

MEDIA RELEASE

Phil Costa
Minister for Water
Minister for Corrective Services



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LACHLAN RIVER TO RECEIVE FLOWS

NSW Minister for Water Phillip Costa today announced more than 20,000 megalitres of water is being released to towns downstream of Wyangala Dam after recent Christmas rainfall.

Minister Costa said flows from Wyangala Dam had commenced today in the Lachlan Valley to ensure water supply for towns downstream until winter.

“The Lachlan is the driest part of NSW, and any rain goes a long way for farmer’s families doing it tough in the drought,” said Mr Costa.

“This release will renew the flow of the Lachlan River which has run dry in the lower parts in recent months.

“This release of water will provide an opportunity for landholders in the lower Lachlan, who have not had access to river water for some months, to fill stock and house tanks which should last until winter.

“Recent rainfall also saw the dam increase 2 per cent to 6.3 per cent of capacity.”

Mr Costa said that approximately 23,000 megalitres of water will be released from Wyangala Dam at a rate of 600 megalitres per day over a one month period.

“This water will be sufficient to reach the mid Lachlan effluent creeks which had started to flow from runoff in late December, said Mr Costa.

“The additional water is expected to replenish weir pools the length of the river to Lake Brewster Weir by mid February.

“With the additional inflow, water from Lake Brewster Weir can be released at a rate sufficient to deliver water to the Corong and Oxley area by early March.

“The NSW Government is working closely with local councils and water supply authorities to prevent towns in the Lachlan Valley from running dry.

“In November last year the NSW Government delivered a package of relief measures to help local communities and water users – including extending the 50 per cent transport subsidy for domestic water transport.

“Premier Keneally announced that fixed water charges for general security licenses would be waived for licenses holders in the area.”

The Lachlan Assistance Package also includes:

- **Government assistance totaling \$2.1 million** for emergency bores across the

catchment including Forbes, Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo, Ivanhoe, Euabalong, Euabalong West, Booligal and Oxley. Cowra's water supply will receive powdered activated carbon treatment.

- **\$250,000** to extend the 50 per cent transport subsidy for domestic water transport to all rural landowners along the Lachlan below Condobolin

"Work is currently underway on emergency bores across the catchment including Forbes, Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo, Ivanhoe, Euabalong, Euabalong West, Booligal and Oxley. Cowra's water supply will receive powdered activated carbon treatment," Mr Costa said.

The critical water planning measures are monitored continuously and will be reviewed in the event of substantial rainfall or inflows. More information on the critical water planning is available on the NSW Office of Water website www.water.nsw.gov.au.

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