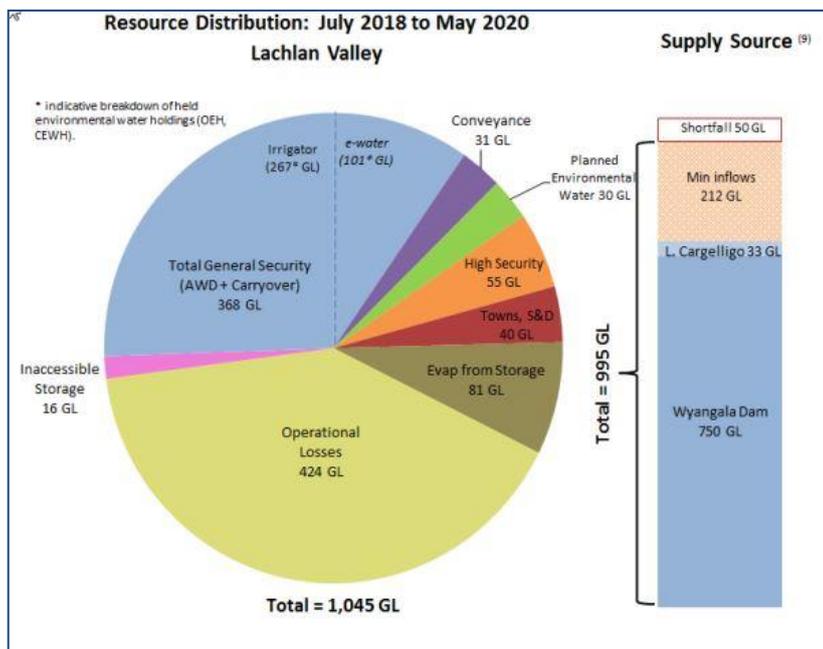




## Water Availability Update

The July [Water Availability Update](#) states that 368,000 ML has been carried over in GS accounts – of which 267,000 ML is in irrigators’ accounts and 101,000 ML is held on environmental licences. With only 20,000 ML of inflows so far this year there has been no new AWD (allocation) for general security, and at least 50,000 ML additional inflows are needed before any new general security AWD can be made.

The maintenance work at Jemalong Weir has been proceeding and WaterNSW expect to restart releases from Wyangala by 1<sup>st</sup> August as originally planned. The diagram below shows the current position for requirements over the next 2 years and water available.



## Water Infrastructure Options Study

WaterNSW has recently released a 20 Year Infrastructure Options Study, which can be read or downloaded from their website [HERE](#). It notes that the Lachlan is believed to have some of the poorest levels of water security and reliability in the state, and lists a whole range of projects that could improve water availability or water delivery efficiency.

These are all only options at this stage, and some of these concepts have been floating around for a long time. Before anything could go ahead the options need far more investigation of the engineering and other technical requirements, an understanding whether there is customer support for the project, an assessment of the cost and the benefit, and very importantly, a decision on who pays. Some of the projects listed are:

- Raise Wyangala Dam wall by 10m
- Pipeline between Carcoar and Lake Rowlands
- Raise the Lake Rowlands Dam
- New dam at Cranky Rock
- New regulating structures at entrance to Jemalong and Carawobbity Creeks
- New weir upstream of Jemalong and Carawobbity Creeks
- Pipeline from the Lachlan to Wallamundry and Wallaroi systems
- Rationalise Mid-Lachlan system
- Re-regulating storage between Brewster weir and Booligal
- Lower Lachlan pipe efficiency projects

## Drought Assistance Fund

Interest-free loans are now available through the NSW Rural Assistance Authority to help primary producers negatively affected by drought with:

- Transport of livestock, fodder, water
- Water and fodder infrastructure
- Banking of genetic material of livestock

Loans of up to 100% of the cost of the works, to a maximum of \$50,000 are available. No repayments are required for the first 2 years, then the principal is to be repaid over the next 5 years. For more information see a rural financial counsellor or visit the RAA website <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/drought-assistance-fund>

## Water Metering

The Government has now issued a Draft NSW Metering Framework (attached) which sets out the proposed minimum pump size that will require a meter, the transitional arrangements for existing meters that are accurate to within +/-5%, timeframes to install new meters, and recommended ownership arrangements. In summary the key points are:

- The Government defines a compliant meter as one that complies with Australian Standard 4747, is accurate to within +/- 5%, pattern approved, fitted with telemetry or enabling remote collection of data, installed in accordance with manufacturers’ standards and verified by a registered installer.

- The minimum pump size threshold requiring a compliant meter is 100mm for surface water and 200mm for groundwater.
- Existing meters that have been independently verified as accurate within +/-5% can be retained while they remain accurate.
- All meters must have tamper-evident seals and data loggers
- The aim is that all meters are telemetered, but the Government acknowledges there is an opportunity to utilize private networks and is consulting on how that can be done while maintaining data security
- Surface water users with 500mm or larger pumps must be compliant by December 2019.
- Remaining users in the northern inland must comply by December 2020, and in the southern inland by December 2021.

Clearly there are a number of questions that need to be clarified:

- Is the 100mm pump size is defined by the inlet or discharge size?
- What will be an acceptable verification process for existing meters? And how often will re-verification be required?
- Clarification about the telemetry requirements – how often does it need to read and report, how can existing telemetry systems securely submit data, how much history must be maintained, maximum allowable downtime.
- Is the Lachlan considered part of the northern or the southern inland?

We are following up these and other questions with the Department through NSW Irrigators Council, as are all water user organisations, and will provide more information as it becomes available.

### Website Links

Information on water management is being migrated to different websites, and links have changed as a result of departmental restructuring. The current locations are:

Water Allocation Information

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/statements>

The Water Register, which includes water trade data

<https://waterregister.watarnsw.com.au/water-register-frame>

Realtime water data

<https://realtimedata.watarnsw.com.au/water.stm>

Licensing Information

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/licensing-trade>

## LACHLAN VALLEY WATER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9.30am, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

at the CWFS Research Innovation Hub  
(ex-LIRAC Farm), Mission Rd, CONDOBOLIN

### AGENDA

#### 9.30am Opening

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2017 Meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Financial Report for year ended 30/06/18
5. Executive Officer's Report
6. Nomination of Executive Committee of LVW
7. General Business

#### 10.15am Morning tea

#### Guest speakers

##### **Andrew Parkes, Customised Farm Management**

CFM is a rural asset management firm based at Moree, and directs the management of several properties in the Lachlan. Andrew will outline CFM's overall management approach, their water management, and the opportunities and risks he sees in the Lachlan Valley.

##### **Neil Fettel, Senior Research Scientist, CWFS**

Neil will discuss the CWFS irrigation research priorities and current projects.

##### **Mark McKenzie, CEO, NSW Irrigators Council**

Mark will cover state level issues including metering and Water Resource Plans

#### 12.15pm Close of AGM and BBQ lunch

The LVW AGM is being held in conjunction with an Open Day for the opening of the new CWFS research facility, which will commence immediately following lunch.

#### 1pm – 3pm CWFS OPEN DAY

Speakers from CWFS, GRDC and Lachlan Shire Council. This will be followed by a field walk and inspection of current research trials.

For catering purposes please RSVP to 6851 2538, 0427 512 538, or by email to [mary.ewing@lvw.com.au](mailto:mary.ewing@lvw.com.au)

**ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

If you have any questions about information in the newsletter please give us a call.

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