

08 July 2024

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security (GS) licenses in the Lachlan regulated river water source have received an allocation increase of 6% of their entitlement. The increment takes the combined general security account balance to 677 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 114% of entitlement. The improved resources have come from significant inflows since the last assessment.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 June 2024. Any resource changes from this date, including rainfall in recent days, will be captured in the next routine statement in August 2024.

Current allocation

8 July 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	6%	114%

Summary of last water year (2023/24)

All higher priority licences, including towns, domestic, stock, and high security licence holders received their maximum allocation at the start of 2023/24 water year. Conveyance licences also received their maximum (100%) allocation commensurate with the higher opening balance of the relevant general security licence.

Last water year commenced with no allocation to general security users despite a high average account balance of 120% of the entitlement. By the year's end, the allocation had risen to 24%, and the average general security account balance had been reduced to 107% of the entitlement due to usage and evaporation reduction.

In terms of Water Quality Allowance (WQA), the full 20 GL was utilised out of the annual limit of 20 GL. For the Environmental Water Account (EWA), 19 GL was used out of the annual limit of 20 GL during last water year.

The new evaporation reduction rules were implemented last year. Accordingly relevant general security account balances were reduced for the first time for estimated evaporation losses. A total of 10.6 GL was reduced from the relevant accounts over three quarters and the volume went back to general pool of resources.

Key information

- The Quarter 4, 2023/24 evaporation reduction will soon be determined and applied after account reconciliation by WaterNSW.
- The reduced maximum safe level of Lake Brewster (deemed full) remains at 79.5% of the full supply capacity while current repair work is being completed. For more information [click here](#).
- Initial work on Lake Cargelligo has been completed allowing a return to using 100% of the full storage capacity if required. The next phase of construction is expected to re-start later this year. For the project update [click here](#).

- The applicable account balances will be reset if all storages are full, deemed full, or will imminently fill in accordance with clause 45(3) of the water sharing plan. For fact sheet please [click here](#).
- A storage outlook plot for the assessment horizon is provided later in this statement.

Storage levels (as of 7 July 2024)

- Wyangala Dam is about 93% full – holding around 1,136 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 81% full – holding around 31 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 64% full – holding around 93 GL.

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

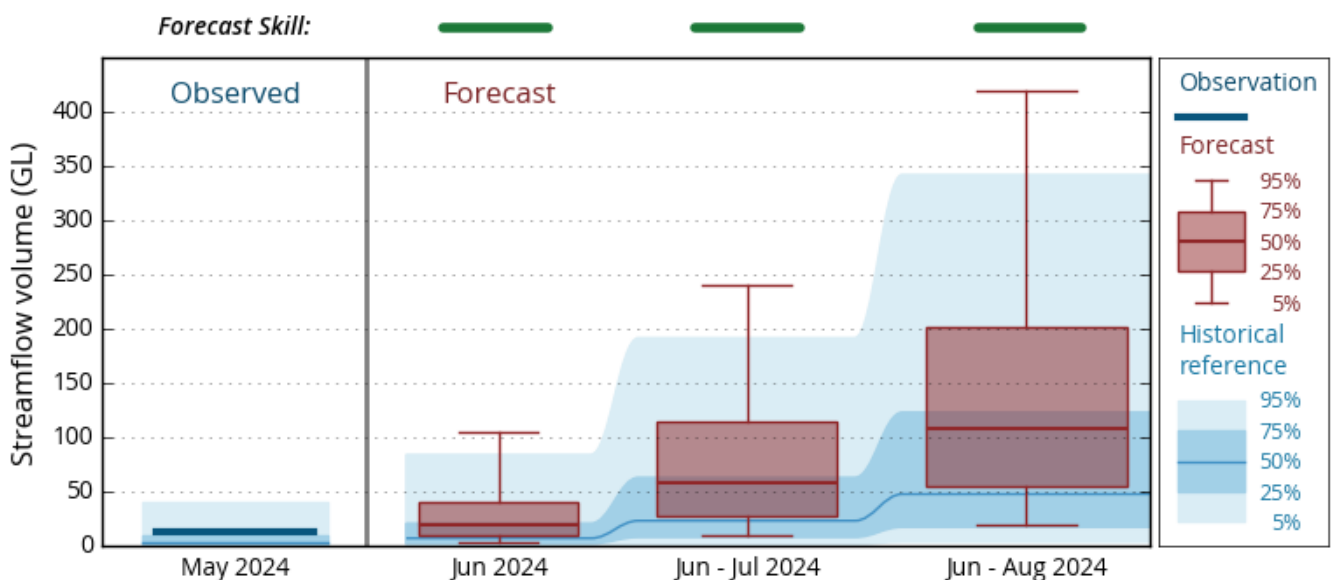
The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for July to September 2024 indicates that rainfall will likely to be median to above median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months.

For further details: [Overview—Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](#)

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 for total flow volumes from June to August 2024, are noticeably higher than the historical flows, indicating likely wetter inflows than historically over this period. The graph from June to August 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](#)

Abercrombie River at Abercrombie (ID: 412028)

Forecast for Jun 2024 – Aug 2024



Generated: 20:23 05/06/2024 (ver. 2.9.0)

