

14 September 2018

Lachlan Valley

Water allocation update and outlook

The Lachlan regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at zero per cent of entitlement.**

Currently the estimated combined dam and tributary inflow volume required is over 168 gegalitres (GL) in September before a general security allocation can be made in October. For context, dry conditions have produced inflows of just 6 GL so far in September 2018.

Total Wyangala Dam inflows from 1 January 2018 to date are about 33 GL. A total of 250 GL of inflow is required in a calendar year before any translucent environmental flows are released from Wyangala Dam.

As Lake Brewster is effectively empty, irrigation and environmental demand below Brewster Weir this spring and summer will be delivered from Wyangala Dam. In order for the water order lead time to remain linked to travel time from Lake Brewster, WaterNSW will contact all water users below Brewster Weir, including those in regulated Willandra Creek, to compile details of their forecast monthly demand.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Lachlan	100%	0%	62%

Storage levels (as at 13 September 2018)

- Wyangala Dam is 56 per cent full – falling – currently at 685 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is 69 per cent full – steady – currently at 27 GL.
- Lake Brewster is effectively empty.

Climatic outlook

Most of the state has been very dry and warm since the start of the year. This pattern continued through winter. The October to December outlook indicates current drought areas are unlikely to see significant respite in the coming three months.

The Bureau of Meteorology forecasts likely lower than median flow this spring in the Abercrombie River which drains into Wyangala Dam.

The Bureau outlook indicates that October to December is likely to be drier than average in the western and central parts of NSW.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Lachlan Valley will be on **Friday 12 October 2018.**

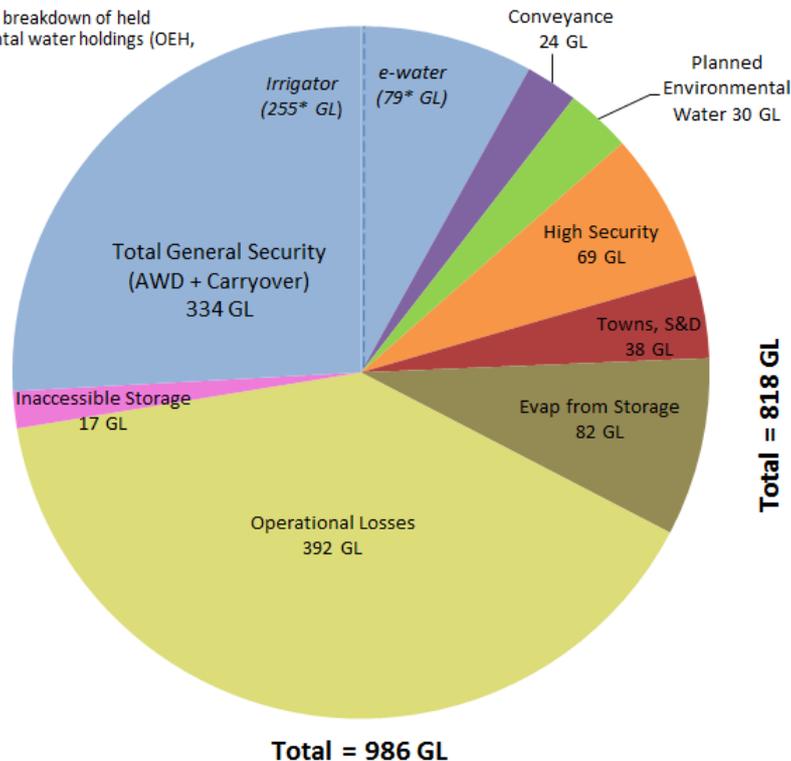
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (September 2018 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	818
less	
General Security 2018/2019 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	0 (0%)
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	334
Conveyance	24
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	30
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	69 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	38 (100%)
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	82
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	392
Inaccessible storage	17

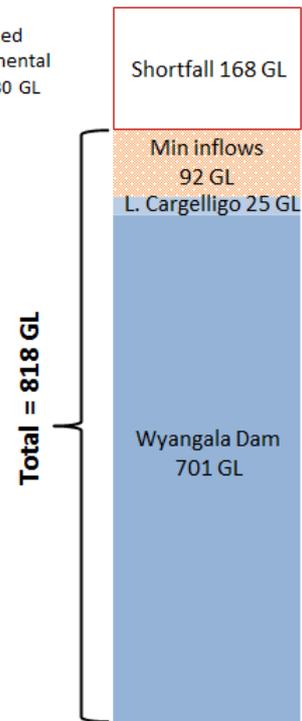
*See notes below.

Resource Distribution: September 2018 to May 2020 Lachlan Valley

* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH).



Supply Source⁽⁹⁾



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of July 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 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): 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 79 GL of GS, and 14 GL of HS. 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). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.
- (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 allocations, based on repetition of historical inflow scenarios, are as follows:

Historical Inflow Scenario	Cumulative General Security AWD	
	For 2018/19 by 31 Jan 2019	For 2018/19 by 30 Jun 2019
Dry (exceeded 4 times in 5 years)	0% ⁺	0% ⁺
Average (exceeded once every 2 years)	0% ⁺	22% ⁺
Wet (exceeded once in 5 years)	29% ⁺	62% ⁺

⁺ Add remaining balances on 1 July 2018 carried forward to these forecasted AWD values.