



# critical water planning for the Lachlan Valley

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## CURRENT WATER AVAILABILITY

Rainfall in mid June has sufficiently wet the catchments, resulting in some inflows.

The following table shows storage levels as at 10 August 2007.

	Volume (GL)	Percentage of Capacity	Change in volume (GL) since 1 July
Wyangala Dam	209	16.7	+84
Carcoar Dam	5	12.9	+0.8

## WHAT THIS MEANS

### Lachlan River

The announced allocations on 1 July allowed 70 per cent town water supply available all year domestic and stock 15 per cent available for three months only and for high security licences 10 per cent available for three months only.

There was no new general security allocations and general security carryover is not available.

Recent inflows have meant increased allocations.

As from 27 July the allocations have been increased for stock and domestic to 50 per cent and high security users to 30 per cent, both available for the full year.

General security users have access to 10 per cent of carryover. This followed a review of storage reserves in Wyangala Dam and discussions with the Lachlan allocations reference group.

	Allocation at 1 July	Allocation at 27 July
Town Water Supply	70%	<b>70%</b>
Stock and Domestic	15% 3 months only	<b>50%</b> available full year
High Security	10% 3 months only	<b>30%</b> available full year
General Security	No Access	<b>10%</b> of remaining carryover account water
Conveyance within Jemalong Irrigation	1,000 ML	1,000 ML

### **Belubula River**

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

High security allocation commenced at 50 per cent for three months, with trading in an upstream direction only.

General security allocation commenced at zero.

## **RIVER MANAGEMENT DURING 2007/08**

### **Lachlan River**

Recent inflows have allowed allocations to be made for the full year and the river to run for its full length to supply basic landholder rights.

Unregulated tributary inflows downstream of Wyangala Dam will be managed on an event by event basis considering the stock and domestic replenishment needs, environmental needs as well as storage capacity in Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster Weir pool. Decisions on the best use of such flows will 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 be available when there is more than 10 ML/d at Helensholme gauge.

## **WATER TRADING IN 2007/08**

Water held in accounts may be traded with normal rules, however, delivery is dependant on State Water's operation requirements.

## **WATER AVAILABILITY OUTLOOK**

### **Lachlan River**

Based on the long term records, there is a better than 50% chance of sufficient inflow to Wyangala Dam by November 2007 to be able to meet all town water supply, stock and domestic, high security and general security carryover. This will require about 250 GL additional inflow.

### **Belubula River**

Approximately 4 GL of additional inflow would be needed in Carcoar Dam before full high security allocations can be given. Any inflow greater than this, would allow consideration of general security allocations.

## **CONTACT**

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