

15 May 2020

## Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

### Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations** in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source.

Wyangala Dam is estimated to receive around 26 gigalitres (GL) from recent rainfall and receding inflows. In addition, downstream inflows have totalled about 13 GL. The rainfall has also reduced soil moisture deficits and primed the catchment for further runoff.

As of 1 May 2020, there is 313 GL of further inflow required to overcome the resource deficit and enable further improvement to be considered for new general security allocations. Tight restrictions must remain in place and maximum use made of tributary inflows to reduce the need for storage releases and thereby provide security for critical needs in 2020-21 and beyond.

The planning horizon for this Lachlan resource assessment runs through to May 2022, some 24 months. 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 40 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.

### Water availability outlook for the 2020-21 water year

The system continues to experience dry conditions, however; there is some optimism about the seasonal (winter) rainfall outlooks from the Bureau of Meteorology. In addition, while not guaranteed, historically the larger inflow months are just ahead - June to October.

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

**Expected 1 July 2020 water availability for the 2020-21 water year is likely to be as follows:**

- Full (100%) allocation for all **Local Water Utilities** and **Domestic & Stock** license holders.
- At least 70% allocation for **High Security** license holders.
- **Conveyance** will receive its commensurate allocation 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 50% of the active sub-account balance on 30 June 2020**.

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

## Storage levels (as at 15 May 2020)

- Wyangala Dam is about 14.7 per cent full – slight rise – currently at about 179 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 82 per cent full – steady – currently at about 31 GL.
- Lake Brewster is currently holding about 17 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 recent small inflows to the system since February are helping to operate the Lachlan system under the current drought Stage 3 management regime.

## Drought information sessions

The department, together with WaterNSW, will be holding public information sessions on drought outlook and water availability via webinars during May and June 2020. Presentations can be viewed live and a recording will be later available on the website. The Lachlan outlook will be discussed on a session scheduled for 25 May from 12 pm to 1 pm.

For more information on information session and registration go to:

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/information-sessions](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/information-sessions)

## Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for June to August indicates that winter months are likely to be wetter than average across the catchment. Day and night temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral, but the latest model outlooks indicate a negative IOD could develop during the southern winter. A negative IOD typically brings above average winter–spring rainfall to southern Australia.

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is also neutral. Latest outlooks from the surveyed models suggest that an ENSO-neutral state is the most likely scenario until the end of winter 2020. However, some models are suggesting the development of La Niña could occur in early-to-mid spring.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

## Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Lachlan regulated river water source will be issued on **Thursday 11 June 2020**.

## Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

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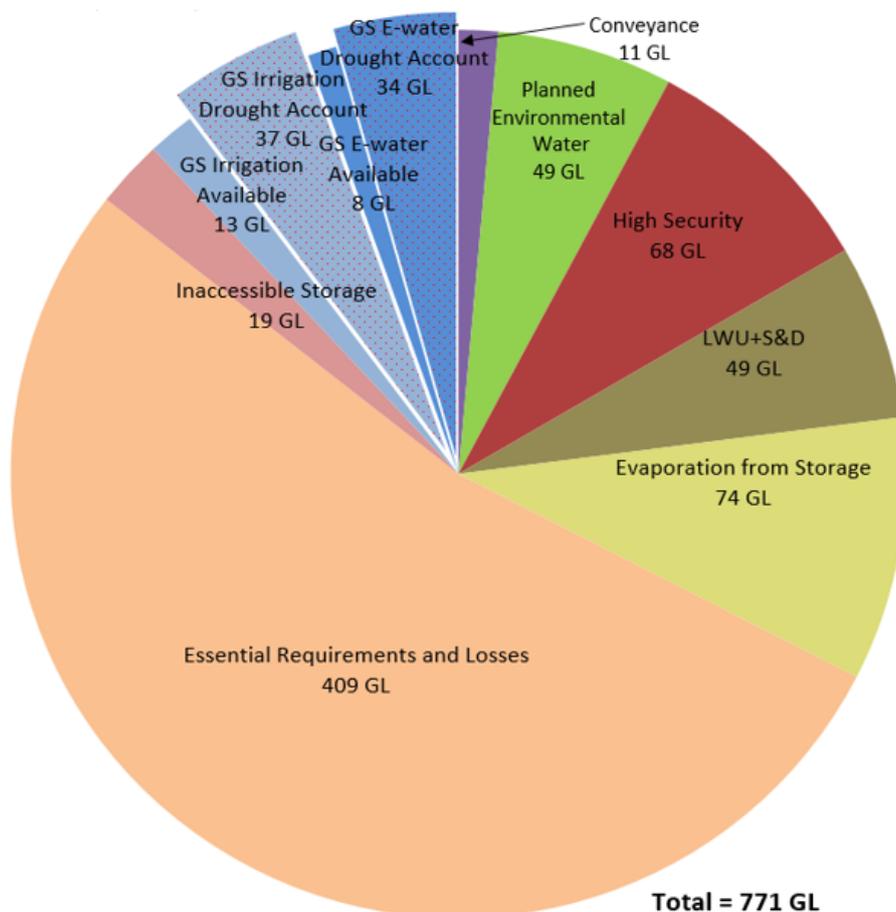
# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update

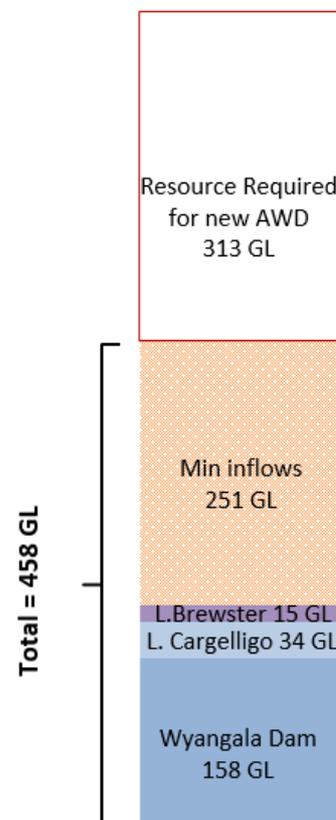


<b>Resource Distribution (May 2020 to May 2022)</b>	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>		458
<i>less</i>		
General Security 2019/2020 AWD <sup>(7),(8)</sup>	0	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2),(8)</sup>	92	
Conveyance	11	
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	49	
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	68	
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	49	
Evaporation from storage <sup>(5)</sup>	74	
Essential Requirements and Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(6)</sup>	409	
Inaccessible storage	19	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation (or deficit)		(313)

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



### Supply Source <sup>(9)</sup>



### Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of April 2020 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus minimum forecast inflows from June 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. 49 GL (includes 10 GL per year to May 2022 for WQA & 29 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 autumn 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 May 2020)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL) 1 July 2019 to 30 April 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	124	114	313
By end of July	124	139	
By end of August	124	219	

#### 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 autumn/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 of around 70% with 50% of usable general security allocation carryover available.
5. In 2021-22 river operation is under Stage 4 (extreme) drought contingency operations with restricted allocations prioritising critical water needs.
6. A minimum storage level of 5% is targeted at the end of June 2021 to maintain critical supplies in 2021-22.

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