



Critical water planning for the Lachlan Valley

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Current water availability

Rainfall during July to October has provided approximately 70,600 megalitres inflow to Wyangala Dam. There have only been very minimal inflows into Carcoar Dam to November.

The following table shows storage levels in gigalitres (GL) as at 3 November 2008.

	Volume (GL)	Percentage of Capacity	Change in volume (GL) since 1 July
Wyangala Dam	153	12.6%	+31
Carcoar Dam	5	13.7%	+2.2

What this means

Lachlan River

The allocation for town water supply remains at 70 per cent, while stock and domestic allocation increased from 20 per cent to 50 per cent and high security allocation increased from 20 per cent to 30 per cent effective from 3 November 2008.

General security users have access to 14 per cent (a total of about 5,000ML) of their account balance at 1 July 2008.

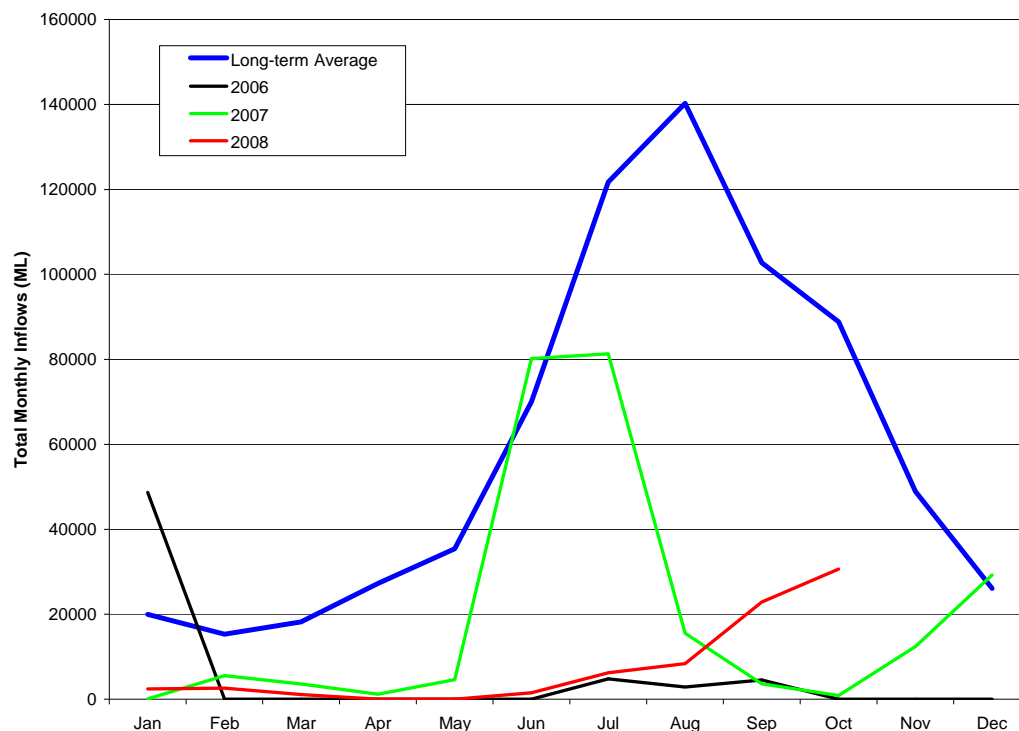
Belubula River

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

High security allocation remains 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.

Water Availability



River management during 2008/09

Lachlan River

There is sufficient volume in Wyangala Dam for continuous flows to be maintained along the length of the river until 30 June 2009.

