

12 June 2020

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations** in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source. There has been no significant change to resource availability since the last update and the minimal improvements that have occurred are underpinning future high priority needs.

Over 273 gigalitres (GL) of system inflows are required in June 2020 to overcome deficits and enable an allocation to general security entitlements. The planning horizon for the Lachlan regulated river resource assessment currently runs through to May 2022, some 23 months.

Water availability outlook for the 2020-21

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including local utilities, are secure for the 2020-21 water year.
- Full (100%) allocation for all **Local Water Utilities** and **Domestic & Stock** license holders.
- Allocation for **High Security** license holders will likely be 70%.
- **Conveyance** entitlements will be allocated water in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- No allocation to **General Security** water users will be possible.
- In addition, access to water in general security accounts on 1 July 2020 will be restricted to **half of the active general security** sub-account balance on 30 June 2020.
- Note that the active general security sub-account on 1 July 2019 represented 57% of the general security account balance. The remaining 43% that was restricted for 2019/20 and moved to the drought sub-account, will remain restricted in 2020-21.

The priority for access to future resource improvements will be as follows:

Top-up of high security allocation (some 8 GL) and easing of general restrictions will occur concurrently, starting with the recent 50% restriction (some 15 GL) followed by the earlier 43% restriction (some 67 GL). When the deficit is overcome there will be no restrictions and full high security allocation. This ensures that the priorities for allocating water to licence categories under the *Water Management Act 2000* is maintained.

Information on the volume of inflows required to ease current restrictions is provided at the end of this statement.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	87%	0%	 Stage 3

Storage levels (as at 10 June 2020)

- Wyangala Dam is about 15.2 per cent full – slight rise – currently at about 186 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 93 per cent full – steady – currently at about 34 GL.
- Lake Brewster is currently holding about 26 GL.

Drought stage

Under the NSW Extreme Events Policy, the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source is at Stage 3 (severe) drought criticality, reflecting the reduced water availability in 2019-20 described above. The small inflows to the system since February are helping to operate the Lachlan system under the current drought Stage 3 management regime.

Stage 3 drought contingency measures will remain in place into 2020-21 and inflow conditions will be closely monitored. In the unlikely event that at least 35 GL of inflow is not received by the end of October 2020, representing very dry conditions, tighter restrictions and escalation to Stage 4 drought criticality could become necessary.

Presentations from the public information session on drought outlook and water availability via webinar held on 25 May 2020 can be viewed on the website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/information-sessions

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for June to August indicates an even chance of median rainfall conditions across the catchment, with day and night time temperatures likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau states that both the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remain neutral. While neutral ENSO is forecast for the southern hemisphere winter, some models suggest a La Niña-like pattern could develop in spring.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

