

14 March 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 8,300 megalitres (ML) of inflow in February 2018 from the rain event towards the end of the month. The storage level has decreased by 4 per cent since the last assessment.

A combined dam and tributary inflow volume of over 36,000 ML will be required in March before a further allocation can be made in April. Inflows so far in March 2018 have been 3,600 ML mainly from the end of February rainfall event.

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, to be clear, 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 14 March 2018)

- Wyangala Dam is 71 per cent full – falling – holding 860,000 ML.
- Lake Cargelligo is 54 per cent full – falling – holding 23,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 2 per cent full – falling – holding 3,300 ML.

Seasonal climate outlook

The forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology to May shows lower than historical streamflow in the Abercrombie River that inflows to Wyangala Dam.

The Bureau is expecting an even chance of exceeding median rainfall over the catchment from March to May. The daytime temperature is likely to be warmer than average, while overnight temperatures are expected to be about average. The 2017-18 La Niña event has ended with El Nino Southern Oscillation indicators easing back to neutral levels over the past several weeks. The Bureau advises that a neutral ENSO pattern indicates a reduced chance of prolonged very wet or dry, or very hot or cold conditions, and that other climate drivers may have greater influence over the coming months.

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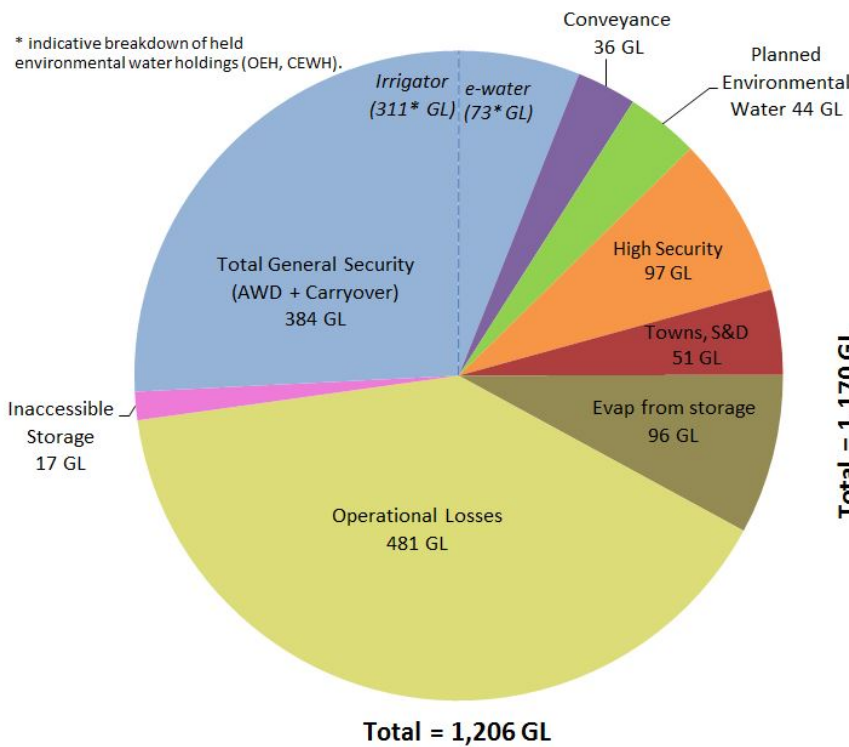
www.water.nsw.gov.au

Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

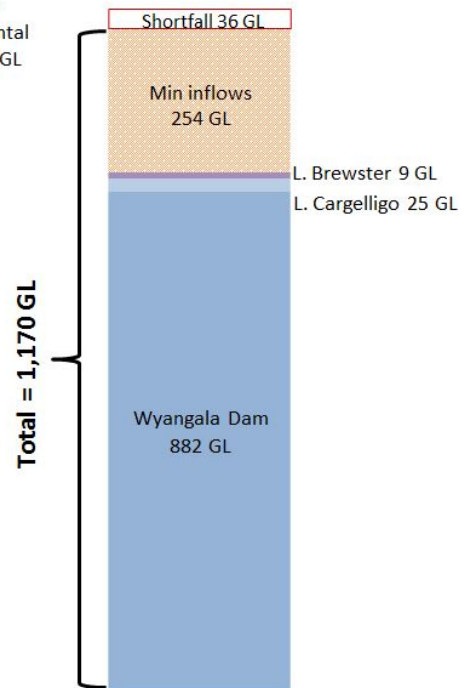
Resource Distribution (March 2018 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,170
less	
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ^{(7),(8)}	12 (2%)
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2),(8)}	372
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	44
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	97 (100%)
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	51 (100%)
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	96
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁶⁾	481
Inaccessible storage	17

See notes below.

**Resource Distribution: February 2018 to May 2020
Lachlan Valley**



Supply Source⁽⁹⁾



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of February 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 GS. 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.
- (9) As a trial, we are providing supply source of total available water explained in Note (1) earlier. It also indicates any current shortfall in meeting allocation commitments through to May 2020.

Further information

The next allocation announcement will be issued on **16 April 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