8 April 2025

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is **no increase** in allocation to **General Security (GS) licences** in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source. The general security account balance is 475 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 80% of entitlement.

There has been no improvement in resources since the last assessment, resulting in no allocation increase. Combined inflows since January 2025 have been very low, with the total for the last three months being the lowest since the most recent drought.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 March 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

8 April 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	80%

Key information

- Inflows for the January to March 2025 period have been low, totalling 57 GL. This is the lowest January to March inflow experienced since 2019, when a total of 45 GL inflow was recorded.
- About 4 GL Water Quality Allowance (WQA) and Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) water was delivered last month.
- Delivery of Stock and Domestic replenishment flow has started in Merrowie Creek.
- WaterNSW has completed emergency works at Lake Brewster levee and inflow channel. All operational restrictions have now been removed, allowing Lake Brewster weir and inflow channel to operate at full capacity and the Lake Brewster storage level to return to 100%. Please refer to this link for more information.
- However, Lake Brewster is offline due to a red alert for algae outbreak. It is expected to be offline until mid-April 2025. Please refer to this link for more information.
- The Lake Cargelligo Embankment Project is under review. For the project update, please refer to this link for more information.

PUB25/348

Storage volume (as of 8 April 2025)

- Wyangala Dam is about 81% full – holding around 990 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 66% full – holding around 20 GL (as of 6 Feb 2025)
- Lake Brewster is about 46% full – holding around 67 GL (as of 7 Apr 2025).

Resource outlook for 2025/26

The outlook for likely 1 July 2025 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that the forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including for towns, is secure for the 2025/26 water year.
- High priority water access licence holders including local water utility, stock and domestic, and high security can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July 2025.
- Conveyance accounts will be allocated in accordance with water sharing plan rules, commensurate with the opening balance in the relevant general security licences.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward into new water year. The maximum volume that may be held in account at any time is 200% of their 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 assessment will continue, commencing in early July, and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2025/26.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

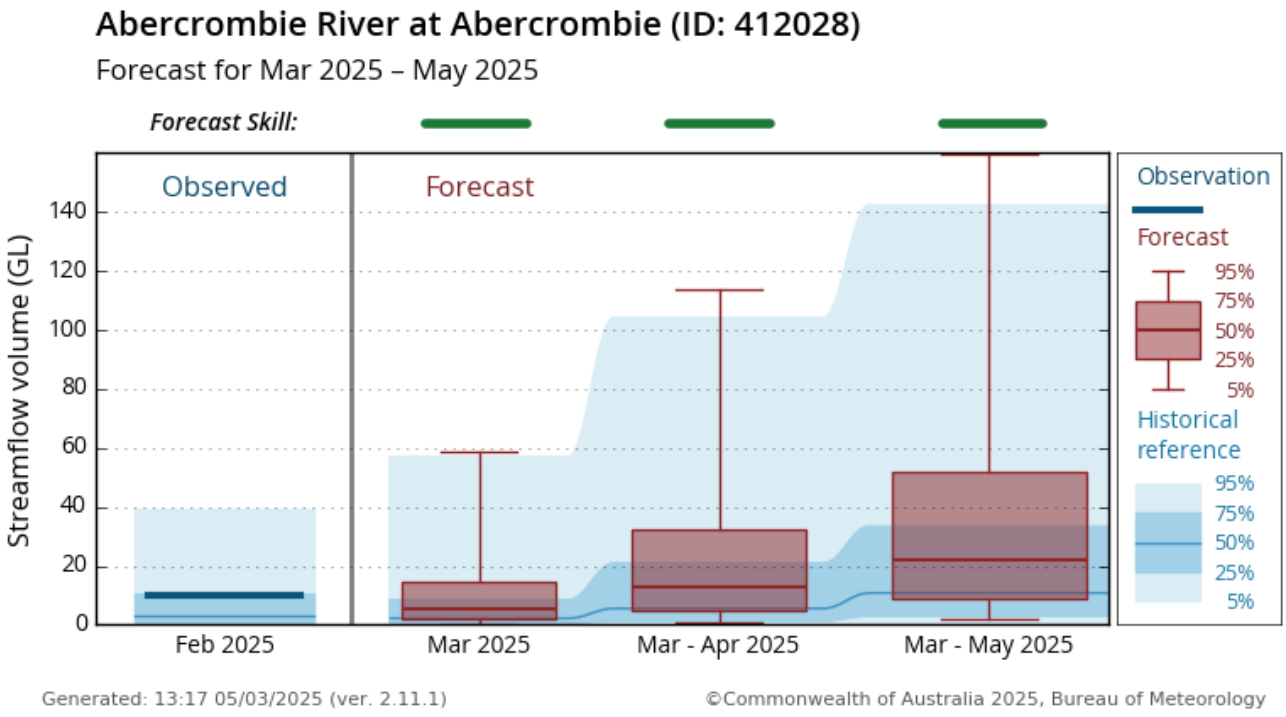
The Bureau of Meteorology's recent monthly outlook for April 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be around the median value.

