

7 October 2020

## Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

### Water allocation update

An additional allocation of **4% of entitlement** has been made to **general security** licence holders in the Lachlan regulated river water source, bringing the cumulative allocation this year to 32%.

Rainfall throughout September has continued to provide system inflows both into Wyangala and from tributaries. There was 32 gegalitres (GL) of tributary inflow and a combined inflow of 52 GL into Wyangala Dam, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo. The improvement has been allocated to general security entitlements, with a commensurate increase to conveyance entitlements, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Translucent environmental water delivery has now ceased with licensed environmental water orders now providing a gentle recession. These environmental water releases are being met from tributary inflows and releases from Lake Brewster to maximise re-regulated water and provide positive resource management outcomes.

There has been some concern amongst water users about the possibility of Wyangala Dam spilling. Based on historical inflows over 110 years, there is about a 10% chance that the dam and the on-route storages may spill by the end of January 2021. Should that occur, general security accounts will be reset and equalised in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Inflows in excess of 16 GL will be required in October to enable a further general security allocation next month. This is subject to river operations and losses remaining as forecast. The planning outlook for the Lachlan assessment currently runs through to May 2022, some 19 months, and ensures security to higher priority needs before further general security allocations are made.

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% 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%          | 32%              |  Stage 1 |

### Storage levels (as at 6 October 2020)

- Wyangala Dam is about 61.1 per cent full – rising – currently at about 743.9 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 67.1 per cent full – steady – currently at about 26.6 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 48.5 per cent full – falling – currently at about 74.1 GL.

## Seasonal inflow and rainfall forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for October to December indicates likely wetter than average conditions across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about average or cooler, while overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau has declared La Niña conditions, with models indicating that La Niña conditions are likely to persist until at least early 2021. Negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are also likely to be negative for October. La Niña and negative IOD conditions typically increase the probability of above average rainfall in spring. For further details:

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

## Next announcements

The next water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Monday 9 November 2020**.

## Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

| <b>Resource Distribution (October 2020 to May 2022)</b>                     | Volume<br>(GL) |
|---|----------------|
| Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>   | 928            |
| <i>less</i>   |                |
| General Security 2020/2021 AWD <sup>(6),(7)</sup>                           | 113            |
| Carryover remaining in accounts   | 96             |
| Conveyance  | 29             |
| Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>                                  | 20             |
| High Security <sup>(3)</sup>  | 91             |
| Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(3)</sup>                                       | 40             |
| Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>                                     | 111            |
| Essential Requirements and Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup> | 409            |
| Inaccessible storage  | <u>19</u>      |
|   | 928            |

### Notes:

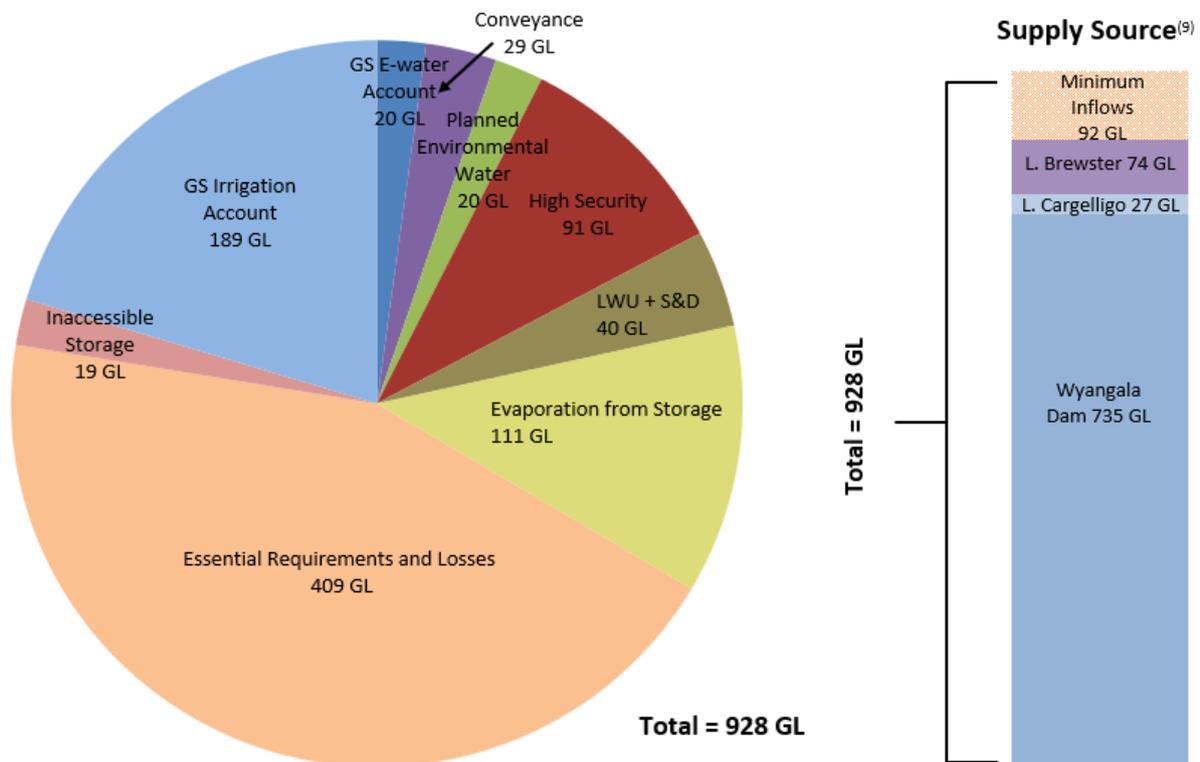
1. Total available resource: End of September 2020 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus expected minimum inflows from October 2020 to May 2022.
2. Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA) under the water sharing plan. 20 GL (includes 10 GL per year to May 2022 for WQA). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. EWA allocation for 2020-21 is zero currently.
3. 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.
4. It is assessed that the lakes are likely to be drawn down slowly over the assessment period, increasing storage evaporation.
5. 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 spring 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.
6. Volume represents the balance of water allocated to GS licences in the current water year.
7. 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 20 GL of GS, and 20 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by environmental water holder groups,

# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



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.



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