



18 July 2016

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

Additional inflows in early July support a further allocation of **twenty five (25) per cent of entitlement** to general security licence holders in the Lachlan Valley.

The sum of general security allocations for the 2016/17 water year has now reached **forty three (43) per cent of entitlement**.

Including the 180,000 megalitres (30 per cent of entitlement on average) of unused water from previous years (carryover), the average general security water availability has therefore increased to **seventy three (73) per cent of entitlement**.

Rainfall in late June and early July has saturated the upper catchment and provided some of the largest inflows to the Lachlan system in more than four years.

Approximately **196,000 megalitres** of inflow to Wyangala Dam arrived in the month of June, and based on flows currently in the river system, approximately **176,000 megalitres** of inflow can be expected in July.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan Valley	100%	43%	30%

Water delivery

Water users are reminded that the **annual use limit** in the Lachlan Valley in 2016-17 is **100 per cent**.

Delivery of all existing commitments is **guaranteed for the 2016/17 water year**, and all commitments can be met with a high level of confidence for the current forecast period to 1 June 2018.

Delivery of **domestic and stock replenishment flows** to effluent creeks in 2016 is nearing completion. The Willandra Creek replenishment flow is currently in progress and will conclude later this month. All other replenishment flows for 2016 have now been made.

Translucent flows were first triggered on 7 July 2016 when cumulative inflows to Wyangala Dam since 1 January first exceeded 250,000 megalitres. However, **no releases from Wyangala Dam** have been required to date.

This is because the translucent flow targets at Lake Brewster Weir have been met or exceeded by tributary inflows downstream of Wyangala Dam. Some small dam releases may be required over the coming days to meet downstream flow targets.

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Dam levels

- Wyangala Dam is currently 67 per cent full – rising - holding 815,000 megalitres.
- The storage volume has risen from a low of 38 per cent (468,000 megalitres) in early June following two significant rainfall events in the upper catchment during June and July.
- Conditions in the Wyangala Dam catchment are now saturated and rivers are primed to be responsive to further rainfall events.

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology has **forecast at least an 80 per cent** chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the Lachlan Valley during the July to September 2016 period.

The current outlook is influenced by a developing negative Indian Ocean Dipole in the tropical Indian Ocean and a tropical Pacific Ocean that is expected to cool towards La Niña levels. There are wet catchment conditions and a favourable rainfall outlook meaning further improvement in resource availability is likely.

Next announcement

DPI Water will provide another water allocation statement in mid-August 2016.

The next seasonal water outlook, which will include the chances of further improvements in water availability for the remainder of the water year, will be issued in mid-September 2016.

Further information

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au