



Critical water planning for the Lachlan Valley

Issue 2 | 30 November 2007

CURRENT WATER AVAILABILITY

Rainfall in mid to late November has resulted approximately 4,500 megalitres (ML) of inflow into Wyangala Dam.

The following table shows storage levels in gigalitres (GL) as at 30 November 2007.

	Volume (GL)	Percentage of Capacity	Change in volume (GL) since 1 July
Wyangala Dam	174	14.3%	+44
Carcoar Dam	4.6	12.3%	+0.4

WHAT THIS MEANS

Lachlan River

The allocation for town water supply remains at 70 per cent, stock and domestic use at 50 per cent and high security use at 30 per cent until 30 June 2008.

General security users have access to 10 per cent of their account balance.

Belubula River

There is no town water supply or stock and domestic water being delivered from Carcoar Dam.

High security allocation is at 50 per cent, with trading in an upstream direction only.

Licensed general security users can access up to 20 per cent of their entitlement from unregulated flows when flow at Hellensholme exceeds 10 ML per day (ML/d). This water is not tradable or transferable to other licenses.

RIVER MANAGEMENT DURING 2007/08

Lachlan River

There is sufficient volume in Wyangala Dam for continuous flows to be maintained along the length of the river until 30 June 2008.

Unregulated tributary inflows downstream of Wyangala Dam will be managed on an event by event basis in consideration of stock and domestic needs, environmental needs, and storage capacity in Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster Weir pool. Decisions on the flow

management and water allocation will continue to be made in consultation with a reference group including water users and other agencies.

Belubula River

Special access to flows downstream of Carcoar Dam will continue to be available when there is more than 10 ML/d at Helensholme gauge.

WATER TRADING IN 2007/08

Water held in Lachlan accounts may be traded within normal rules. However, delivery is dependant on State Water's operational requirements.

High security allocations on the Belubula River can only be traded upstream.

WATER AVAILABILITY OUTLOOK

Lachlan River

Over 720 GL are required in Wyangala Dam before full allocation can be given for towns, stock and domestic, high security industry and irrigation, and a reasonable level (50 per cent) of water allocations for general security licenses. The probability of achieving this by February 2008 is 13 per cent and by April 2008 is 24 per cent.

The storage is currently holding just 174 GL of water, which is only capable of supplying the restricted access for towns, stock and domestic and high security as described above.

Belubula River

Approximately four (4) GL of additional inflow would be needed into Carcoar Dam before full high security allocation can be made available. Any inflow greater than this will allow water to be allocated to licensed general security users.