

### LTDLE factors and the relationship to low water allocations

*There were many similar themes and commonly asked questions during the recent call for submissions relating to amended long-term diversion limit equivalence (LTDLE) cap factors. The responses below are provided in relation to the issues raised.*

#### Basin Plan reference climate period

The reference to determine the baseline diversion limit (BDL), and therefore the sustainable diversion limit for the Basin Plan, is the long term average diversions from 1895 to 2009. NSW Department of Industry has used the period 1895 to 2017 in determining the LTDLE factors.

This period was chosen because it includes a representative range of climate conditions. By using this time period, we include a variety of conditions from the major floods of the 1950s through to the drought of the 2000s.

The Basin Plan does not try to deliver the same amount of water each year, but instead seeks to provide volumes that reflect our highly variable climate. Because storage volumes and inflows change annually, so does the total amount of water allocated. In effect, all water entitlement allocations are indexed based on water availability, including entitlements held by the Commonwealth for the environment.

By using BDL models that cover the entire reference period 1895–2009, we can consider the effect of a range of climatic condition on water availability and use.

The method for determining the LTDLE factor also uses more recent historical information, including for very dry years, to determine how entitlement holders use any allocated water.

#### But why is my allocation so low?

In simple terms, entitlements are low at the moment because it has been extremely dry and there has been little rain in recent time. This has resulted in reduced flows in the rivers and inflows to dams, which means there is less water that can be distributed to entitlement holders via an available water determination.

For an independent article on the topic, see the ABC report published 11 Jun 2018 titled ‘How bad is the drought and why has it been so dry?’ Search using the article title at [abc.net.au/news](http://abc.net.au/news)