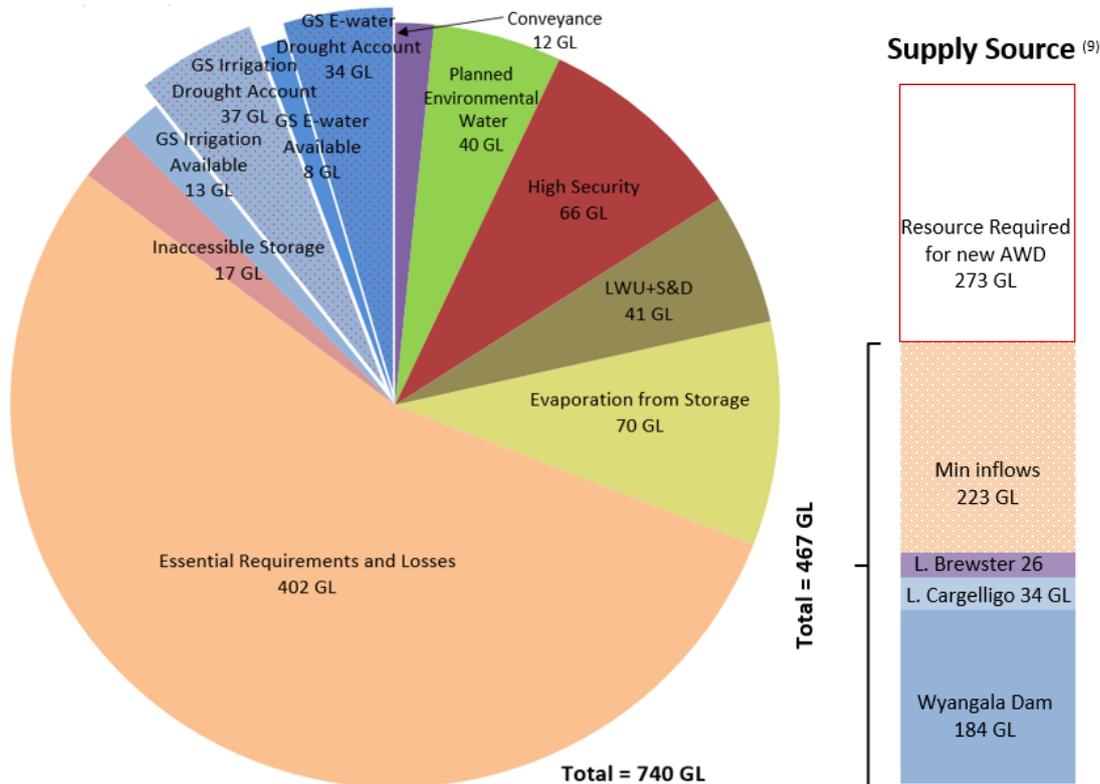
Next announcement

The next water allocation announcement for the Lachlan regulated river water source will be included in the state-wide statement on 1 July 2020. The next dedicated Lachlan water allocation statement will be on **Monday 10 August 2020**.

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (June 2020 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		467
<i>less</i>		
General Security 2019/2020 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	0	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	92	
Conveyance	12	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	40	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	66	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	41	
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	70	
Essential Requirements and Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	402	
Inaccessible storage	17	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation (or deficit)		(273)

Resource Distribution: June 2020 to May 2022 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of May 2020 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from July 2020 to May 2022.
- (2) Carryover remaining in general security accounts, including held environmental water. Due to a temporary water restriction currently in force only 57% of this volume is available for delivery.
- (3) Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Contingency Allowances (EWA) under the water sharing plan. 40 GL (includes 10 GL per year to May 2022 for WQA & 20 GL set aside for Translucency releases). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. EWA allocation for 2019-20 is zero currently.
- (4) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet 100% of these high priority entitlements to 31 May 2022 under the minimum inflow scenario. 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 over the assessment period, increasing storage evaporation.
- (6) Essential Requirements and Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to May 2022 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises natural transmission losses as water soaks into riverbed sands. The volume includes any S&D replenishment deliveries required in winter 2020, 2021, and 2022. It is assumed that any current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions going forward. The loss allowance is updated regularly.
- (7) Volume represents the total cumulative AWD made to GS licences in the current water year.
- (8) Held environmental water (HEW): 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 42 GL of GS, and 0.3 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by environmental holder groups, including the NSW DPIE - Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on e-water holdings can be found on individual agency websites.
- (9) The supply source of total available water, explained in Note (1) above, is provided. It also indicates the current shortfall required before a further AWD can be made.

The table below summarises the inflow scenarios based on applying priorities under *Water Management Act 2000*, leading to lower priority licences being impacted to the same extent or greater than higher priority licences. Please note that all values are estimates, subject to change, and will be updated in monthly water allocation statements.

Inflows needed to deliver account water (as at 1 June 2020)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL) 1 July 2019 to 31 May 2020	Additional combined inflows required to deliver remaining usable allocations in 2020-21, begin to ease GS delivery restrictions and to start increasing HS allocation	Additional inflows required for new GS AWD (GL) (no restrictions)
By end of June	177	95	273
By end of July	177	100	
By end of August	177	168	

Notes:

1. Estimated water held in general security accounts on 1 July 2019 was 155,000 ML. Water delivery operations in 2019-20 have been provided under drought contingency planning (Stage 3).
2. Usable GS allocations remaining in 2019-20 is carried over into 2020-21 and assumed fully used
3. S&D replenishment flows are delivered in winter 2020 and in 2021, prioritised from tributary inflows
4. In 2020-21 river operations will involve water savings measures and full allocations for TWS and S&D, and likely restricted allocation for HS.
5. In 2021-22 river operation is under Stage 4 (extreme) drought contingency operations with restricted allocations prioritising critical water needs.
6. A minimum Wyangala Dam storage level of 3-5% is targeted at the end of June 2021 to maintain critical supplies in 2021-22.

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