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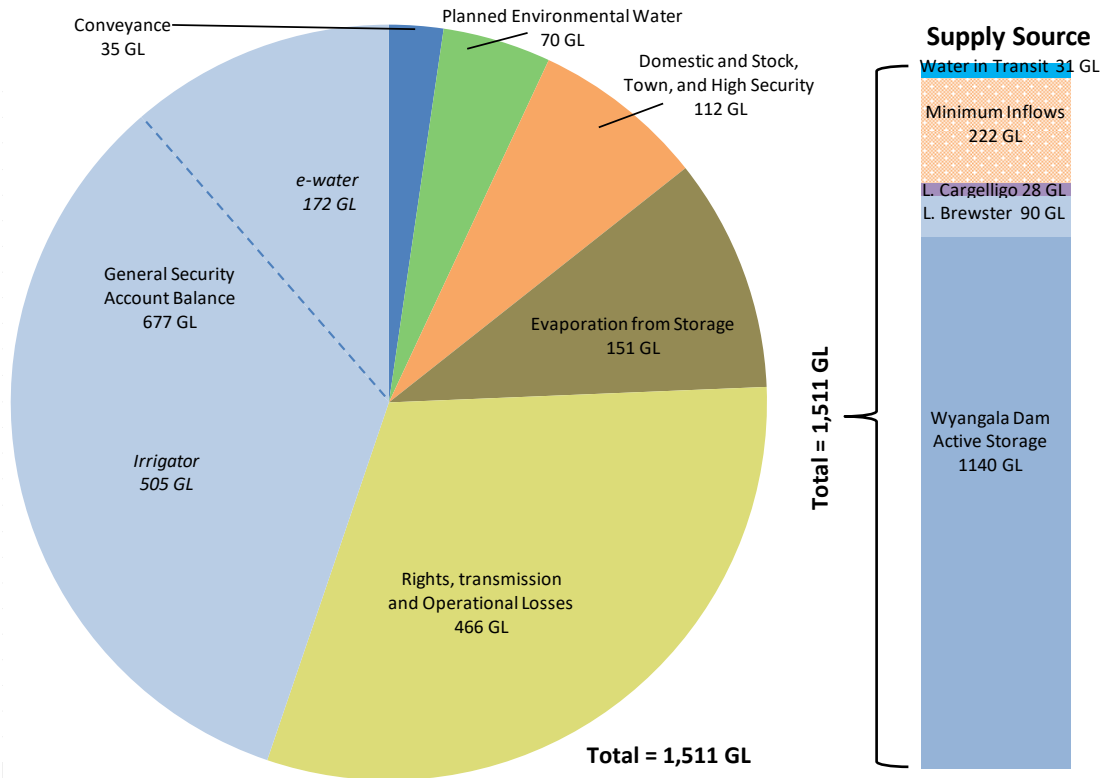
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (July 2024 to May 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,511
<i>less</i>	
This water year (07/24 to 06/25)	
Planned Environmental Water balance ⁽²⁾	40
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	28
High Security balance	28
Conveyance balance	18
General Security balance ⁽³⁾	677
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	117
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	240
Storage reserve for 2025/26	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	30
Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁶⁾	56
Conveyance	17
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	34
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	226
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) End of June 2024 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from July 2024 to May 2026 and 31 GL of flows in transit. 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) is estimated to be 172 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 DCCEEW – Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group (BCS) 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 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 volume is allocated in full and there is no deficit.

Resource Distribution as at 30 June 2024 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Allocations in 2024/25 for the Lachlan regulated river water source

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%

*Maximum allowable

Storage outlook

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 reduce to a minimum by the end of May 2026 then begin to recover.

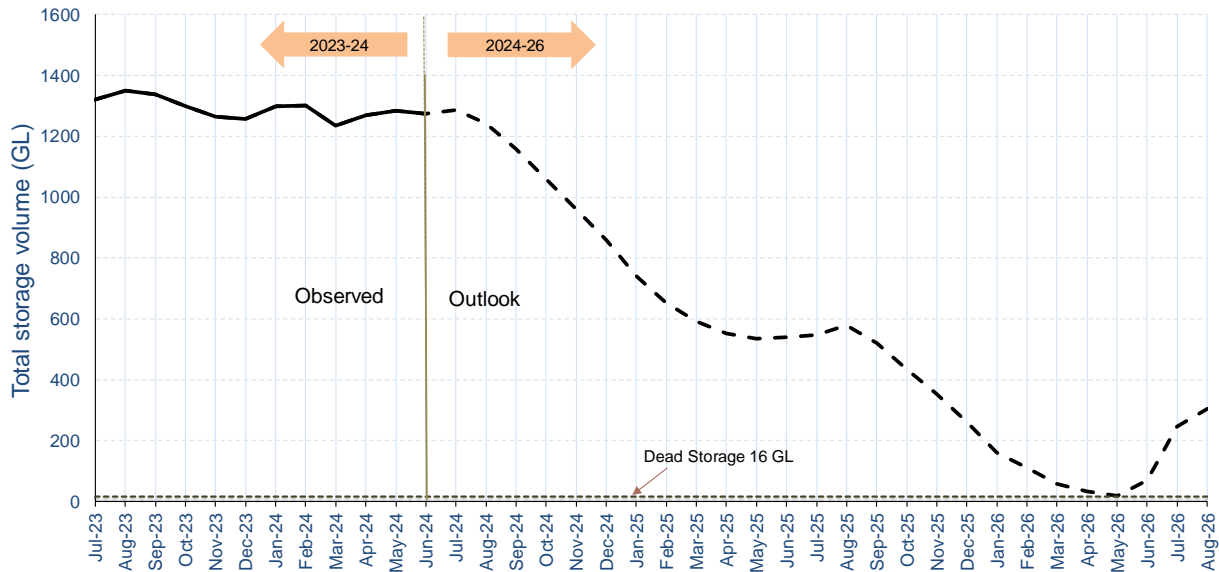


Figure: Simulated Depletion of Combined Wyangala, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo Storage Volume

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 below link.

For further details: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process>

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Thursday 8 August 2024**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website: [Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://Water.nsw.gov.au)

Subscribe [here](#) to receive Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water’s monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

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