Lachlan – Drought Operations

Cease to flow continues in regulated Willandra Creek

6 July 2020

Due to the continued drought conditions in the Lachlan catchment, water delivery operations in the regulated Willandra Creek will continue to be ceased.

Despite some good rainfall which provided much needed inflows into the Wyangala dam over the last few months, the impacts of severe drought continue to be felt. The resources will continue to be managed to build reserves to ensure the delivery of critical water needs through to 2020-21 water year.

Flows at the creek offtake from the Lachlan River ceased from 1 December 2019 as one of the drought contingency measures to conserve water. It was intended to assess the drought conditions at the end of June 2020 and if feasible recommence the regulated flows in the creek.

Currently Wyangala Dam is at 16.7%, Lake Cargelligo at 85% and lake Brewster at 21%. The latest assessment indicates that under severe drought conditions (zero inflows) the resources in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and lake Brewster will be adequate to maintain critical water needs to end of November 2021. WaterNSW will continue to assess the drought conditions.

Wyangala Dam and the downstream tributary catchments are reasonably saturated with the rain over the last few months. The BOM’s outlook indicates above average rainfall for late winter/early spring. Any surplus flows from the tributaries downstream of the dam may assist to restore and maintain regulated flows in the Willandra Creek.

WaterNSW consults with the customer advisory group (CAG) and River Operations Stakeholder Consultation Committee (ROSCCo) to identify water savings measures. These saving will increase the security of water supply for the following year 2020/21.

Andrew Stalley represents the interests of Willandra Creek on these committees and WaterNSW has been liaising with the Willandra Creek Water Users Association on water system operations in the Willandra Creek.

Information on water availability can be viewed at:


ROSCCo related information at: https://www.waternsw.com.au/supply/regional-nsw/roscco

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