

What will happen with the Lachlan River?

Due to the ongoing drought, if there are no significant inflows to Wyangala Dam before the end of October, flows may be restricted downstream of Condobolin with irregular flows of water to refill Lake Cargelligo Weir pool.

Why is stopping the river being considered?

Stopping the river is a strategy that has been recommended by the Lachlan Critical Water Advisory Group as part of a broader drought management strategy to ensure water is available for critical human needs as required by NSW Government guidelines. As inflows increase, the first priority will be to extend the running of the river to its full length for the full year.

Can I dig a hole in the riverbed to access water?

At the community meetings residents asked if they would be able to dig a hole in the riverbed to access water. In past situations where people have struggled to access water due to drought they have been able to apply to dig a hole in the riverbed to access water. The NSW Office of Water is taking applications to access water via this method.

How do I apply to dig a hole in the river?

You can send an application to the NSW Office of Water. It is to be noted however that certain conditions will be applied to these requests and people **MUST NOT** dig a hole in the river without an application.

Applications must include:

Your name, address, phone and/or email and/or fax, property details (name, address, lot & DP), along with a brief outline of what you want to do (eg. dig a hole 3m by 3m by 1m to access water in Lachlan River).

Applications should be forwarded to:

Tim Smith, Licensing Officer (Controlled Activities), NSW Office of Water, PO Box 189, Queanbeyan, NSW, 2620. Phone (02) 6229 7307, fax (02) 6229 7301 or email tim.smith@dnr.nsw.gov.au.

Can I place a temporary structure across the river to hold back water?

No. This is specifically against the legislation (Water Management Act 2000) and would lead to neighbours illegally withholding water from each other.

Who can I contact for more information?

State Water, phone (02) 6841 2000 or alternatively visit the news section of the NSW Office of Water website www.dwe.nsw.gov.au.