

8 June 2023

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

The latest resource assessment indicates no increase in allocation for general security (GS) entitlement holders. The current volume in general security accounts is 694 gigalitres (GL) on average or 117% of entitlement. This statement provides the latest resource distribution and a preliminary outlook for opening allocations in the 2023/24 water year.

This resource assessment is based on information as of 31 May 2023. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the next (10 July) allocation statement.

### Current allocation

2022/23	General Security Allocation	Average GS Account Balance
Lachlan Regulated River	118%	117%

### Resource outlook for 2023/24

This outlook for the likely 1 July 2023 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that these forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including local water utility licences, are secure for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including **local water utility, stock and domestic**, and **high security** can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July 2023.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and the balance is carried forward into the new water-year. The maximum volume that may be held in an account at any time is 2 megalitres (ML)/unit share (or 200% of entitlement).
- **General security** users can expect full access to their carried over account water, but no new allocation will be announced on 1 July. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessments will continue and any resource improvements will be allocated in the monthly statements resuming on 10 July 2023.
- **Conveyance** entitlement can expect full allocation based on likely 2023/24 total water availability, in accordance with Clause 38 of the water sharing plan.
- General security carryover is expected to be over 50% of entitlement, therefore both the Wyangala and Brewster **Environmental Water Allowances** will be allocated 10 GL each.

- The **Water Quality Allowance** (WQA) will be allocated 20 GL on 1 July in accordance with the water sharing plan.

## Storage levels (as of 7 June 2023)

- Wyangala Dam is about 95% full - holding around 1,161 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 48% full - holding around 21 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 76% full - holding about 110 GL. (27 March 2023).

## Key information

- The department clarified Lachlan water sharing plan rules regarding airspace and account reset by publishing a fact sheet on 4 May 2023, for more information [click here](#).
- Water users are advised that there will be no further account reset before 5 November 2023, six months after the last reset, regardless of the system again filling/spilling.
- Airspace operations and releases from Wyangala Dam will continue in June as necessary to keep storage around the airspace target agreed by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel on 7 June 2023.

## Indicative general security allocation after an account reset

The table below, first published last month, is unchanged and shows an indicative range for general security allocations that might follow an account withdrawal and reset. The range reflects the uncertainty of conditions at the time of calculation including:

- Total available resource may be lower than the summation of the full capacities of three storages. A storage may be deemed full at a reduced level for safety or other reasons.
- The higher priority accounts and planned environmental water are not withdrawn prior to reset. Their balance may vary between years for the same month. This in turn varies the surplus water available for allocation to general security users.

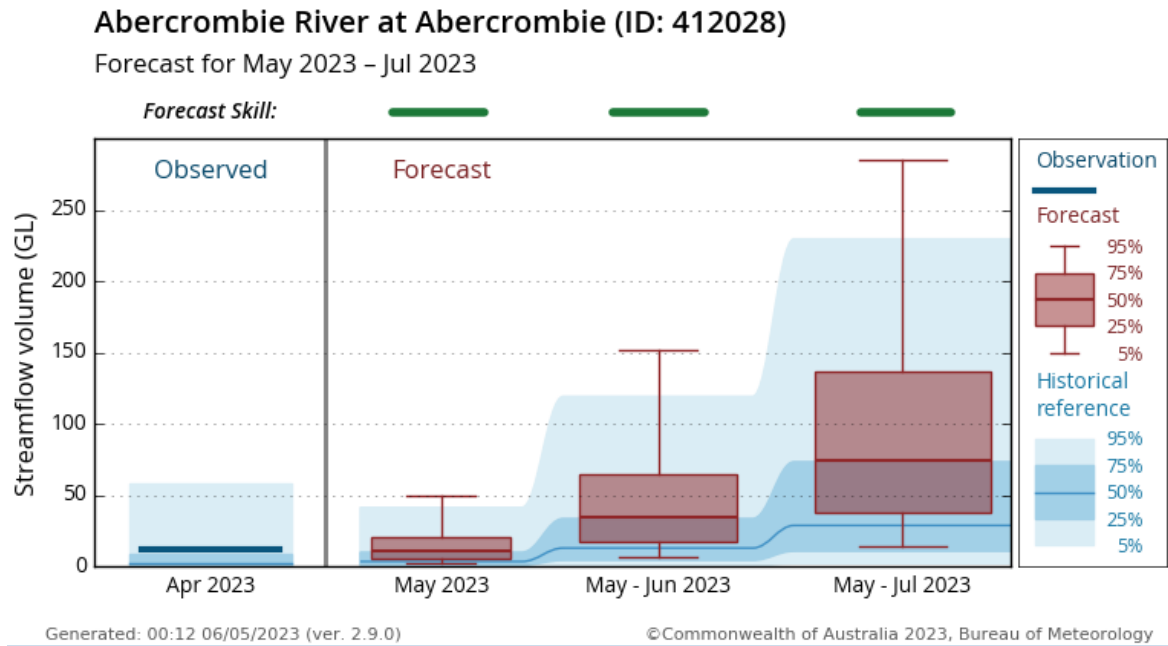
Assessment date	Upper limit	Lower limit
1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	120%	115%
1 <sup>st</sup> June	130%	125%
1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	125%	115%
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	115%	105%

## Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for June to August indicates that rainfall will likely be below median across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be warmer than the median. Overnight temperatures show no clear indication of either cooler than median or warmer than median conditions over the next three months for the catchment.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://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. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from May to July are higher than the historical flows, indicating flows to July are likely to be higher than historical over this period. The graph to July 2023 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028).



## Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

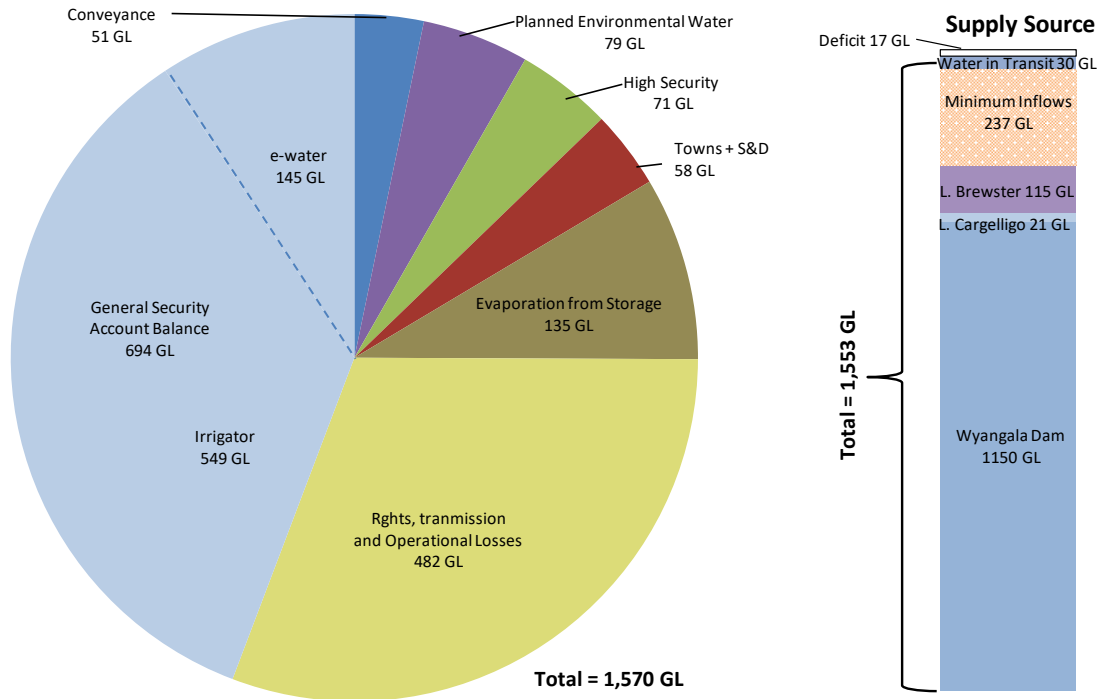
Resource Distribution (June 2023 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,553
less	
This water year (06/23)	
Planned Environmental Water balance	9
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	2
High Security balance	16
Conveyance balance	15
General Security balance <sup>(3)</sup>	694
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	2

Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	11
Storage reserve for 2023/24 & 2024/25	
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	70
Domestic and Stock, Town <sup>(6)</sup>	56
High Security <sup>(6)</sup>	55
Conveyance <sup>(6)</sup>	36
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	133
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	471
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	(17)

**Notes:**

- (1) End of May 2023 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from June 2023 to May 2025 and flows in transit. Also, this is net of 16 GL of inaccessible volume.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance (WQA) and the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA). The volume is composed of 40 GL reserve for the 2023/24 water year and 30 GL reserve for the 2024/25 water year.
- (3) The reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be about 145 GL of GS. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Environment and Heritage (EHG) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (4) Evaporation loss from three storages is based on forecast storage levels.
- (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, transmission and operational losses under dry conditions.
- (6) Required volume to ensure full utilisation of 100% allocation to these licence holders.
- (7) All available water resources have been fully allocated, and there is a small nominal deficit which may be recovered from underuse by the end of the water year. All commitments are deliverable, and the system is secure for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 May 2023**  
**Lachlan Regulated River Water Source**



**Allocations in 2022/23 for the Lachlan River regulated system**

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	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%*
1-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	124%
28-Sep	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*#	100%#
28-Sep	General Security	1.15 ML/unit share	1.15 ML/unit share#	115%#
05-May	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*#	100%#
05-May	General Security	1.18 ML/unit share	1.18 ML/unit share#	118%#

\*Maximum allowable

#Following an account equalisation and reset due to dam spill

## Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has 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:

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

## Further information

The next water allocation information for this water source will be included in the state-wide opening allocation statements on 1 July 2023. The routine water allocation statement of next water year for this water source will commence on **Monday 10 July 2023**.

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

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