

8 August 2022

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders this month. The general security carryover from 2021/22 water year was 733 gigalitres (GL) or 124% of entitlement. The current general security account balance is approximately 719 GL or 121% of entitlement.

All high priority and conveyance licences in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source were given full allocations on 1 July 2022 and remain unchanged.

With the general security account balance being over 50%, the Wyangala and Brewster Environmental Water Allowances (EWAs) were fully allocated (10 GL each) on 1 July 2022.

During July, the upstream catchment of the Lachlan Valley experienced average to below average rainfall, receiving approximately 10 to 50 mm of rain.

This resource assessment is based on information as of 31 July 2022. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the next allocation statement.

## Current allocation

2022/23	General Security	Average Account Balance
Lachlan Regulated River	0%	121%

## Storage levels (as of 8 August 2022)

- Wyangala Dam is about 99% full – holding around 1,212 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 134% full – holding around 47 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 102% full – holding about 148 GL (4 August 2022).

## Key information

- The annual use limit for this water year (2022/23) is 100% of entitlement.
- As previously advised, there will be no account reset until at least 23 September 2022, irrespective of any earlier spills.
- This assessment identifies a small numerical deficit in resources, however; this is of no material risk to water users and all account water is fully deliverable.
- During July, inflow into Wyangala Dam was about 226 GL and downstream tributaries inflow was 61 GL. About 23 GL of these tributary flows will be used to deliver environmental demands throughout August and surcharge Lake Brewster.
- Releases will continue to be made from Wyangala Dam to keep it between 91% to 92% full. This will provide some airspace to safely manage the higher-than-average

inflows expected through next three months, as advised by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel.

- Approximately 159 GL of translucent flows were delivered throughout July.
- Lake Cargelligo storage level has risen to 47 GL (134% full), due to the arrival of high river flows that have backed into storage. Lake Cargelligo storage level will be drawn down and maintained at about 22 GL (~50%) by the end of August.

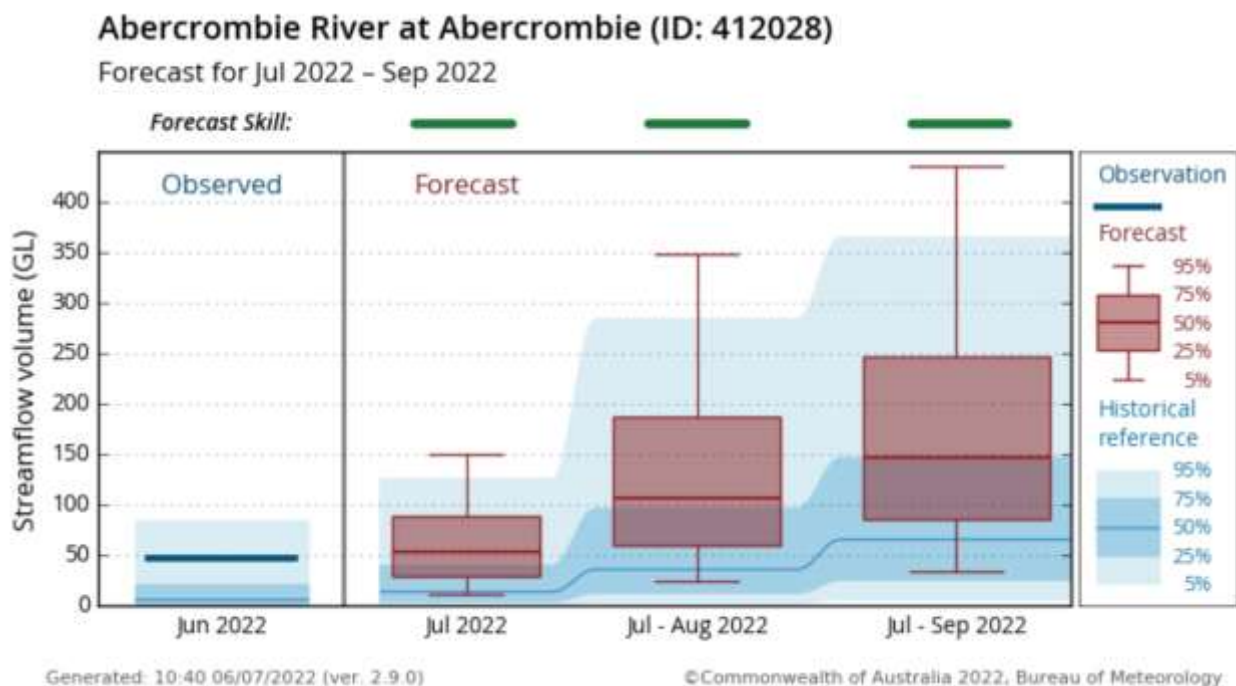
### Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall will very likely be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about or cooler than average and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

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. The forecast total median flow volume from July to September is higher than the historical flows, indicating more flow than usual is likely.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028)



