

8 September 2023

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders this time. The total allocation to general security licenses is 691 gigalitres (GL) or 117% of entitlement.

This resource assessment is based on information as of 31 August 2023. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the next allocation statement.

Current allocation

8 September 2023	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	117%

Key information

- Water users are reminded that quarterly evaporation reductions will apply to water allocations carried over into this water year, in accordance with Clause 45 (1) of the water sharing plan. The first quarterly reduction can be expected around 30 September.
- For simplicity, the annual evaporation reduction, based on the total carryover volume, will be debited in four equal instalments at the end of each quarter.
- The total carryover volume on 1 July 2023 was 714 GL.
- For this water year the quarterly reduction will be less than 1% of the carryover volume in each account. It will be applied to the Hold sub-account first, but if there is insufficient balance, then to the Take sub-account. The reduction cannot draw accounts negative.
- A detailed information sheet on the annual evaporation reduction is being prepared.
- There will be no further account reset before 5 November 2023, six months after the last reset, regardless of the system again filling/spilling. In case of an account reset, the remaining evaporation reduction will be discontinued.
- The annual take limit is 100% of entitlement for general security licence holders.

Storage levels (as of 7 September 2023)

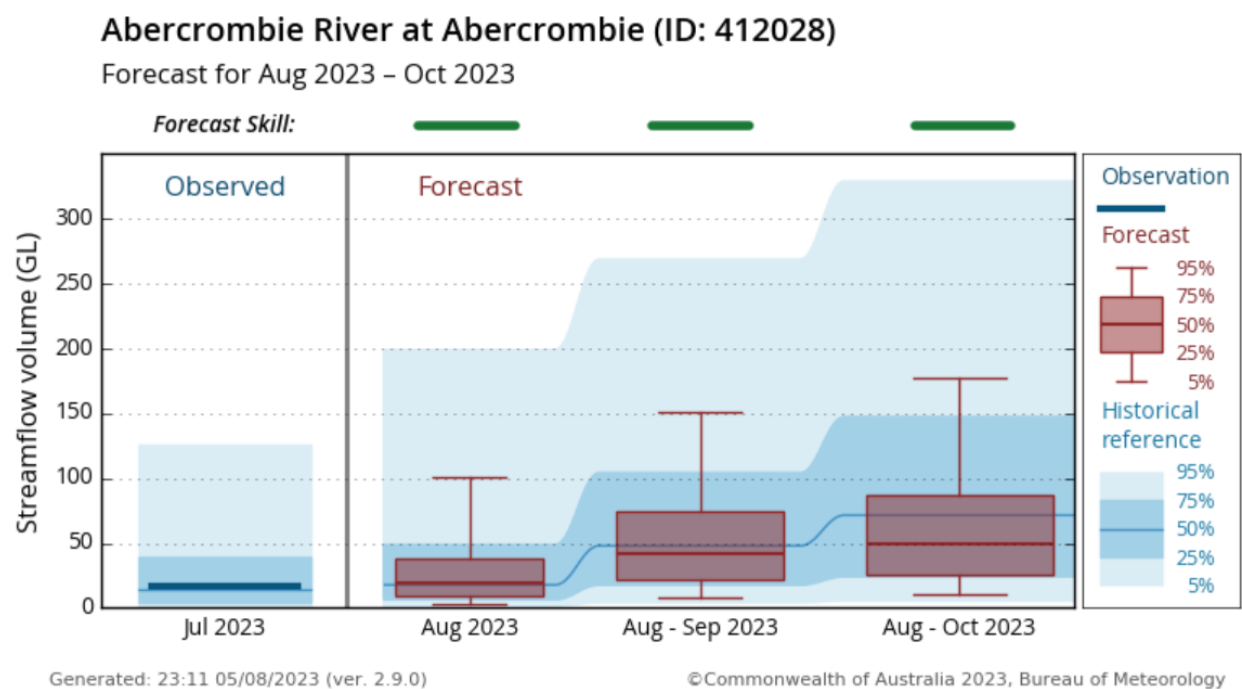
- Wyangala Dam is about 99.7% full - holding around 1,214 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 51.4% full - holding around 22 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 76.9% full - holding about 119 GL.

