



River Operations Update as at 31 Jan 25

Wyangala Dam was around 87.3% (or 1063GL) releasing 2500 ML daily.

Lake Brewster was around 49.2% (or 71.5GL) and remains offline. The environment has water set aside for contingency water quality refuge/recovery flows but it hasn't been required at this stage. There is no environmental watering action in the system other than the Water Quality Allowance (WQA) additional 100 ML/day on average to Booligal (on top of EOS 50 ML/day) + additional conveyance of not using Lake Brewster.

Red Alerts for Blue-Green Algae are in place for Lake Brewster Regulator C and the Outlet Channel.

Lake Cargelligo was around 67.1% (or 20GL). Red Alerts for Blue-Green Algae are in place for Lake Cargelligo Town Water supply, Boatshed, and outlet at Lake Creek.

Proposed Prescribed Wetlands

The draft Water Sharing Plan for the Lachlan Unregulated River included the "identification" of some 291 proposed new wetlands in the Lachlan catchment. Feedback and submissions on the proposed wetlands closed on the 2nd February 2025.



This farcical proposal caused significant angst for land holders across the state, as the other valleys had similar numbers of proposed wetlands in their draft water sharing plans as well. Gazetting of the proposed wetlands would have resulted in a number of limitations on the use of gazetted land and water transfers associated with that land.

LVW provided briefs to both Roy Butler MP (member for Barwon) and the Hon Steph Cooke MP, member for Cootamundra and also the NSW Shadow Water Minister. Additionally I visited Lake Cargelligo and Hillston to meet with local landholders to assist them in identifying proposed wetlands of their properties and completing a form to include in our submission. Some 25 forms were completed, and were emailed in along with our submission which you can [View Here](#).

IPART Issues Paper & WaterNSW Pricing Proposal

IPART has published 241 submissions it received to its 2024 Issues Paper consultation on rural water price increases proposed by WaterNSW, DCCEEW-Water and NRAR. Proposed price hikes vary from valley to valley, ranging from doubling right up to 245% and more by 2030.

In an online meeting last week, IPART noted that the increased volume of submissions demonstrated the high level of concern and lack of support for the proposed price increases.

During the meeting, concerns were raised about how steady-state businesses such as WaterNSW and the Department requiring such large increase in revenue. It was emphasised that agencies overcomplicate water management and are committed to more projects than they can resource, meaning they neglect core business such as water sharing plans.

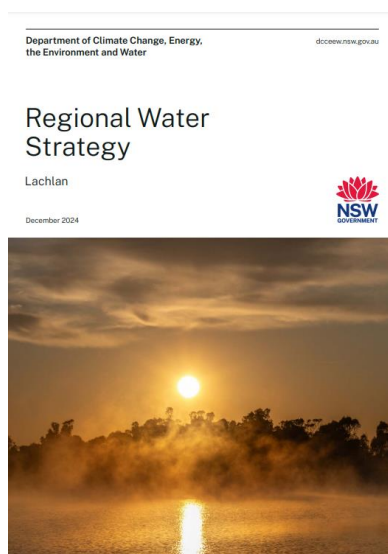
Attendees reiterated several issues for IPART to consider, including illogically high consent transaction costs, WaterNSW and Departmental process inefficiencies, poor service levels on unregulated systems, unsustainable cost-share arrangements, incapacity to pay and affordability, ineffective working groups with invalid outcomes, and metering reform shortfalls.

IPART could not commit to when it will release its Draft Determination for further stakeholder consultation, other than it will not be in early March. The final determination may also be delayed.

To view the IPART submissions page, [Click Here](#).
To view our submission, [Click Here](#)

Lachlan Regional Water Strategy

The Lachlan Regional Water strategy was discreetly released by DCCEE NSW on the Friday before Christmas. The document was very disappointing and provided no tangible projects or strategies that would result in more water security, better resilience, or mitigation of damage from extreme weather events for the region. Instead, the document was filled with the need for further studies, modelling, understanding of....etc etc... It was essentially a report that said more reports need to be done, which is concerning given that its supposed to be a strategy to for the regional for the next 20 years. To see more on the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy, [Click Here](#).



