



River Operations Update

Most of you would have experienced some rain which was fairly widespread across Lachlan catchment last week, with about 12mm recorded at my place just below Wyangala Dam.

Corrong and 4 Mile gauges both did a little 'jump up' so looks like an event that way of 20 to 40 mm, although 10 to 20 mm was the most common across catchment.

Don't expect much of a response from the rain that will change any operations etc but did note that inflow into Wyangala increased to around 900 ML/day from 450 ML/day last Wednesday but bearing in mind that 1% storage capacity in Wyangala Dam very roughly equates to 12,000 ML so unlikely this will have any notable impact on Wyangala Dam capacity.

Wyangala Dam is around 95.9% with inflows of 520ML and releases of 600ML daily.

Lake Cargelligo is at 85.2% and **Lake Brewster** at 67.4%.

Muggubah and Merrimajeel combined are still at around 460 ML/day and although scheduled to be closed at the offtake, as access has been an issue.

The latest forecast is Booligal will start to drop below 1000 ML/day sometime around 2 October. Once it drops below 800 ML/day then largely within channel and the connection with the Lachlan Swamps flood-runners will cease (they run at between 800 and 1500 ML/day pending location).

Given the environmental flow floor of 400 ML/day at Hillston, Booligal unlikely to drop back to the minimum end of system flow requirement for visible flow at Geramy, which averages around 50ML/day in summer while the environmental flow is in place. But again, can't be exact on what

400 ML/day at Hillston equates to Booligal with system 'losses' or floodplain return. But likely to be higher than the 50 to 70 ML/day summer average minimum EOS.

Very speculative and there is no 'correct answer' – but while BOM still has La Nina watch for October-November, the standard line is that under those conditions a La Nina event has 50% probability of occurring and thus 50% of not occurring. Of the 12 models, less than half predict La Nina type conditions (it changes but the latest is 3-4 of the 12) and thus more likely to be a weak event. There is even talk of an El Nino developing next year after a hot and dry summer – not great news after crop damaging frosts during spring. But that's farming right? Either too much rain or not enough!

LVW AGM Well Attended

Over 40 people attended this year's LVW AGM held in Cowra at the Services Club. We had some great guest speakers including Shadow Water Minister Steph Cooke, Chair of the NSW Irrigators Council Jim Cush, Executive Officer of Macquarie Food and Fibre Michael Drum, WaterNSW representatives, and Jo Lenehan from DCCEEW (NSW). If anyone would like a copy of the presentations please let me know.



Jo Lenehan from DCCEEW (NSW) presenting on environmental considerations for the Lachlan at LVW's AGM.

The Executive Committee were all renominated and voted in, so no changes there. The day was capped off by a site visit to Wyangala Dam where we got to “peek behind the curtain” and get an informative insight into dam operations. Thanks to WaterNSW and the Dam Operations staff for organizing and hosting!

Non-Urban Metering Update

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) has completed its review of the non-urban metering rules and will be making amendments to the regulation in early 2025. Please visit the [NSW DCCEEW website](#) to read the report. Until the regulation is amended in early 2025, the current non-urban metering rules remain in place.



Water for Bushfire Preparedness

DCCEEW-NSW has released its 'What We Heard' report on *Water for bushfire preparedness and firefighting (BPF)*. Read the report here: [What we heard report \(nsw.gov.au\)](#). In summary:

- The most supported option is to create a licence exemption providing landholders access to water for BPF, with a review phase to consider whether to transition to a BLR.
- 'Bushfire preparedness' should not be defined too tightly, but there is need to define what is an 'imminent bushfire'.
- 1 ML volumetric limit was generally supported; some questioned the need for any restrictions/conditions.
- Concerns were raised about any mandatory reporting being a burden on landholders.
- Allowing water to be used on neighbouring landholdings threatened by active or imminent fire needs further consideration.

DCCEEW will now develop and submit recommendations on a proposed approach to the Water Minister.

Do you use WaterNSW WaterInsights?!?

[WaterInsights](#) is an interactive web tool provided by WaterNSW that covers more than 800 water sources, giving water users and communities access to water information; like water allocations and usage, forecast rainfall and groundwater levels from approximately 5,000 monitoring bore sites across the state.

National Agriculture Day – 15 Nov 24

All Australians enjoy the world class food and fibre grown right here in Australia. But some Australians know very little about the farmers and workers who put food on their tables.



National Agriculture Day is your chance to celebrate and learn about Australia's incredible farm sector. Held on the third Friday of November each year, it's one day to celebrate an industry that's part of our lives every single day. To learn more about National Agriculture Day and how you can participate [Click Here](#)

From NSWIC

NSW Irrigators' Council (NSWIC) has urged the NSW Government not to sign the Federal Government's draft National Water Agreement (NWA) until key issues are resolved and the agreement is amended and streamlined.

The 302 proposed principles of the draft National Water Agreement (NWA) weaken secure, sustainable and productive water use while opening the door for Commonwealth overreach to limit States' Constitutional rights to manage their own water.

Unlike the 2024 National Water Initiative, which

was 10 years in the making and had had broad stakeholder support, the Commonwealth is trying to rush through the NWA in a matter of months, leaving water users and state governments with insufficient time to fully assess the proposed changes and their potential impact on consumptive water users and regional communities.



NSWIC has written to the NSW Premier and Water Minister and engaged with MPs in the NSW Parliament to bring attention to our serious concerns. We have made it clear that the consultation process has been insufficient, and we believe the NSW Government should not sign the agreement in its current form.

The Minister has so far indicated NSW would consult with State stakeholders thoroughly next year on action plans to implement the NWA, but this will be too late to address the pressing concerns if NSW has already signed up to the NWA with few questions asked.

NSWIC has called on the NSW Government to take the following steps before committing to the NWA:

- Undertake a State regulatory impact statement to evaluate the legislative implications.
- Undertake a financial impact analysis to evaluate the implementation costs to NSW.
- Consult thoroughly with all NSW stakeholders.
- Require amendments to resolve issues raised.

For more information:

- NSWIC's full submission [[HERE](#)]
- NSWIC's media release [[HERE](#)]
- NSWIC's letter to the Minister [[HERE](#)]

- Minister's QWN Hansard [[HERE](#)]

Membership Renewals

Very soon you'll be receiving membership renewals, along with a link to update your membership details online. As part of our digital overhaul, we're updating our database, and this form is our best opportunity to make sure we have the right info. Even if you're not a member, please take the time to complete the information. It's going to be a lengthy process for us, but one that will reap us benefits going forward. Why do we ask you complete the form if you're not a member? We try and track Water Access Licence (WAL) sales to ratify catchment entitlements and use the data for when we lobby. The more information we have, the better armed we are to lobby on your behalf. We'll reach out to you over the next few months if we need additional information.

Next Lachlan CAG

The next Lachlan Customer Advisory Group (CAG) with WaterNSW is set to take place in mid-October. This is where we meet with WaterNSW and Department staff and get an update on what's happening in our valley and discuss any issues or concerns we have. If there is something you'd liked raised, please email me at eo@lvw.com.au

Water Resources and Links (New section!)

- [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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