

ENVIRONMENTAL WATER IN THE LACHLAN

IN THE LACHLAN VALLEY & OTHER VALLEYS

Environmental watering in regulated rivers ensures inland wetlands have sufficient water to support plants, birds, and in-stream habitat for native fish. It's dependent on the amount of water available in the system at the time.



PLANNED ENVIRONMENTAL WATER – as provided under the **RULES** of the **WATER SHARING PLAN** - includes translucent flows and environmental contingency allowances. **In the Lachlan this is 75% of long-term average annual river flow.**



HELD ENVIRONMENTAL WATER - water access licences bought by the NSW and Commonwealth Government for additional environmental watering. **In the Lachlan this accounts for 5% of the long-term average annual river flow.**

Environmental water is managed by the **Commonwealth Environmental Water Office** and **NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)**, in line with annual and long-term plans and environmental priorities.

In 2017, the **long-term watering plan** currently being prepared by OEH will guide management of both planned and held environmental water in future.



ISSUES IN THE LACHLAN



The **MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN** requires the **WATER RESOURCE PLAN** to provide for environmental watering that is consistent with the long-term watering plan. **However, the way the environmental water is used and any changes to management to facilitate its use, can affect water availability for other water users.**



Monitoring and evaluation programs should clearly identify the ADDITIONAL environmental outcomes achieved as a result of the use of held environmental water, over and above the outcomes resulting from existing Water Sharing Plans.



TRANSLUCENT FLOWS are releases made from water storages with an aim to mimic natural flows. **New information on the impact of translucent flow rules on other users, along with the need for more information about environmental needs, must be considered in any rule changes.**

SOURCES: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/environmentalwater/lachlan
www.water.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/687062/Lachlan-WRP-Status-and-Issues-Paper.pdf



For more information go to Lachlan Valley Water
www.lvw.com.au