

10 January 2025

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is **no increase** in allocation to **general security (GS) licenses** in the Lachlan regulated river water source. The general security account balance is 553 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 93% of entitlement.

Inflows since the last assessment have not been enough to wipe out last month's deficit and increase allocations. However, the improvements help eliminate about half of the previously reported deficit from 114 GL to 57 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 December 2024. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

10 January 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	93%

Key information

- A total of 2.6 GL EWA and 0.8 GL WQA water was delivered last month.
- The reduced maximum safe level of Lake Brewster (deemed full) remains at 79.5% of the full supply capacity while current repair work at Lake Brewster Weir is still ongoing. For more information, [click here](#).
- The Lake Cargelligo Embankment Project is under review. For the project update, [click here](#).
- On October 4, 2024, the Lachlan Water Sharing Plan (WSP) was amended to update the rules regarding evaporation reduction. According to the new rules (WSP Clause 45.2), the operator is now allowed to calculate evaporation reduction quarterly but is only required to apply the reduction at the end of the water year. Accordingly, no reduction has been applied at this assessment.

Storage volume (as of 10 January 2025)

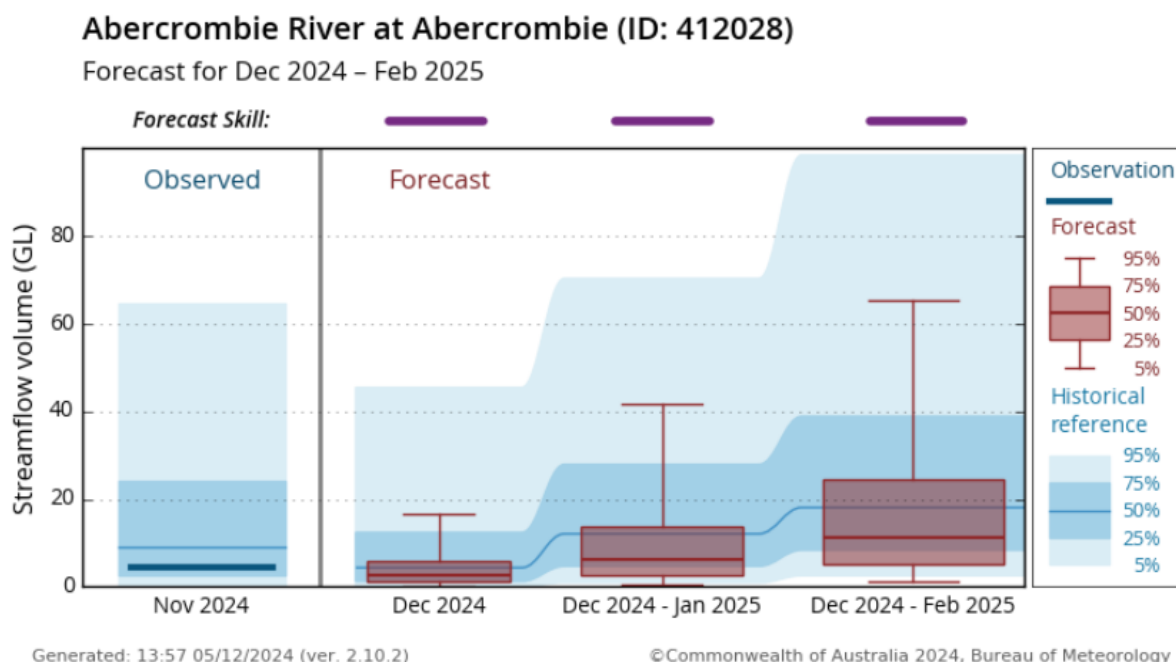
- Wyangala Dam is about 91% full – holding around 1,106 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 85% full – holding around 32 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 57% full – holding around 81 GL (as of 6 January 2025).

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's monthly outlook for January 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median value while above average maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) across most of eastern Australia.

