

14 February 2018

## Lachlan Valley

### Water availability and allocation update

#### Allocations

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

Wyangala Dam received only 2,200 megalitres (ML) of inflow in January 2018, with little rainfall during this period. The storage level has decreased by 5 per cent since the last assessment.

A combined dam and tributary inflow volume of over 55,000 ML will be required in February before a further allocation can be made in March. For context, inflows so far in February 2018 have been 190 ML with dry conditions prevailing across the valley.

While there is a low probability of Wyangala Dam spilling in the 2017-18 water year, water users are reminded that, should airspace operations or a physical spill occur, there will be the usual reset of accounts in accordance with the water sharing plan rules. However, after any reset, there will be **no subsequent reset in the following six months**, even if further airspace operations or spill event/s should occur within that period.

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

#### Dam levels (as at 13 February 2018)

- Wyangala Dam is 74 per cent full – falling – holding 896,000 ML.
- Lake Cargelligo is 64 per cent full – falling – holding 25,700 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 12 per cent full – falling – holding 17,500 ML.

#### Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's three-month seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that near median rainfall is expected over the Lachlan catchment, with temperatures likely to be cooler than average.

Weak LA NIÑA conditions in the tropical Pacific are continuing. However, the Bureau's models suggest that the LA NIÑA will cease by mid-autumn as LA NIÑA events tend to break down around this time of the year, meaning a reduced influence on rainfall.

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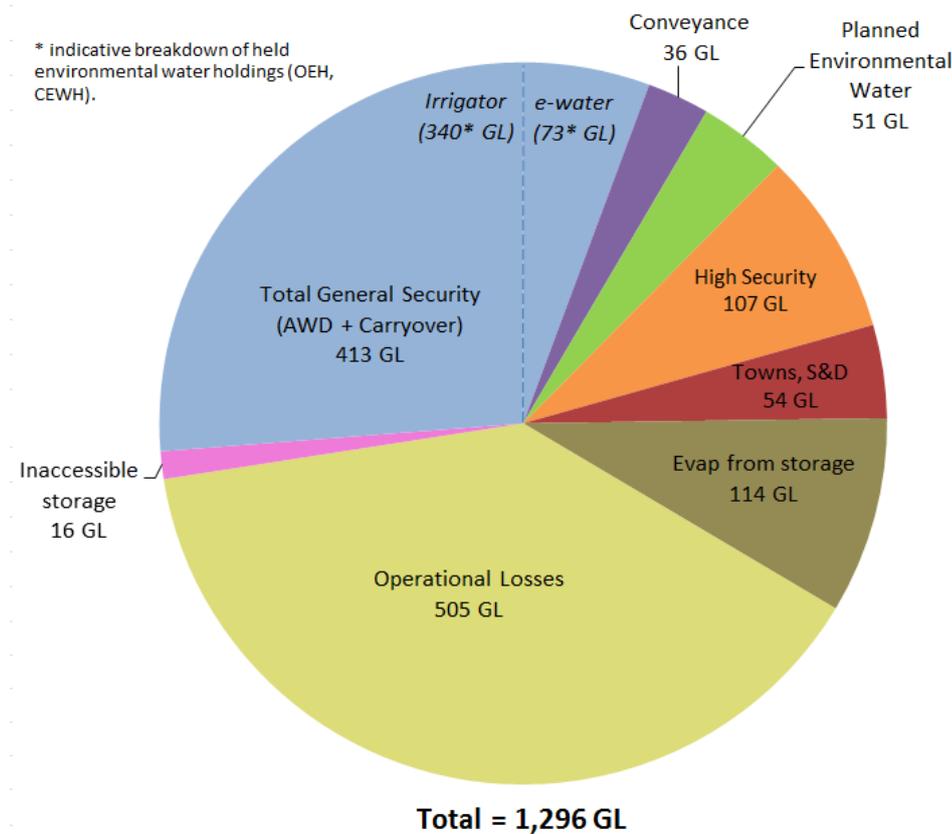
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

### Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

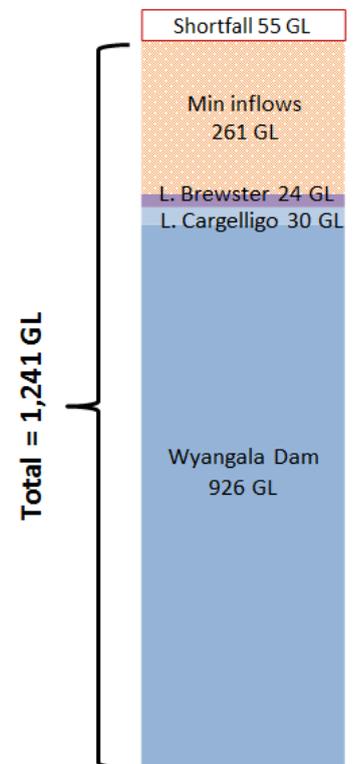
Resource Distribution (February 2018 to May 2020)		
	Volume (GL)	
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	1,241	
<b>less</b>		
General Security 2017/2018 AWD <sup>(7),(8)</sup>	12 (2%)	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2),(8)</sup>	401	
Conveyance	36	
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	51	
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	107 (100%)	
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	54 (100%)	
Evaporation from storage <sup>(5)</sup>	114	
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(6)</sup>	505	Total commitment
Inaccessible storage	16	1,296

See notes below.

### Resource Distribution February 2018 to May 2020 Lachlan Valley



### Supply Source



**Notes:**

- (1) Total available resource: End of January 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 of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 73GL of Total GS and 28GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly 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.

**Chances of improvement**

The estimates of general security allocation, based on repetition of historical inflow scenarios, are as follows:

Historical Inflow Scenario	Cumulative General Security AWD	
	For 2017/18 by 30 June 2018 <sup>#</sup>	For 2018/19 by 31 Oct 2018
Dry (exceeded 4 times in 5 years)	2%	0% <sup>+</sup>
Average (exceeded once every 2 years)	7%	26% <sup>+</sup>
Wet (exceeded once in 5 years)	33%	123% <sup>^</sup>

<sup>#</sup> Add water carried forward from 2016/17 water year to these forecasted AWD values.

<sup>+</sup> Add water carried forward from 2017/18 water year to these forecasted AWD values.

<sup>^</sup> Possible spill and reset by August 2018, estimate should spill occur.

**Further information**

The next allocation announcement will be issued on **14 March 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](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)