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for October to December indicates that rainfall will likely be below median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than median over the next three months for the catchment.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau of Meteorology also issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Abercrombie River that drains into Wyangala Dam (see the figure below). This provides a forecast of potential storage inflows. Most of the forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from August to October are lower than the historical flows. The graph to October 2023 is shown below, and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028



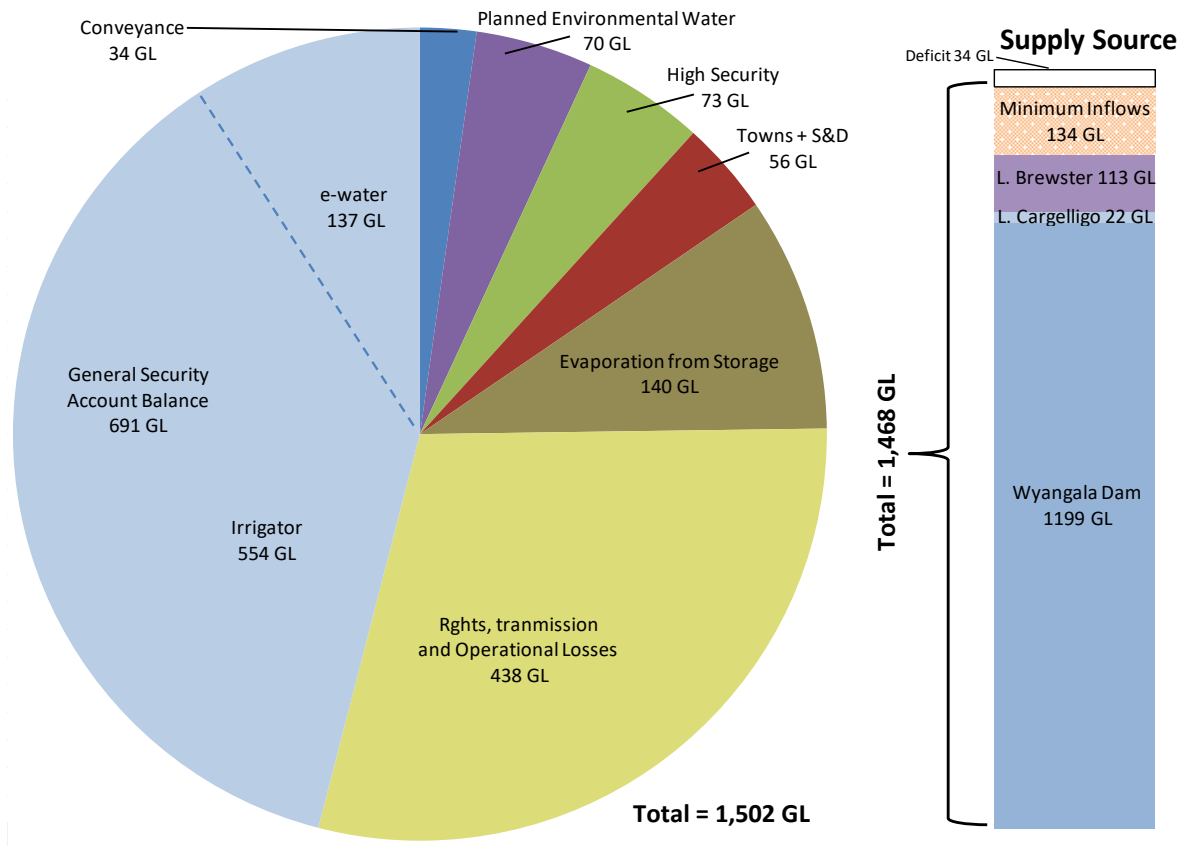
Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (September 2023 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,468
<i>less</i>	
This water year (09/23 to 06/24)	
Planned Environmental Water balance ⁽²⁾	40
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	28
High Security balance	45
Conveyance balance	16
General Security balance ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	691
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	104
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁶⁾	205
Storage reserve for 2024/25	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	30
Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁷⁾	56
Conveyance	18
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	36
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁶⁾	233
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	(34)

Notes:

- (1) End of August 2023 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from September 2023 to May 2025 and flows in transit if any. Also, this is net of 16 GL of inaccessible (dead) volume.
- (2) Water reserved for the Water Quality Allowance (WQA) and the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA).
- (3) Volume in general security accounts including water carried over from last water year.
- (4) The held environmental water (HEW) is estimated to be about 137 GL of GS entitlements, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Environment and Heritage Group (EHG) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) Evaporation loss from three storages is based on projected storage depletions.
- (6) The volume required to run the river to meet all non-licence-based demands and delivery overheads. This mostly comprises of basic landholder rights, transmission and operational losses under dry conditions.
- (7) Required volume to allow full utilisation of 100% allocation to these licence holders.
- (8) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small deficit which may be recovered from underuse of allocated water over the horizon plus recession of inflows from the mid-August event. All commitments are deliverable, and the system is secure for 2024/25

Resource Distribution as at 31 August 2023 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Allocations in 2023/24 for the Lachlan regulated river water source

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Average Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
10-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	120%
8-Aug	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	120%
8-Sep	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	117%

*Maximum allowable

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water published a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Lachlan regulated river water source is available at: water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Tuesday 10 October 2023**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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