For further details: [Overview—Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](#)

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. From December 2024 to February 2025, all projected quantiles sit lower than the historical flows indicating a dryer quarter. The graph from December 2024 to February 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/seasonal-streamflow-forecasts/)



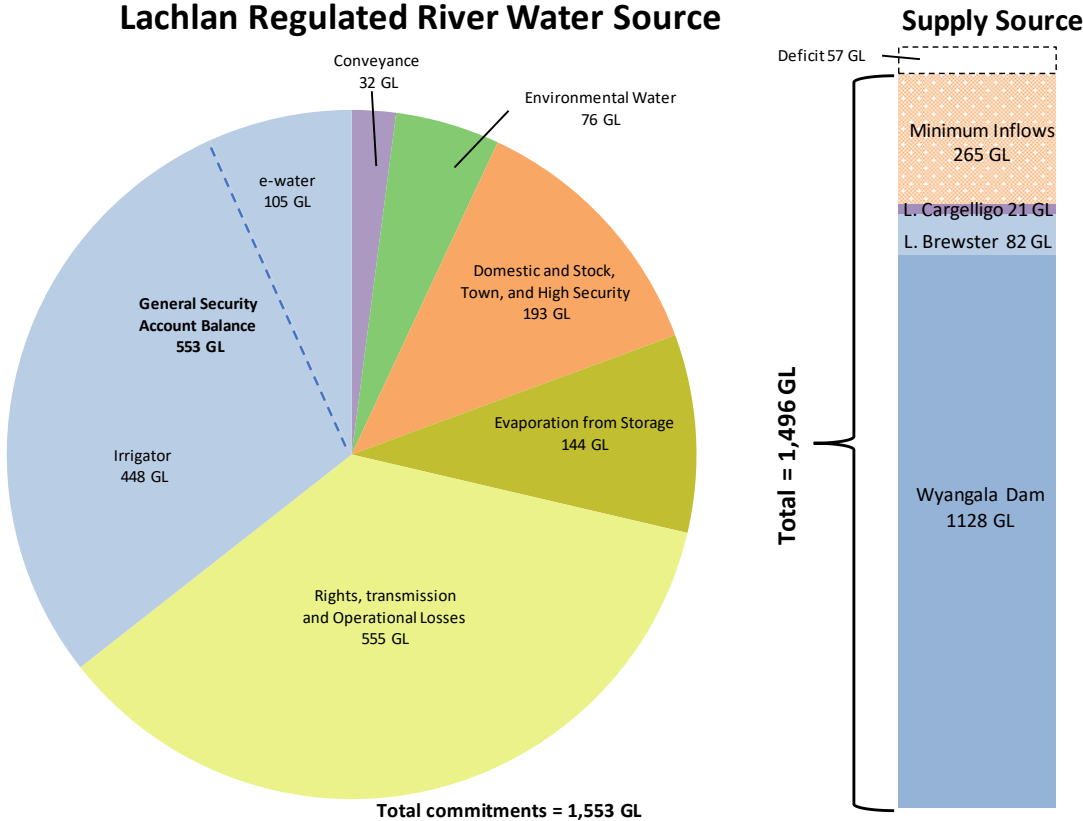
Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (January 2025 to May 2027)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,496
<i>less</i>	
This water year (01/25 to 06/25)	
Environmental Water balance ⁽²⁾	26
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	25
High Security balance	56
Conveyance balance	0.3
General Security balance ⁽³⁾	553
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	69
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	114
Storage reserve for 2025/26 and 2026/2027	
Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	50
Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁶⁾	112
Conveyance	32
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	75
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	441
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	(57)

Notes:

- (1) End of December 2024 active storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, plus the planned minimum storage inflows and useful tributary flows from January 2025 to May 2027. Also, this is net of 16 GL of inaccessible (dead) storage volume.
- (2) Water reserved for the Water Quality Allowance (WQA) and the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA).
- (3) The held environmental water (HEW) balance is estimated to be 105 GL of GS entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW DCCEEW – Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group (BCS) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (4) Budget for evaporation loss from three storages is based on projected storage depletions.
- (5) The volume required to run the river to meet all non-licence-based demands and delivery overheads. This mostly comprises of basic landholder rights, and transmission and operational losses under dry conditions. The volumes needed for the remainder of the water year and the future are based on the projected demands of respective periods.
- (6) Required volume to allow full utilisation of 100% allocation to these licence holders.
- (7) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. This assessment is returning a deficit which will be monitored closely.