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 the Lachlan Critical Water Planning group which includes 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 2008/09

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 394 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 (25 per cent)

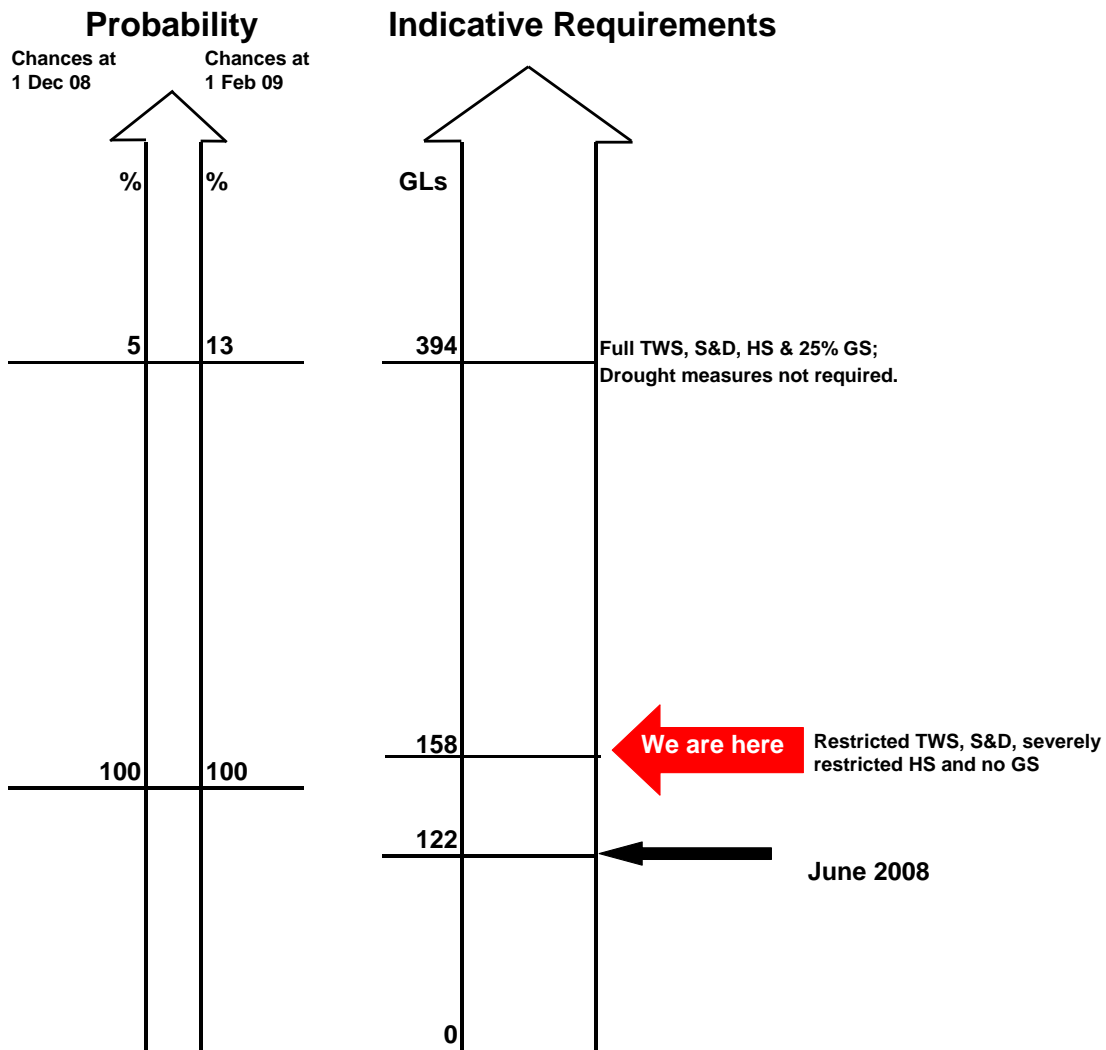
of water allocations for general security licenses. The probability of achieving this by February 2009 is 13 per cent.

The storage is currently holding just 153 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.

Lachlan Valley Indicative Outlook



Compliance

The Department of Water and Energy’s Drought Contingency Planning Program will only work if everyone adheres to the restrictions and is careful with all water use. To ensure that the system is run fairly, the community should report any suspected breaches to the Department’s Compliance Unit on 1800 633 362 or by email to watercompliance@dwe.nsw.gov.au. All reports are confidential.

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