

10 July 2023

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

There is **no increase** in allocation for **general security (GS)** entitlement holders from the latest resource assessment. However, the total general security carryover from 2022/23 water is estimated to be 714 gigalitres (GL) or 120% of entitlement.

All high priority and conveyance licenses in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source were assigned full allocations on 1 July 2023.

The Wyangala and Brewster Environmental Water Allowances (EWAs) were fully allocated (10 GL each) on 1 July 2023 in accordance with Clause 54 (1) (a) of the water sharing plan. Also the Lachlan water quality allowance (WQA) is allocated 20 GL, in accordance with Clause 56 of the water sharing plan.

This resource assessment is based on information as of 30 June 2023. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the next (8 August) allocation statement.

## Current allocation

2023/24	General Security Allocation	Average GS Account Balance
Lachlan Regulated River	0%	120%

## Key information

- 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 July as necessary to keep storage around the airspace target agreed by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel on 6 July 2023.
- The annual take limit is 100% of entitlement for general security licence holders.

## Storage levels (as of 10 July 2023)

- Wyangala Dam is about 98% full - holding around 1,198 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 51% full - holding around 22 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 79% full - holding about 115 GL. (3 July 2023).

## Summary of last water year (2022/23)

Last year continued with generally wet conditions providing good resource availability. The year started with no allocation to general security users but with an average account

balance of 124% of entitlement. By the end of the year, allocation had reached 118% and the average general security account balance was 120% of entitlement. The water source experienced two account resets during the year triggered by a full system and spill from storage. Accordingly, general security accounts were reset with allocations of 115% and 118% on 28/9/22 and 5/5/23 respectively.

The reset allocation varies depending largely on the time of year and current commitments. An indicative range for general security allocations after an account reset was published in May and June 2023 statements.

About 6,600 ML of Water Quality Allowance (WQA) was released from Wyangala Dam for water quality at Cowra and about 5,000 ML was released to mitigate fish kill in Jemalong in 2022/23 water year.

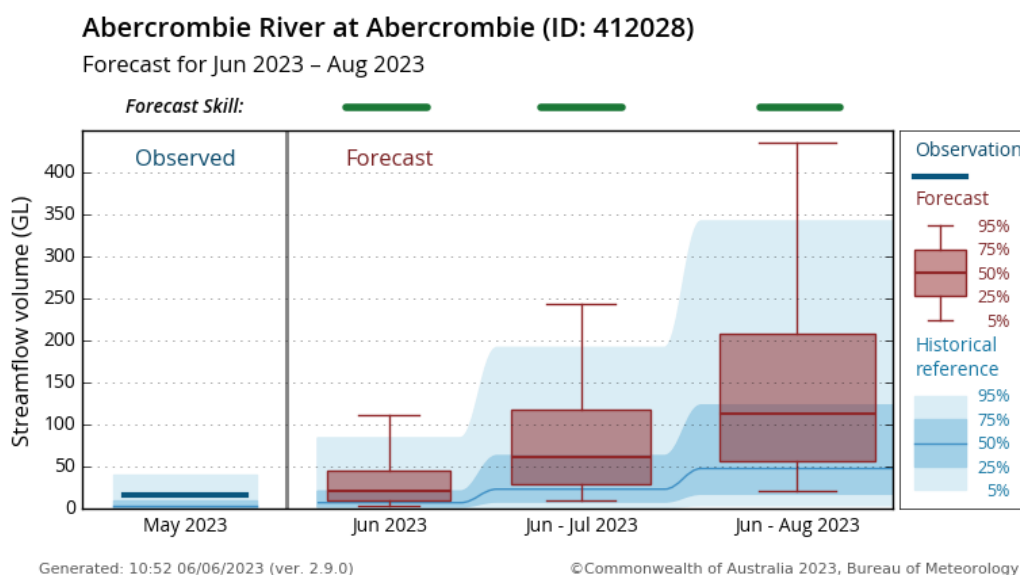
Lake Cargelligo storage drawdown began in April 2023 under the dam safety embankment project. The revised Lake Cargelligo maximum storage capacity will remain at 50% of full supply level until the project is complete. Similarly, Lake Brewster is currently deemed full at its (reduced) maximum safe level of 116 GL, until current repair work is completed.

### Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

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

For further details: <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 June to August are higher than the historical flows, indicating flows to August are likely to be higher than historical over this period. The graph to August 2023 is shown below, and updates can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028>.



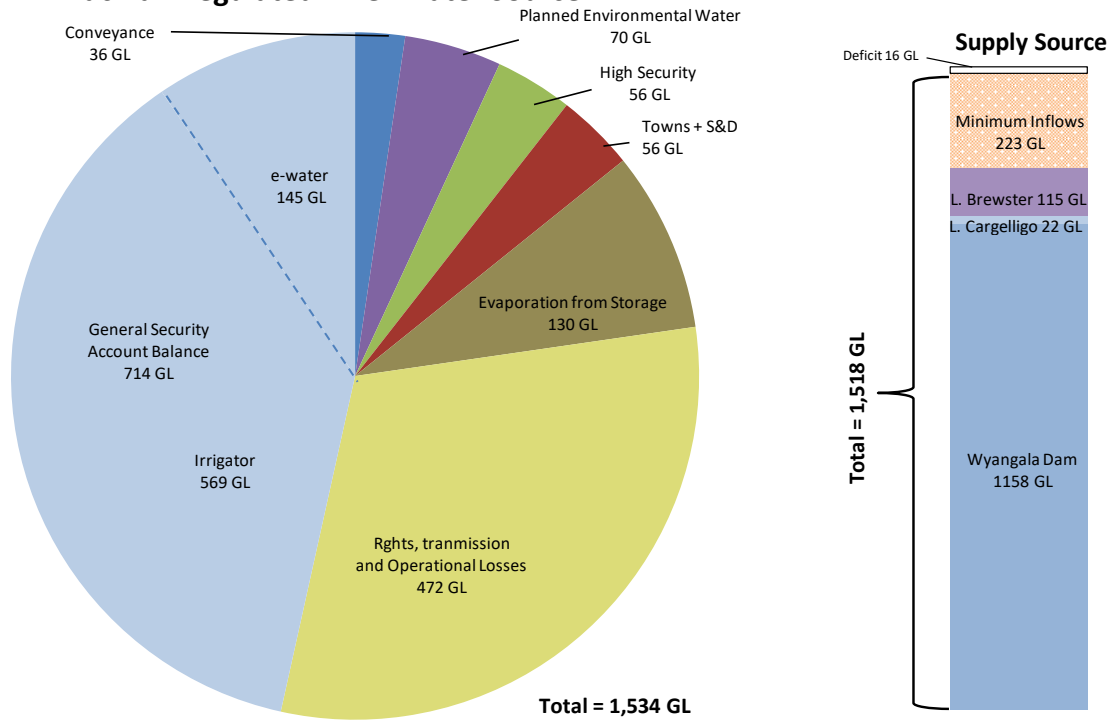
## Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (July 2023 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,518
<i>less</i>	
This water year (07/23 to 06/24)	
Planned Environmental Water balance <sup>(2)</sup>	40
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	28
High Security balance	28
Conveyance balance	18
General Security balance <sup>(3)</sup>	714
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	95
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	240
Storage reserve for 2024/25	
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	30
Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security <sup>(6)</sup>	56
Conveyance <sup>(6)</sup>	18
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	35
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	232
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	(16)

### Notes:

- (1) End of June 2023 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from July 2023 to May 2025 and flows in transit if any. 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).
- (3) The held environmental water (HEW) is estimated to be about 145 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 (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 of allocated water over the horizon. All commitments are deliverable, and the system is secure for 2024/25.

**Resource Distribution as at 30 June 2023  
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source**



**Allocations in 2023/24 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%*
10-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	120%

\*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 the below link.

For further details: <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/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 8 August 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).

*Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.*

*You can also follow the department on Twitter: @NSWDPIE\_Water*

*Feedback on this work or any aspect of the department's service can be provided using the widget at: [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/contact](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/contact).*