

21 March 2016

Lachlan Valley: Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

The sum of general security allocations in the 2015/16 water year **remains unchanged on 25 per cent of entitlement**.

Approximately **83,000 megalitres** of inflow to regulated river storages is required by the end of March 2016 to make a new available water determination. Persistent dry conditions since late-summer have meant that virtually no inflow has arrived so far this month.

The annual use limit for the upcoming 2016/17 water year will be **100 per cent of entitlement**, which is unchanged from the 2015/16 water year. This is the maximum general security extraction allowable in any given year and is adjusted for any water traded into or out of the account. It should not be confused with an allocation announcement, which occurs when there is an improvement in resources.

Domestic and stock replenishment flows to effluent creeks for 2015 were completed in early-spring. Delivery in 2016 will largely rely on the timing of rainfall and tributary flows, but will be released from storage if required.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	25%	29%

Dam levels

- Wyangala Dam is currently 42 per cent full, holding 518,000 megalitres. The storage volume has fallen from a high in late-September of 62 per cent (760,000 megalitres) and continues to fall as dry conditions prevail.
- Conditions in the Wyangala Dam catchment were extremely dry throughout the summer months, with only 4,500 megalitres of inflow received in total.

Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has **forecast a 45 to 50 per cent** chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the upper Lachlan Valley during March to May.
- The current outlook reflects a combination of a weakening El Niño, very warm Indian Ocean temperatures and warm sea surface temperatures near Australia.

Improving water availability information

DPI Water has made some changes to our website to improve the way in which information on water allocations and water availability is accessed by water users.

Part of the new look website is to bring the water allocation and availability information into one central location - the [Water Availability Hub](#).

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Here you will be able to find:

- Current water allocations
- Water Allocation Statements
- Water availability outlooks for major river valleys
- Available Water Determination Orders

To make it even easier to keep informed about the latest water allocations and availability outlooks, DPI Water has developed a new on-line notification service - this will deliver alerts of new announcements direct to your email inbox.

To access this feature, simply go to the [Water Availability Hub](#), and click on the link to subscribe. You can choose to receive updates from across NSW, or if you prefer, single out a specific valley.

As usual all water allocation and water availability announcements will be uploaded to the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au - and can be accessed via the homepage. However, the best way to ensure you don't miss out on water availability news and information to take a few minutes and subscribe to our on-line service.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

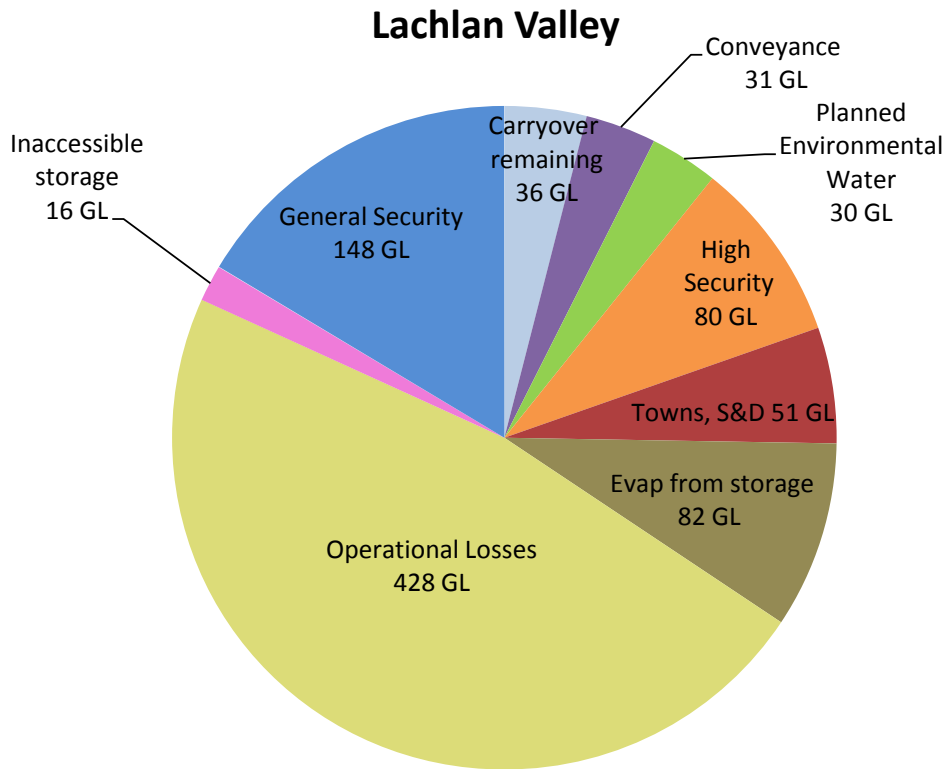
Resource Distribution: April 2016 to May 2018		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	819	
less		
General Security	148 (25%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	36 (5%)	
Conveyance	31	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	30	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	80 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	51 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage	82	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	428	Total demand
Inaccessible storage	16	902
Inflows required in March to meet total demand ⁽⁶⁾	83	

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Total available resource: end-February storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows.
- ⁽²⁾ Carryover remaining in accounts: 1 July carryover volume minus general security usage to end of February.
- ⁽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 required to meet 100% of entitlement through to May 2018.
- ⁽⁵⁾ 'Operational Losses': best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into the river bed sands. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions. This loss allowance is regularly refined as the year unfolds.

- (6) Usable inflows required in the upcoming month to assure delivery through the minimum forecast scenario and begin to make additional general security allocations.

Allocation Distribution Mar 2016 to May 2018



Total = 902 GL

Chances of improvement

Inflows required in March 2016 = 83GL

The chances of improved general security allocation, based on different inflow scenarios, are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions	General Security AWD (per cent) #	
	30 Jun 2016	31 Oct 2016 *
Extremely dry (99% inflows: 99 chances in 100)	25	0
Dry (80%: 4 chances in 5)	25	0
Average (50%: 1 chance in 2)	25	23
Wet (20%: 1 chance in 5)	47	83

Add carryover from previous water years to these values

* Additional allocation in the 2016/17 water year

DPI Water will provide the next water outlook update in June 2016.

Further information

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