WATER LICENCES IN NSW

A WATER LICENCE IN NSW

is an entitlement to a SHARE of the water available in an aquifer or river, NOT a guarantee of a specific volume of water each year.



The amount of water a licence can access each year depends on the rules in the water sharing plan, the volume of inflows and whether requirements for higher priority licences have already been met.



To take water under a licence, the licence must also be **linked to** a water supply works and use approval, which authorises the use of a pump or bore, and the permitted use and location.



Local water utility, stock and domestic, and high security licences will **generally receive 100% allocation** in all but severe drought years.



Access to water for **general security (GS) licences is more** variable.



General security allocations over the last 25 years have ranged from 0% during the Millenium Drought, to 136% in 2011/12.

Annual usage by general security licences is LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN 100% of entitlement per year + transfers in – transfers out... no matter how much water is in the account. It's the tool used to keep total usage below the Water Sharing Plan Limit.

The long term average reliability for general security licences in the Lachlan is 42% (DPI Water, 2009)

