

8 May 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 458 gegalitres (GL), or an average of 77% 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 four months being the lowest since the most recent drought.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 April 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

8 May 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	77%

Key information

- Inflows for the January to April 2025 period have been low, totalling 58 GL. This is the lowest January to April inflow experienced since 2019, when a total of 51 GL inflow was recorded.
- WaterNSW has calculated the carryover evaporation reduction factor for the quarter ending March 2025. The estimated carryover evaporation reduction is 1.24%, which will be applied at the end of the water year. [Please refer to WaterNSW website for more information.](#)
- A total 4 GL of Water Quality Allowance (WQA) and Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) water was delivered last month. The WQA for this water year has now been fully utilised.
- 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.](#)
- The Lake Cargelligo Embankment Project is under review. For the project update, [please refer to this link for more information.](#)

Storage volume (as of 8 May 2025)

- Wyangala Dam is about 79% full – holding around 968 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 77% full – holding around 29 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 47% full – holding around 66 GL (as of 2 May 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.
- 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 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 the new water year. The maximum volume that may be held in accounts 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.
- 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 receive 20 GL in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

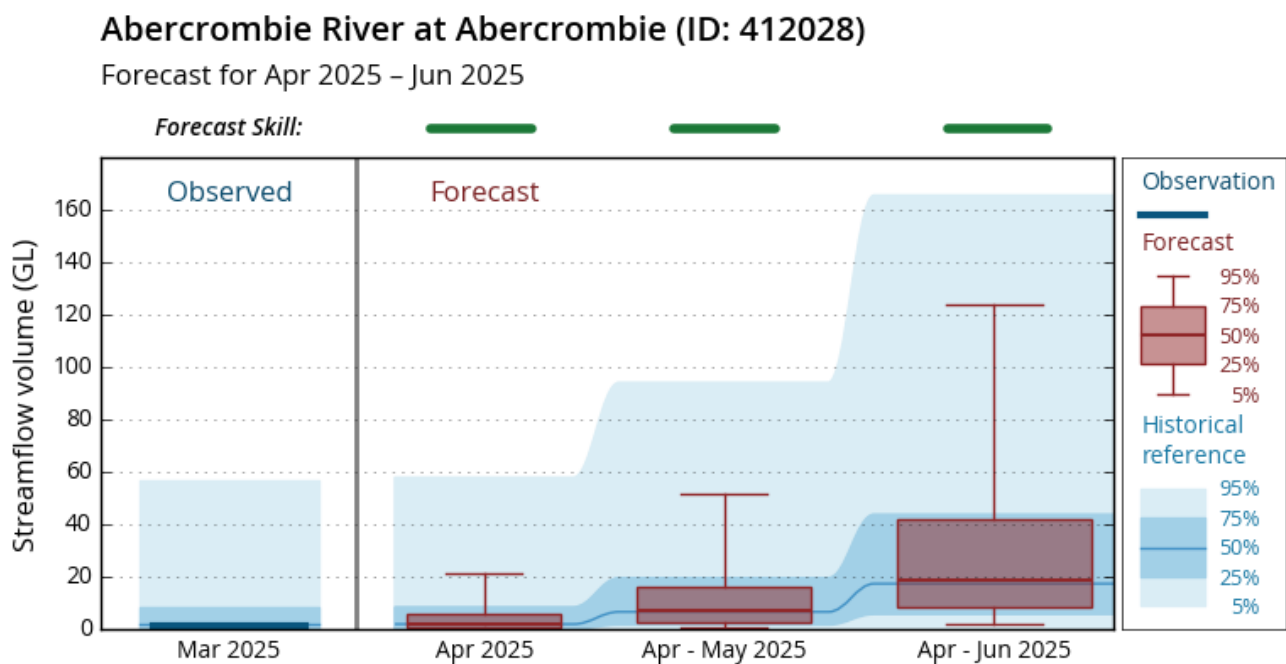
The Bureau of Meteorology's recent monthly outlook for May 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be below the median value.