Resource Distribution as at 31 December 2024
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Water allocation and EWA credits in 2024/25

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	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%*
8-Jul	General Security	0.06 ML/unit share	0.06ML/unit share	114%

*Maximum allowable

Storage volume simulation

The storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current allocations and commitments and an assumed repeat of the historical minimum inflow sequence (known at the start of the water sharing plan) together with forecast demands, the combined Wyangala, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo storage volume will deplete to a minimum by April 2027 and then start to recover from Jun 2027.

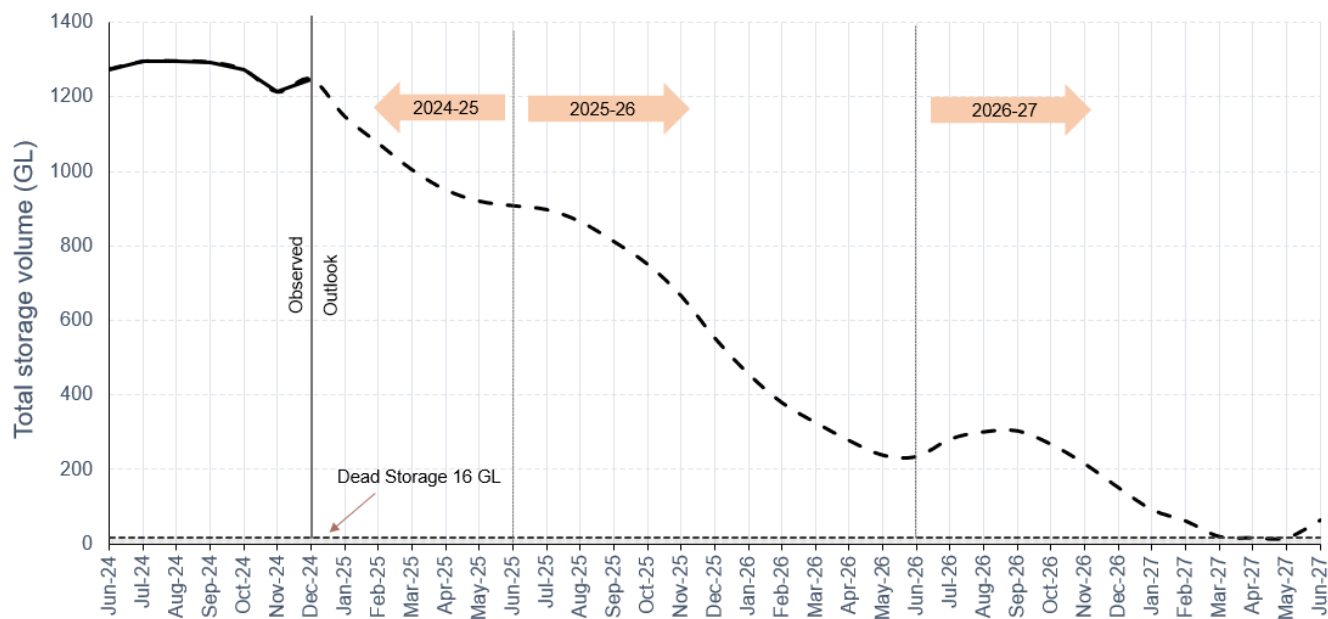


Figure: Simulated Depletion of Combined Wyangala, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo Storage Volume

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water published a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is available at the below link.

For further details: [Resource assessment process](#) | [Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Monday, 10 February 2025**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website: [NSW Government Water](#)

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