We again briefed Roy Butler and Steph Cooke, and will follow up shortly with a letter to the NSW Water Minister expressing our dissatisfaction with the strategy and requesting to have it re-done. I'm not sure how successful we'll be given the focus on the election, however, should we get a change of government we might have more luck.

We also put out a media release early this year in response to the strategy, which was picked up by local media. To see our media release [Click Here](#).

Do You Have an Approval Expiring Soon?

Did you know that a water supply work, water use, combined or flood work approval is valid for several years, depending on the specific type of approval? WaterNSW monitors the expiry date and notifies the holder 60 day before the approval is due to expire. The letter notifying you to apply to extend an approval includes a personal application number for you to use our [Water Applications Online](#) service to apply and pay online.



If your approval expires, you no longer have authorisation for the work(s) or to use water for the specified purpose it was granted. It is an offence to construct and use a work at a specified location without an up-to-date approval, and penalties apply under the *Water Management Act 2000*.

You can view specific information about your approval, including the expiry date, on the [NSW Water Register](#) or read the extend your approval

[frequently asked questions fact sheet](#) for more information

Carryover Evaporation Reduction

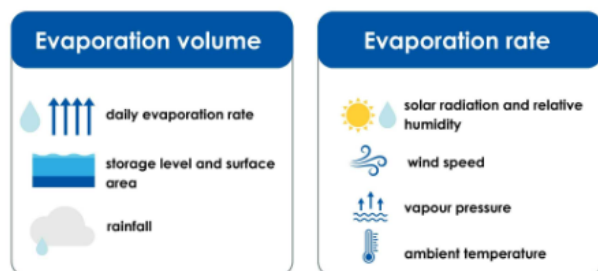
WaterNSW has advised water users in the Lachlan River that the Lachlan Water Sharing Plan (WSP) was amended to update the rules regarding evaporation reduction on October 4, 2024.

According to the new rules (WSP Clause 45.2), WaterNSW estimated the evaporation reduction percentage for quarter 2. The reduction however, will be applied at the end of the water year. To see how WaterNSW calculates and assigns the evaporative losses caused by carryover in Wyangala Dam, [Click Here](#).

For the quarter ending December 2024, the estimated carryover evaporation reduction is 1.11%.

WaterNSW provide the latest operational information and announcements on their [WaterNSW Water Insights portals](#).

What factors determine the evaporation volume and potential evaporation rate?



Telstra 3G Helpline Launched

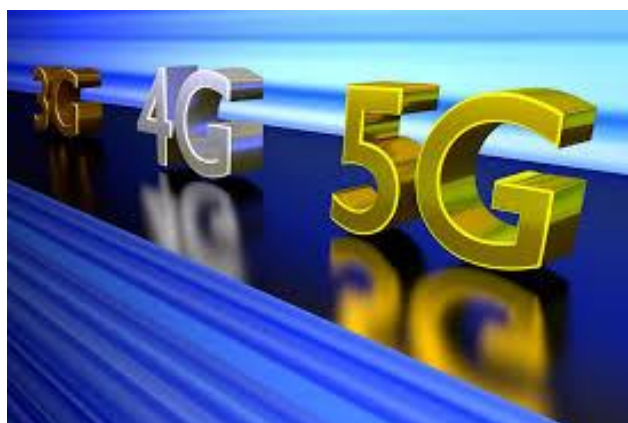
Telstra has launched a [3G Helpline](#) to provide 1:1 support for customers.

Key information:

- Customers can call 1800 990 853 between 8am - 7pm Mon to Fri AEDT.

- The helpline is staffed by a team of agents with deep knowledge on the transition to help troubleshoot why mobile experience may have changed.
- Different device types and the diversity of Australia's landscape mean that each customer's experience is unique, which is why they want to work directly with each customer to help troubleshoot.

[Telstra.com/3Gclosure](#) remains Telstra's main hub which provides customer guidance to self-serve basic troubleshooting strategies.



Water Resources and Links

[Water Allocations Dashboard](#)
[Lachlan Allocations](#)
[Lachlan Water Trades](#)
[WaterInsights – Lachlan Storages](#)
[Lachlan Region Water Sharing Plans](#)
[Lachlan River Catchment Map](#)

What else would be useful to include in this section?
Please send me your suggestions!

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