

8 August 2023

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders from the latest resource assessment. The current general security account balance is estimated to be 709 gigalitres (GL) or about 120% of entitlement. The small resource deficit identified in the last resources assessment has been recovered with some recent inflows to the storage.

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

Current allocation

8 August 2023	Cumulative Allocation in 2023/24	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	120%

Key information

- All higher priority and conveyance licenses received their maximum (100%) 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 plan.
- Water users are reminded that quarterly evaporation reductions apply to water allocations carried over into this water year as per Clause 45 (1) of the plan. The first quarterly evaporation reduction will be applied to the carry over balance remaining in each account at the end of September 2023.

Storage levels (as of 7 August 2023)

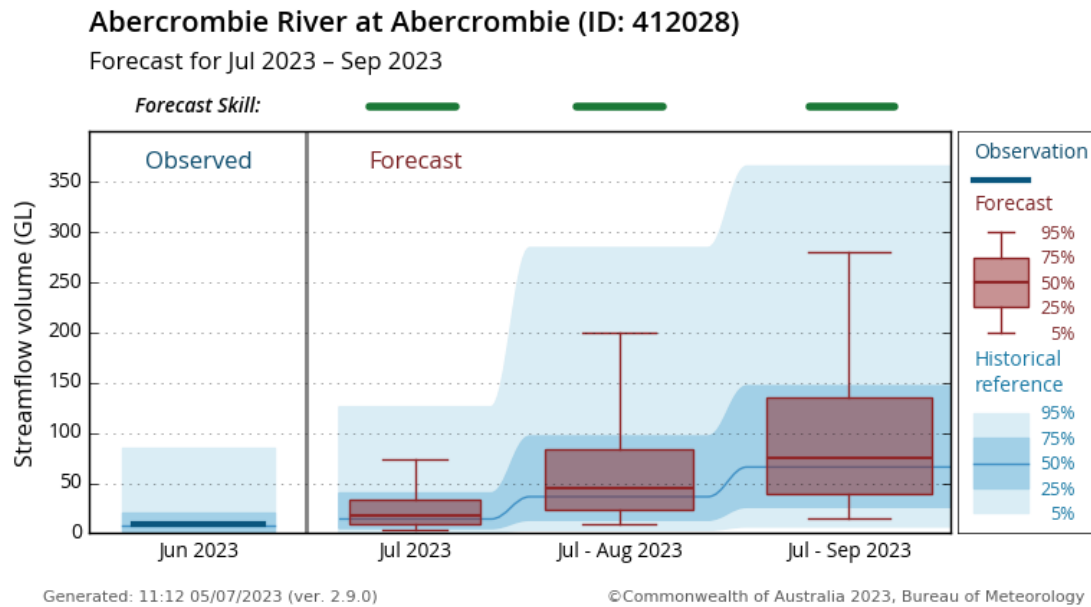
- Wyangala Dam is about 98% full - holding around 1,190 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 49% full - holding around 21 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 81% full - holding about 125 GL. (as of 2 August 2023)

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for September to November 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.

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. Forecast quantiles 75% and 95% of total flow volumes from July to September are lower than the historical flows. All other forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from July to September are higher than the historical flows. The graph to September 2023 is shown below, and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028



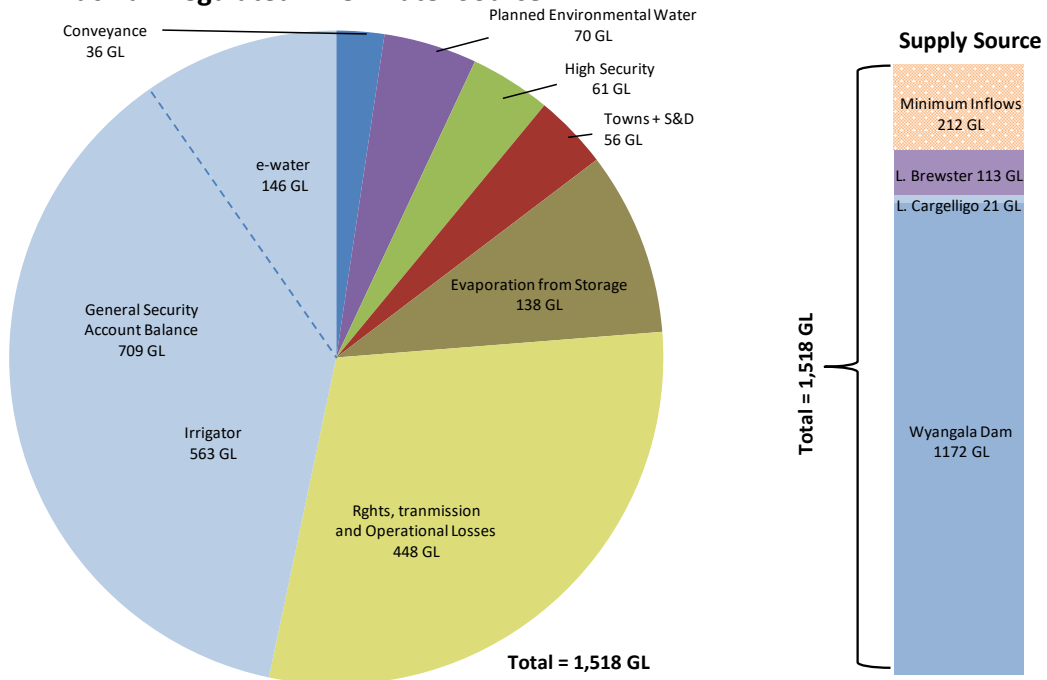
Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (August 2023 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,518
<i>less</i>	
This water year (07/23 to 06/24)	
Planned Environmental Water balance ⁽²⁾	40
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	28
High Security balance	33
Conveyance balance	18
General Security balance ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	709
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	102
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁶⁾	217
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⁾	231
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) End of July 2023 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from August 2023 to May 2025 and flows in transit if any. Also, this is net of 16 GL of inaccessible 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 146 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).
- (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 no deficit from this assessment.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 July 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%

*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:

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 **Friday 8 September 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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