



Friday, 2 October 2015

Lachlan Valley:

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

Lachlan Regulated River general security water users have received **an increase in water allocation equivalent to five (5) per cent of entitlement.**

This follows improvements of four (4) per cent in August and a further 16 per cent in September.

Wyangala Dam received 52,000 megalitres of inflow during September as the catchment continued to drain after heavy rainfall in late-August. Inflows since June total around 355,000 megalitres.

Overall water availability, which includes an average 30 per cent carried over from previous years, has therefore increased to 55 per cent of general security entitlement.

As required, this assessment ensures that sufficient water remains in storage to deliver local water utility, domestic and stock and high security needs through a repeat of the lowest inflows on record prior to water sharing plan commencement in 2004.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	25%	30%

Key facts

- The sum of general security available water determinations is now **25 per cent** of entitlement for the 2015/16 water year.
- Delivery of **full allocations to local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security requirements** this water year is assured.
- Domestic and stock replenishment flows to effluent creeks for 2015 is now complete. Delivery in 2016 will largely rely on the timing of rainfall and tributary flows but will be released from storage if required.
- The **annual use limit** for general security licence holders in the 2015/16 water year is **100 per cent of entitlement.**

Dam levels

- Wyangala Dam is currently 62 per cent full, holding 751,000 megalitres.

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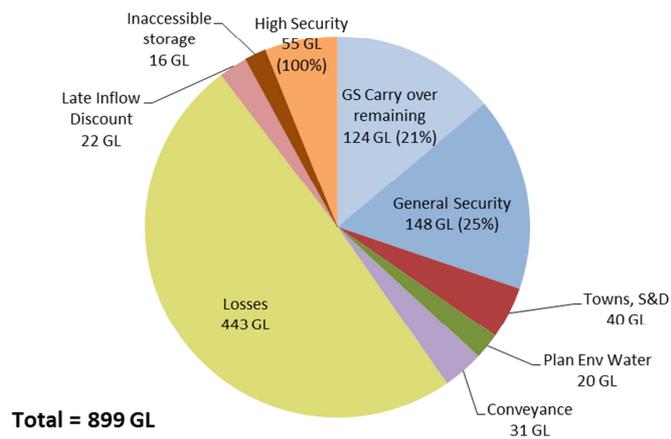
www.water.nsw.gov.au

- The storage volume has increased from a low in late-May of 36 per cent or 440,000 megalitres, but is now beginning to fall again as the weather begins to warm and irrigation demand increases.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 October) for 2015/16 & 2016/17	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	899
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts	124 (21%)
Planned Environmental Water	20
Towns, Stock, Domestic	40 (100%)
Inaccessible storage	16
Conveyance	31
Announced High Security	55 (100%)
Announced General Security	148 (25%)
Operational Losses (transmission, evap, op'ns)	443
Late Inflow Discount	22

Allocation Distribution 2015/16 & 2016/17 Lachlan Valley - 1 October 2015



Outlook

- Further general security allocations will rely on usable future inflows, and a further 20,000 megalitres inflow will be required to make a new allocation in November.
- The Bureau of Meteorology has **forecast a 35 to 45 per cent** chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the upper Lachlan during the October to December period.
- The influence of a mature El Niño event in the tropical Pacific in the current outlook is somewhat moderated by very warm sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean.

Further information

DPI Water will continue to closely monitor the situation.

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