The outlook from April to June 2025 indicates that above average minimum and maximum temperatures are likely (greater than 70% chance) across central New South Wales (issued by BOM on 3 April 2025).

For further details: Overview — Summary - Climate Outlooks

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 March 2025 to May 2025, all projected quantiles sit above the historical flows, indicating a higher likelihood of above average inflows during this period.

The graph from March 2025 to May 2025 is shown below (issued by BOM on 5 March 2025), and updates can be found at: Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au)



Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (April 2025 to May 2027)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources [1]	1,334
less	
This water year (04/25 to 06/25)	
Planned Environmental Water balance [2]	8
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	21
High Security balance	46
Conveyance balance	0
General Security balance [3]	475
Evaporation from storage [4]	15
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	43
Storage reserve for 2025/26 and 2026/27	
Planned Environmental Water [2]	60
Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security [6]	112
Conveyance	32
Evaporation from storage [4]	92
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	444
equals	
Surplus (or Deficit) [7]	(14)

Notes:

(1) End of March 2025 active storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, plus the planned minimum storage inflows and useful tributary flows from April 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).

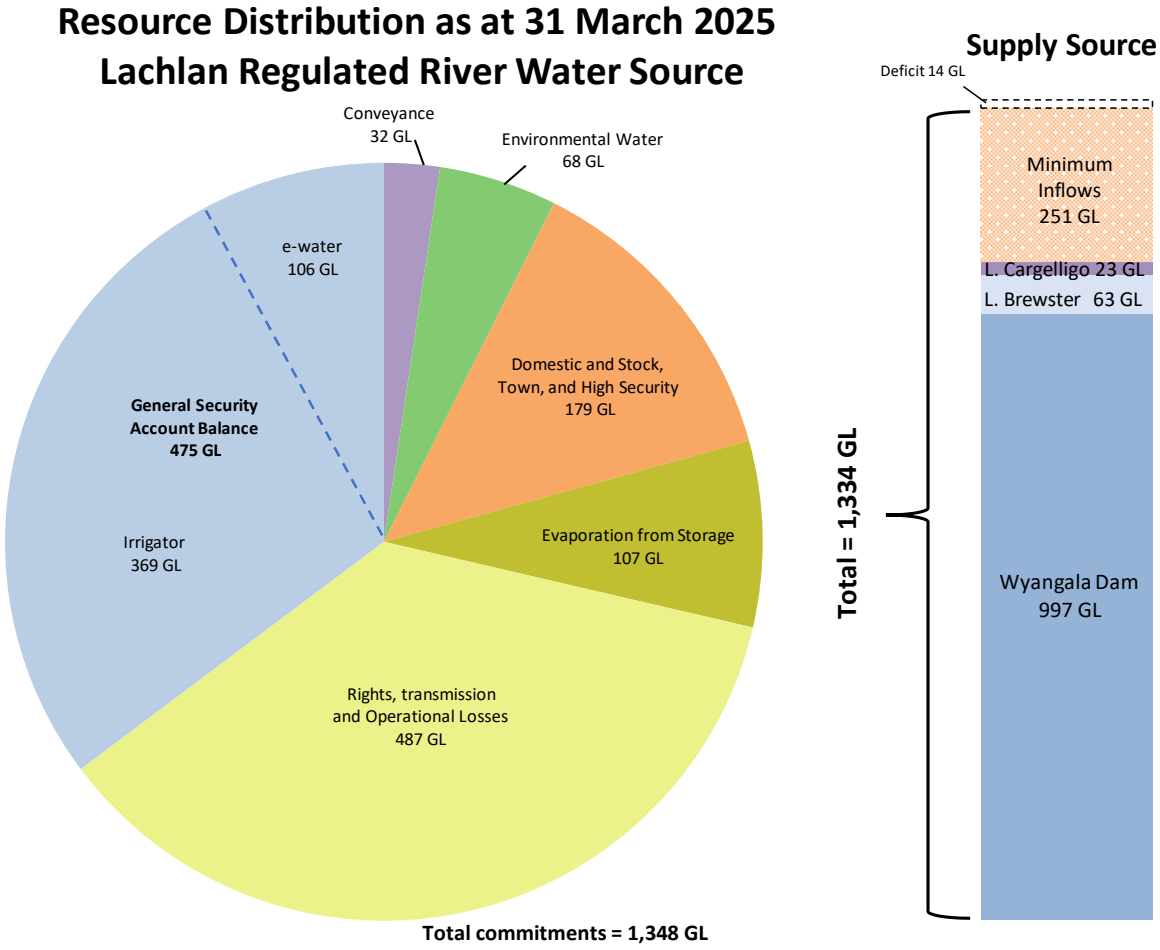
(3) The held environmental water (HEW) balance is estimated to be 106 GL of GS entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW environmental water holder and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).