The outlook from May to July 2025 indicates that above average minimum and maximum temperatures are likely (greater than 70% chance) across central New South Wales (issued by BOM on 1 May 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 April 2025 to June 2025, the 25% to 75% forecast quantiles are similar to the historical quantiles, indicating no clear trend away from the historical flow during this period.

The graph from April 2025 to June 2025 is shown below (issued by BOM on 4 April 2025), and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](#)



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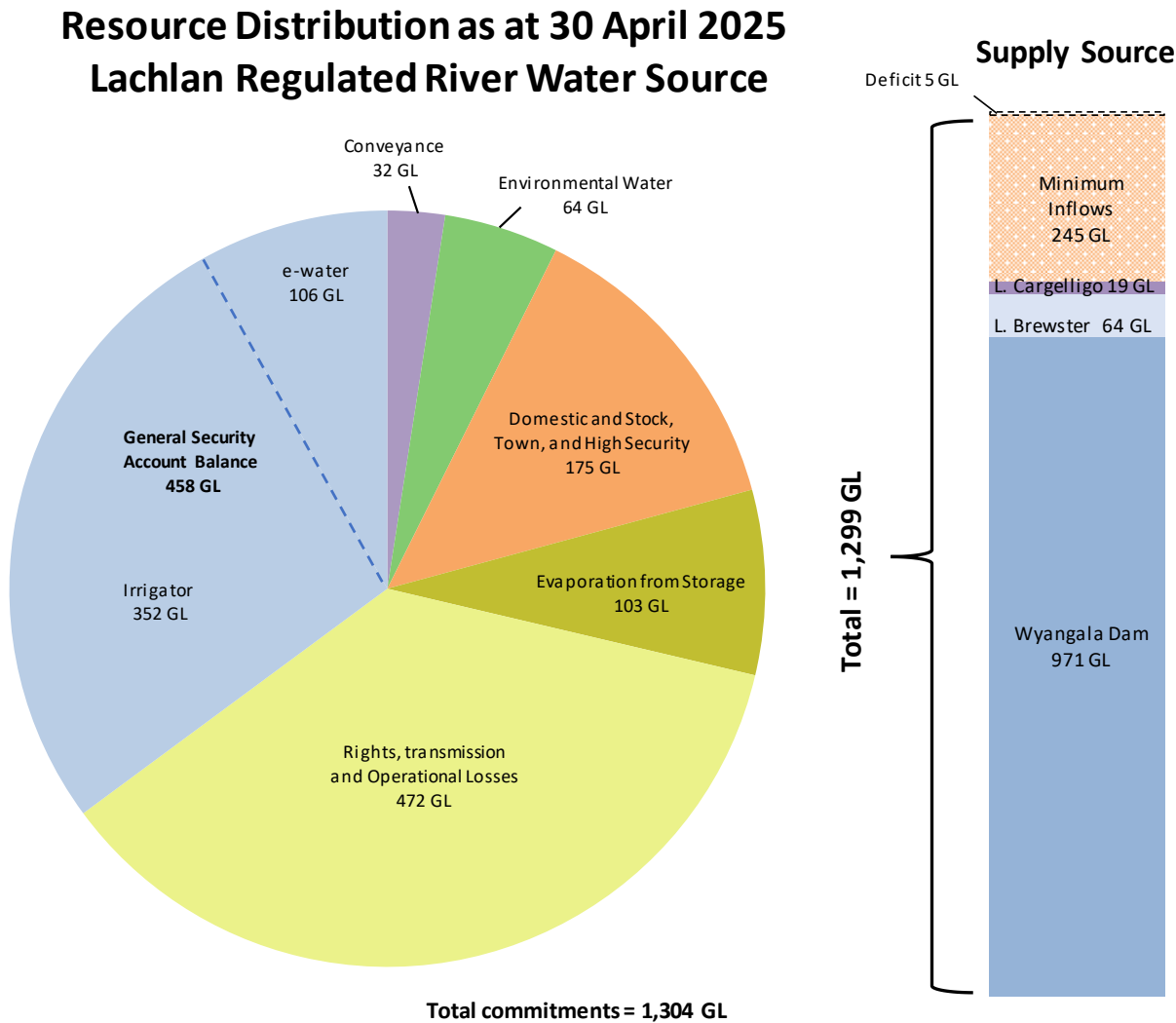
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Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (May 2025 to June 2027)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,299
<i>less</i>	
This water year (05/25 to 06/25)	
Planned Environmental Water balance ⁽²⁾	4
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	20
High Security balance	43
Conveyance balance	0
General Security balance ⁽³⁾	458
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	6
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	31
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⁾	97
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	441
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or Deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	(5)

