



18 November 2014

Forecast water availability for the Lachlan Valley

Acting Deputy Director General Water, Michael Bullen, today updated the likely range of forecast water availabilities for the *Lachlan Regulated River Water Source* for the remainder of the 2014/2015 water year.

Mr Bullen said that winter inflows to Wyangala Dam have improved security of supply to the Lachlan Valley. Current commitments, including 100 percent of high security entitlement and no general security allocation, but 50 percent average carry-over in accounts, is fully deliverable.

“Delivery of existing allocations is guaranteed this water year. There is also a 90 percent chance that sufficient inflows will be received by next spring to guarantee delivery of remaining general security allocations to the end of the 2015/16 water year,” said Mr Bullen.

“However, additional allocations to general security licence holders are not yet available.”

“It is estimated that 120,000 megalitres of improvement across the Lachlan valley would be required in November to make any additional general security allocations.”

Mr Bullen continued, saying for a longer term forecast under “dry” conditions (reached on average in 80 per cent of years), no further general security allocation is anticipated by the end of June 2015.

Under median conditions (reached on average in 50 per cent of years), no further general security allocation is anticipated by the end of January 2015, but it could reach a total of 9 per cent by the end of June 2015.

Under wet conditions (reached on average in 20 per cent of years), the general security allocation could reach 9 percent by the end of January 2015, rising to a total of 58 percent by the end of June 2015.

Mr Bullen said that these forecasts were based on statistical inflows to Wyangala Dam and downstream tributaries of the Lachlan River, beginning in November 2014.

“The probability quoted for each allocation is the likelihood of that allocation being reached or exceeded by the end of January 2015 and the end of June 2015 respectively.”

“Since releases have been increased to meet a rise in orders in the valley, Wyangala Dam has fallen to 51 percent capacity, currently holding 624,000 megalitres.”

“Available Water Determinations for general security water users can only be made once usable inflows, above forecast minimums, are received into storage, and high security requirements are assured.”

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“The NSW Office of Water will continue to closely monitor rainfall and river inflows, as well as usage in the valley, to determine when allocations can be made,” Mr Bullen said.

Additional information on Available Water Determinations can be found on the NSW Office of Water’s website at - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Conditions	AWD by end of January 2015	AWD by end of June 2015	Probability
Drought	0% + 2014/15 commencing account balance	0% + 2014/15 commencing account balance	1 in 1
Dry	0% + 2014/15 commencing account balance	0% + 2014/15 commencing account balance	4 in 5
Median	0% + 2014/15 commencing account balance	9% + 2014/15 commencing account balance	1 in 2
Wet	9% + 2014/15 commencing account balance	58% + 2014/15 commencing account balance	1 in 5

ENDS

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