

15 May 2018

Lachlan Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

The Lachlan regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at 2 per cent of entitlement** for the 2017-18 water-year.

A combined dam and tributary inflow volume of over 47 gigalitres (GL) will be required in May before a further allocation can be made. The dry conditions have produced inflows of just 1.1 GL so far in May 2018.

Total Wyangala Dam inflows from 1 January 2018 to date are about 15 GL. A total of 250 GL of inflow is required in a calendar year before any translucent environmental flows are released from Wyangala Dam.

General security water users are advised that the **Annual Use Limit** that will apply in the 2018/19 water-year will be a volume equivalent to **100 per cent of entitlement**, plus any adjustments up or down for trade.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan valley	100%	2%	108%

Dam levels (as at 14 May 2018)

- Wyangala Dam is 64 per cent full – falling – currently at 782 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is 57 per cent full – rising – currently at 23.5 GL.
- Lake Brewster is now effectively empty.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau is expecting an even chance of exceeding median rainfall over the catchment from May to July. The temperature is likely to be warmer than average throughout May, before returning to average conditions in late winter.

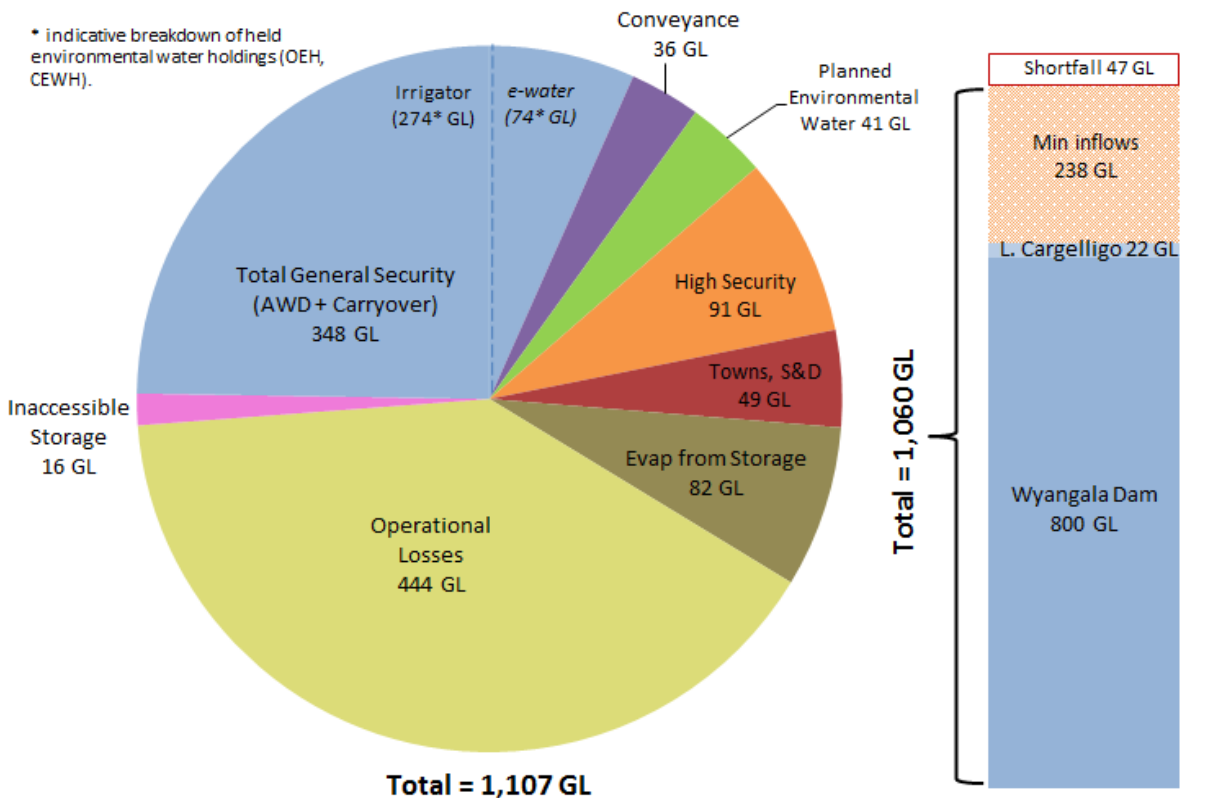
The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the tropical Pacific Ocean is neutral and is expected to remain neutral through the winter season. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also neutral, with the possibility of a negative IOD event forming during winter. There is no strong driver towards wetter or drier conditions for most of Australia.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (May 2018 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,060
less	
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	12 (2%)
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	336
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	41
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	91 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	49 (100%)
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	82
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	444
Inaccessible storage	16

See notes below.

**Resource Distribution: May 2018 to May 2020
Lachlan Valley**



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of April storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from now to May 2020.
- (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 under the water sharing plan. 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 2020. Balances in high security accounts include water traded in from general security licences.
- (5) It is assessed that the lakes are likely to be drawn down slowly in the current water year, increasing storage evaporation.
- (6) Operational Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through May 2020 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into the river bed sands. This volume includes S&D replenishment deliveries in autumn 2018, 2019 and 2020. It is assumed that current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions from now onward. This loss allowance is updated across the year.
- (7) Volume represents the total cumulative AWD made to GS licences in the current water year.
- (8) Held environmental water (HEW): as a trial, reporting of 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 74 GL of GS, and 26 GL of HS. The HS component was incorrectly reported as zero in the April 2018 statement and has been corrected here. These reported entitlements are managed by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental holdings.
- (9) The supply source of total available water, explained in Note (1) above, is provided. Note that Lake Brewster is empty now. It also indicates the current shortfall required before a further AWD can be made.

Chances of improvement

General security allocation, based on repetition of historical inflow scenarios, are as follows:

Historical Inflow Scenario	Cumulative General Security AWD	
	For 2018/19 by 31 Oct 2018	For 2018/19 by 31 Jan 2019
Dry (exceeded 4 times in 5 years)	0% ⁺	0% ⁺
Average (exceeded once every 2 years)	27% ⁺	29% ⁺
Wet (exceeded once in 5 years)	120% [^]	120% [^]

⁺ Add remaining balances on 30 June 2018 carried forward to these forecasted AWD values.

[^] Estimated reset allocation should Wyangala Dam spill by September 2018.

Further information

The next allocation announcement will be issued on **15 June 2018** unless a significant improvement in resource availability occurs beforehand.

Information on Available Water Determinations (AWD) and water sharing plans are available on the Department of Industry – Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au