Notes:

- (1) End of April 2025 active storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, plus the planned minimum storage inflows and useful tributary flows from May 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	0.06 ML/unit share	114%
10-Mar	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.07 ML/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.

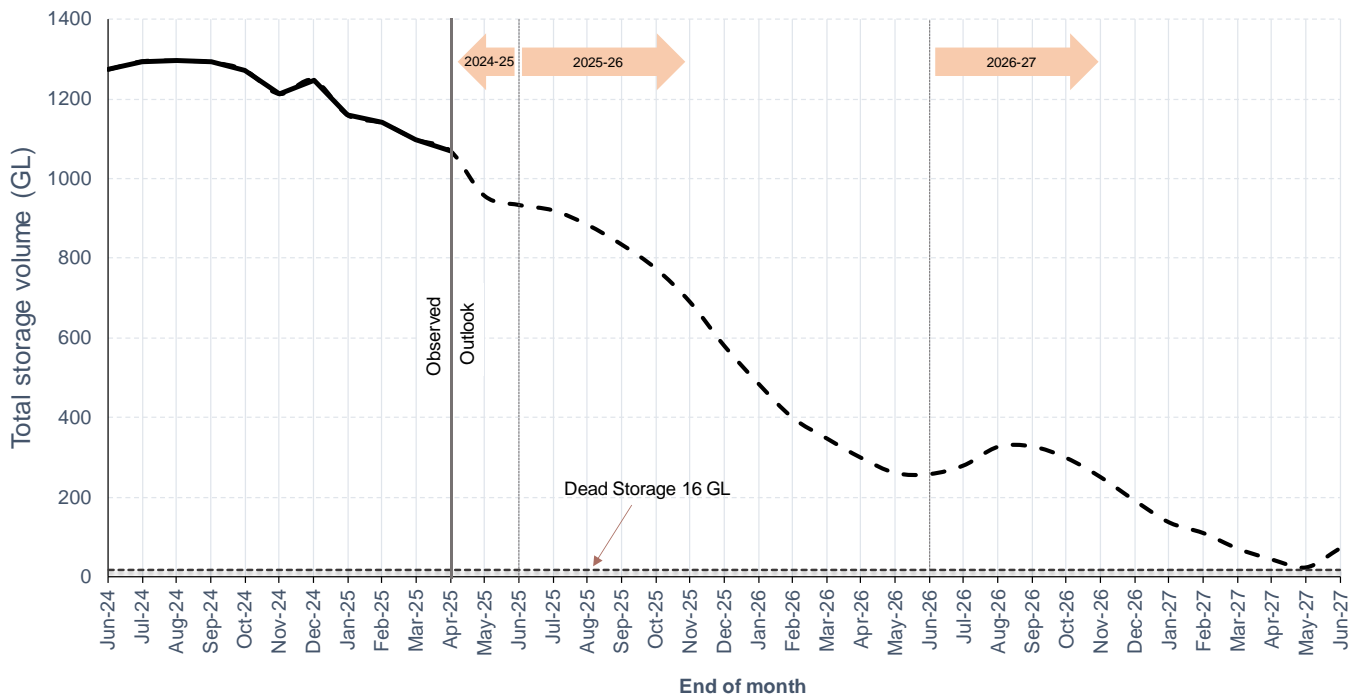


Figure: Simulated depletion of combined Wyangala, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo storage volume

Useful links

- 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 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The NSW DCCEEW developed a dashboard to enhance the transparency and accessibility of up-to-date information on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources. The dashboard can be accessed at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water Sharing Plan – The water sharing plan for this water source is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source 2016](#)

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on Tuesday, 10 June 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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