(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. There is a small deficit which may be eliminated by forfeitures of some balances at the end of this water year.



Water allocation 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%
10-Mar	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.07ML/unit share	82%

*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 May 2027 and then start to recover from June 2027.

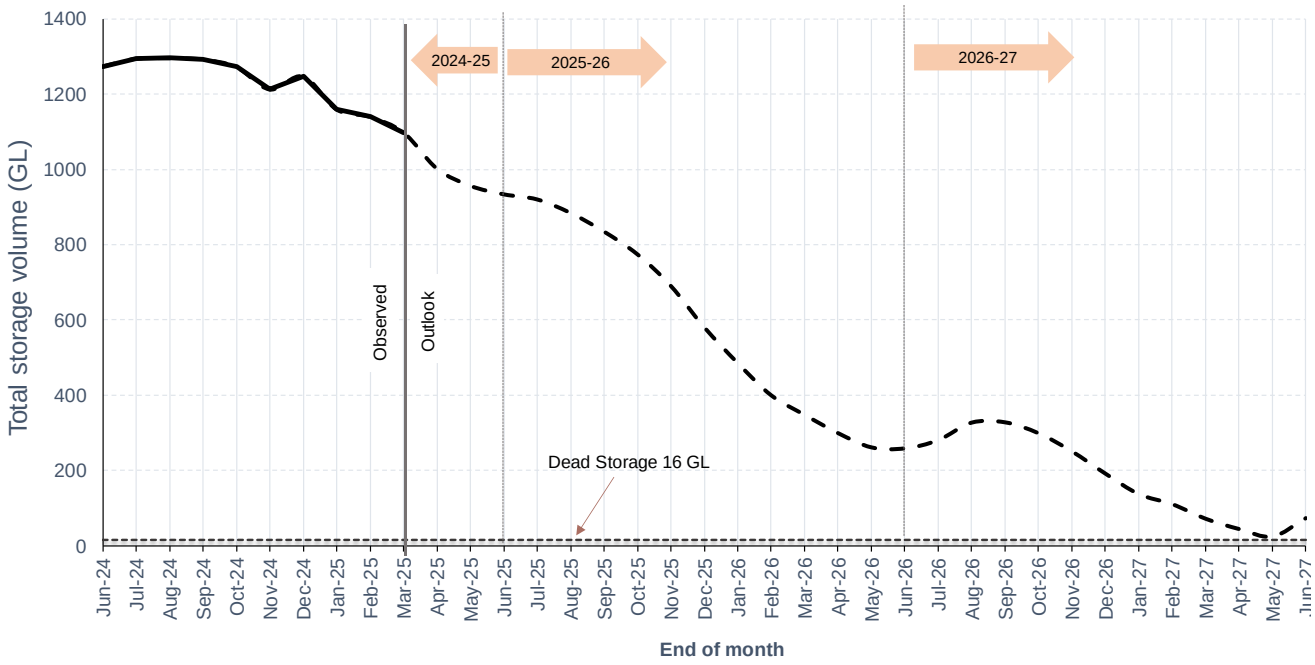


Figure: Simulated depletion of combined Wyangala, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo storage volume

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 following link: Resource assessment process | Water (nsw.gov.au)

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Thursday, 8 May 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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