



Bushfire Preparedness

Late last year industry representatives met with DCCEEW to discuss how to give landholders easy and fair access to water for bushfire preparedness and firefighting. This week, a Proposed Approach Paper was released by DCCEEW, with consultation open until 6 May 2024.

The proposed approach is to create a licence exemption that would provide landholders with quick and easy access to water for bushfire preparedness and firefighting, with a subsequent review phase to consider whether this form of access should transition to a basic landholder right.



The exemption has defined permitted and non-permitted purposes, and conditions for the taking and using of water, such as conditions for water supply work approvals, and the volume of water that can be taken from a water source to be stored in a dam or tank for later use. However, there are no metering and monitoring requirements for landholders.

Read the Proposed Approach Paper by [Clicking Here](#)

Share your feedback by:

Completing the survey on DCCEEW [website here](#).
Send comments or organise a call with a project team member by emailing:
water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Please include 'Water for firefighting' in the email subject line. Submissions close on Monday 6 May 2024 at 11.59pm (AEST)

River Operations

Wyangala Dam – 92.4% with inflows of 0.24GL and release of 1.124GL. Given the predicted weather this weekend, there is a 50% chance for up to 50 mm upstream of Wyangala Dam catchment, and a 20% chance of up to 100 mm. Some forecasts assume high initial and continuous losses, and under that scenario, it's unlikely that airspace capacity at Wyangala will be exceeded. Forecast is the weather will also move into the Belubula and Mandangery, so below Wyangala tribs will most likely be impacted as well. Even if there is no initial or major release from Wyangala, the downstream tribs could contribute some flow through the system.

Lake Brewster – 60.5% this week and maximum storage capacity for dam safety is 79.5%. Lake Brewster is still offline being monitored weekly where possible for water quality parameters. Please note if you see higher readings at the Mountain Creek Bensons Drop gauge, its because it is back water affected by the Autumn Fresh environmental flow passing at higher discharge rates. The gauge isn't that far from the confluence with Lachlan River and the level gauge mistakenly gets converted to discharge that is not a reflection of flow from Brewster, which has remained effectively shut.

Lake Cargelligo – 57.0% bearing in mind, for dam safety reasons, Lake Cargelligo is still capped at that 75% capacity. Since the environment's Autumn fresh passed Lake Cargelligo, there has been some operational surplus going in at higher rates of 1000 ML/day.

The environments Autumn Fresh Flow is expected to finish at Lachlan River upstream of Willandra Weir around 6 April, and drop from today (5th) by about 20% per day recession to baseflow of 200 ML/day.

Carcoar Dam – 98.2%, inflows of 0.02GL.

New National Water Agreement

Federal Water Minister Tanya Plibersek has released a discussion paper seeking views on a future National Water Agreement, to replace the 2004 National Water Initiative. This is not just about reforms in the Murray-Darling Basin but right across Australia including our coastal valleys.

The paper was only released on 28 March, the eve of the Easter break, but a quick read raises many red flags, particularly the absence of any language that in any way values the use of water for growing food and fibre, and its importance for sustaining regional communities inland and in coastal valleys.

The objectives perpetuate the heavy, top-down approach of water reform over the last 20 years under the auspices of the 2004 National Water Initiative. It reads very much like remote, urban-based agencies will make the decisions based on the science and analysis they commission, and only engage with affected communities to the extent necessary to share the information and explain why those decisions were made. For more information or to provide feedback, [Click Here](#).

LVW Stakeholder Survey

Lachlan Valley Water Inc is in the process of reviewing our strategic plan and are seeking your input. Please find below a link to a short 10-question survey, the responses to which will help guide discussion during our strategy planning sessions.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LFW6MQ7>

Survey responses are completely anonymous, and we value honest feedback. The survey is open to LVW members, stakeholder groups and individuals that we work with on a regular basis, and other interested parties. For stakeholder group participants, please note that because of the anonymous nature of the survey no responses can be tied back to any specific individual or organisation, nor will any responses be attributed to as such. The information will be used purely to guide discussions in strategy planning and seeking ways we can improve our services. Completion of the survey is of course voluntary.

The survey will close on 19 Apr 24.

NRAR Online Regulation Course - Free

NRAR in partnership with TAFE NSW have created an online course aimed at improving water users understanding of NSW water rules and regulations. The course is free and has 3 mandatory modules and 5

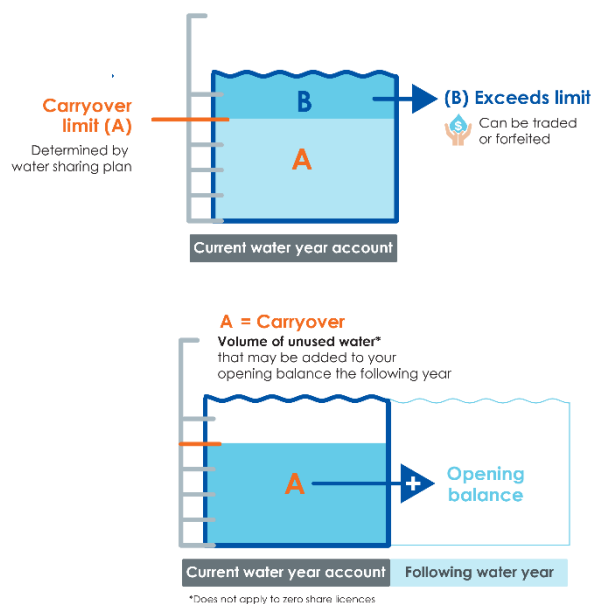
selective modules. For more information and to enroll in the course, [Click Here](#).

What is Carryover?

Carryover is the volume of unused water remaining in your account at the end of the water year that, depending on the rules of your water sharing plan (WSP), may be carried forward to your opening balance the following water year.

If your volume is above the limit of water that you can carryover, this volume can either be traded or used.

Please note that the closing date for water allocation trading for the Lachlan region is 11:59pm on 30 June 2024. Read about your WSP to ensure you understand the rules that apply to your water access licence by [Clicking Here](#).



If you have any suggestions for inclusion in future newsletters, please send them to me.

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