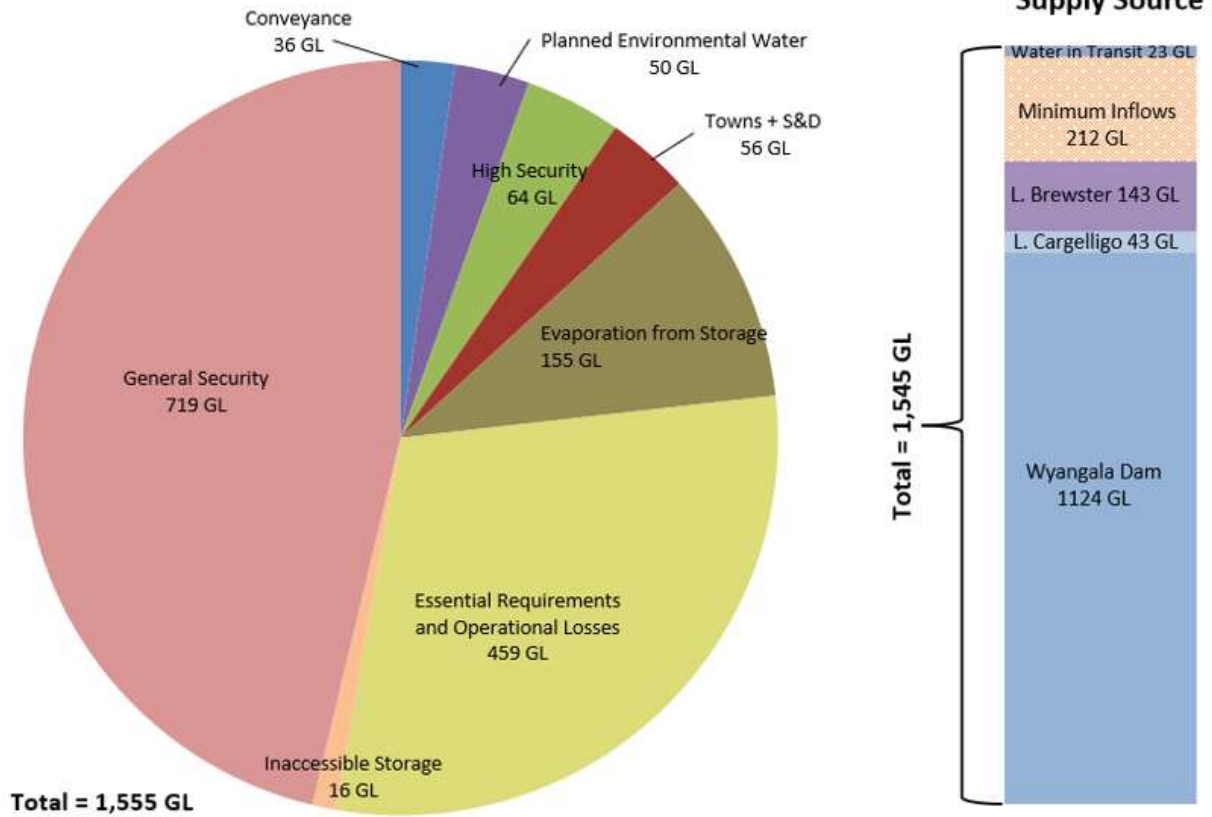
## Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (August 2022 to May 2024)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,545
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance <sup>(6)</sup>	719
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	50
High Security <sup>(3) (6)</sup>	64
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(3)</sup>	56
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	155
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	459
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	<u>(10)</u>

### Notes:

- (1) End of July 2022 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum inflows from August 2022 to May 2024 and flow in transit.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA). The volume represents the balance of the allocated volumes to WQA and EWAs. The Wyangala and Brewster EWAs have been allocated 10 GL each for the 2022/23 water year, and Wyangala EWA has been allocated 10 GL for the 2023/24 water year, with some usage occurring this water year. In addition, 10 GL per year is allocated to the WQA for 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- (3) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet full allocation for these licences in 2023/24. Balances in high security accounts also include any water traded from general security licences.
- (4) Evaporation loss from three storages are based on the forecast storage levels over the assessment period.
- (5) Essential requirements include basic rights, end of system flows, losses and any replenishment deliveries required. The loss budget (transmission and operational) is based on the best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to May 2024. This mostly consists of natural transmission losses as water soaks into riverbed sands. The loss allowance is updated regularly.
- (6) This may include held environmental water (HEW) as shown in the pie chart. The reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated about 150 GL of GS, and 2.7 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW DPE - Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (7) All available water resources have been allocated, and there is a small resources deficit (10 GL), which is anticipated to be notional with surplus water flowing through the system that cannot be stored. The system is secure to May 2024 and beyond.

### Resource Distribution as at 31 July 2022 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%*
8-Aug	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	121%

\*Maximum possible

## Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced 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:

[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 routine monthly water allocation statement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Thursday 8 September 2022**.

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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