



Lachlan Valley Water e-News

PO Box 819, Forbes 2871

December 2023

Evaporation Rule Win

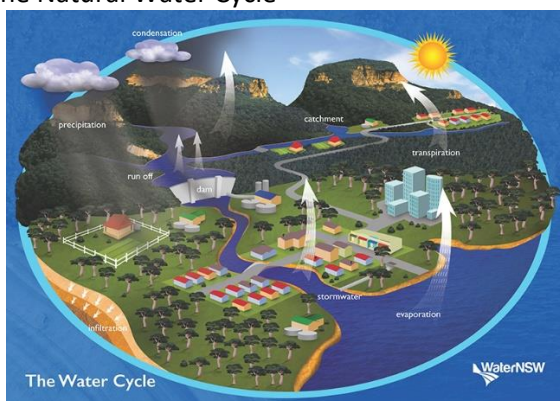
Lachlan Valley Water met with DPE on 15 Dec 23 regarding the Evaporation Rule and its application. In summary, the rule agreed to during the 2018 SAP (what we were asking for) will be applied going forward, with water debited in September under the “current” rule being re-credited, and the 2018 rule retrospectively applied to quarter one, and then from quarter 2 onward – evaporation will be published quarterly. An evaporation transaction note will appear on the statement at the date of deduction showing the volume of reduction, and a total “year to date” will be displayed in the Allocations Totals Summary, below the transaction report. A dedicated webpage and factsheet will be made available early in the new year.

It’s important to note that evaporation still doesn’t apply to High Security Spill accounts.

This represents a significant “win” for Lachlan Valley Water and our members and is a great example of what Lachlan Valley Water does for water users in the catchment. Please mention this when talking to any non-members, to highlight the importance of belonging to LVW so as to continue to fund the important advocacy work that we do. It took a number of meetings, letters, phone calls, a media release (and resulting publicity), and some effort by all involved to get us to this point. Special thanks and acknowledgment to Tom Green, Nick Turner, and Ed Fagen for all their work in driving this result.

To see WaterNSW’s media release regarding our meeting and the rule change, please [Click Here](#).

[Click Here](#) or on the image below for more information on the Natural Water Cycle



River Operations

Wyangala Dam – 92.5%, with inflows of 2.53GL and release of 0.8GL.

A type of environmental water, called Water Quality Allowance or WQA, is now being used to increase base flow in Lachlan River below Willandra Weir. As the name would imply, the aim is to reduce the risk of acute water quality issues emerging over summer.

An additional 100 ML/day is being added to other types of water in the river, targeting flows >150 ML/day at Booligal gauge through January. The delivery period Lachlan River @ Willandra Weir is 20/12/2023 to 18/1/2024. The delivery period at Booligal is 1/1/2024 to 31/1/2024 (given that travel time is 13 days). The WQA will be reviewed on 15 Jan 24 and may be extended if required.

Lake Brewster – 69.7%

Lake Brewster is still ‘off-line’ for Australian pelican management so a mix of water is being used from upstream of Brewster Weir – but expecting normal operations to resume at Lake Brewster 1 January 2024 (pending water quality within the storage system itself at the time although no major issues at the moment). Water has continually been circulated through Lake Brewster storage system to avoid stagnant water and mitigate risk of algal blooms etc.

Lake Cargelligo – 67.0%.

Construction areas closed from 22 Dec 23 and will reopen Monday 8 Jan 24. Water levels will be kept at no more than 70%.

Carcoar Dam – 98.9%, inflows of 0.03GL. A Supplementary Flow began on Tuesday 26 Dec 23, and will finish at 9am Tuesday 2 Jan 24.

WaterNSW Operating Licence Review.

IPART have released their discussion paper for the WaterNSW Operating Licence Review 2023/24. To view the discussion paper and the link to make a submission, please [Click Here](#). Lachlan Valley Water will be making a submission on behalf of our members; however all members are welcome and encouraged to make a submission of their own. Submissions are due by Friday 8 Mar 24.

This report sets out draft recommendations for how WaterNSW’s operating licence should change to better

meet its objectives for the next 5 years. IPART seeks to ensure that the licence remains current and reflects changes in public expectations, best practice and WaterNSW's circumstances. This report also sets out draft recommendations for how the operating licence should change to better meet its objectives and resolve issues that have arisen during the term of the current licence that may impact its effectiveness.



IPART will be holding an online Public Hearing regarding WaterNSW Operating Licence on 24 Feb 24. To register your interest in attending [Click Here](#).

WaterNSW Pricing Proposal

As part of their pricing policy engagement WaterNSW has released their "Phase 1 Customer and Community Insights Report" as a result of consultation by SEC Newgate. It's a pretty wordy document (some 120 pages long) with a lot of transparency around how the engagement has conducted and breaking down the results. In essence, I'm comfortable that all of our concerns/questions have been included, however we need to try and ensure that they are not lost or deprioritised as a result of the rest of the "noise" contained in the document. If anyone would like a short summary emailed to them, please let me know. To view the report in its entirety, please [Click Here](#).

The report considers general statewide feedback and engagement as well as that at valley level. If nothing else it highlights the need to get involved with CAGs and Working Groups to ensure we have sufficient representation during these engagements. While WAL holders represent some 85% of WaterNSW's customers on state basis, industry is significantly unrepresented (by way of numbers) in the working groups. The next round of working groups will start in Feb 24; if you'd like to come along please let me know and I'll ensure you receive an invite.

NRAR Progress Report 2022/23

NRAR have released their 2022/23 Progress Report. To view the report, please [Click Here](#). There's not a lot to be said about the report, other than it reads more like a

promotional document for the organisation. There are some statistics about the Lachlan on page 48, however they have little meaning without detailed commentary.

80/20 Pricing Survey

We are still collecting data regarding our pricing survey to gauge interest in switching a pricing model from the current 60% of costs fixed/upfront, and 40% usage/variable to an 80% fixed, and 20% usage – the original email was sent out on Tuesday the 24th of October. If you'd like the email containing the background information again, please let me know by emailing me at eo@lvw.com.au. The survey remains open until Feb 24 - you can access the survey by [Clicking Here](#).

Farewell Dinner and Presentation

Members of LVW Executive Committee and invited guests held an informal farewell dinner for Mary Ewing and Nina Hodder before Christmas at the Forbes Golf Club. During the dinner Tom Green, Chairman Lachlan Valley Water, presented Mary with artwork by Forbes artist Sampa Bhakta in appreciation of Mary's significant contribution to Lachlan Valley Water and the broader water industry. Tom also acknowledged the work and contribution of former Treasurer John Bruce, who is stepping down from the committee.



Tom Green presenting Mary Ewing artwork in appreciation for her contribution to Lachlan Valley Water

If you have anything you'd like included in future newsletters please don't hesitate to contact me. I wish you all a safe and prosperous 2024!

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