

08 August 2024

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

There is **no increase** in allocation to **general security (GS) licenses** in the Lachlan regulated river water source. Water currently assigned to general security accounts totals 674 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 114% of entitlement.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 July 2024. Any resource changes from this date, including rainfall in recent days, will be captured in the next routine statement in September 2024.

### Current allocation

8 August 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	114%

### Key information

- The operator has applied a zero evaporation reduction for the fourth quarter (Q4) (2023/24). The rainfall recorded at Wyangala Dam during the fourth quarter exceeded the observed evaporation, so the reduction is zero.
- Airspace operations and releases from Wyangala Dam will continue in August as necessary to keep storage around the airspace target agreed by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel on 1 August 2024. For more information [click here](#).
- Wyangala Dam Penstock maintenance works started on 29 July 2024 and are planned to be completed by 21 August 2024. For more information [click here](#).
- 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](#).

### Storage levels (as of 7 August 2024)

- Wyangala Dam is about 94% full – holding around 1,141 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 92% full – holding around 34 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 74% full – holding around 105 GL.

## Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

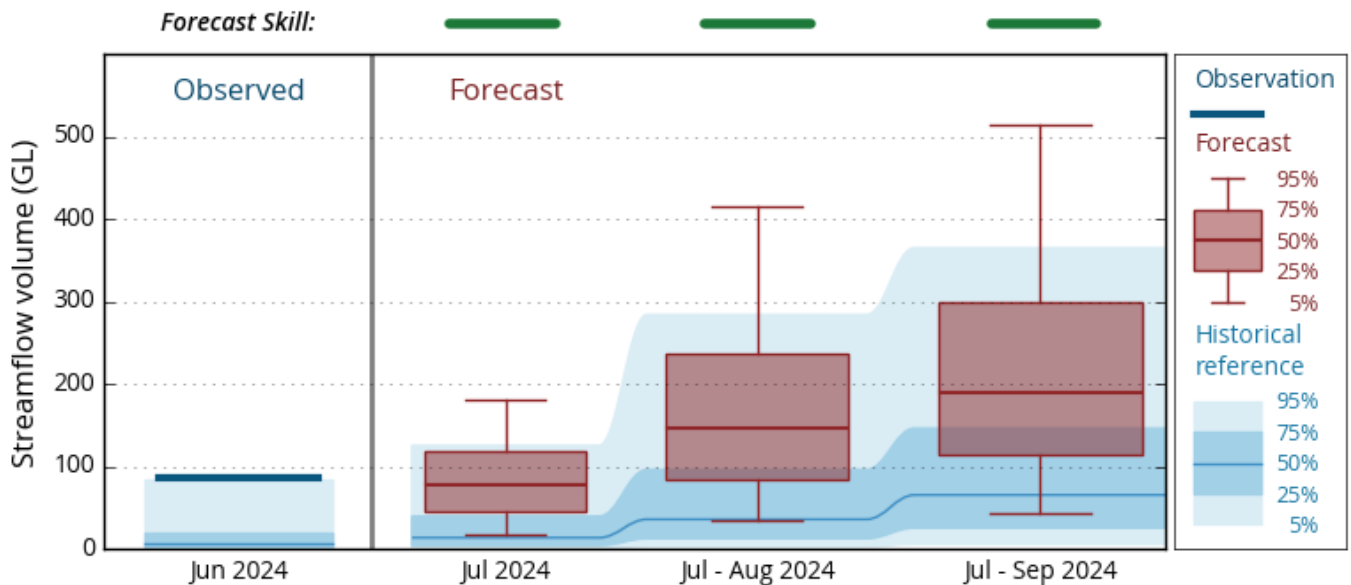
The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for August to October 2024 indicates that rainfall will likely be median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months.

For further details: [Overview—Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/seasonal-outlook/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. All forecast quantiles for total flow volumes from July to September 2024, are noticeably higher than the historical flows, indicating likely wetter inflows than historically over this period. The graph from July to September 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/seasonal-streamflow-forecasts)

### Abercrombie River at Abercrombie (ID: 412028)

Forecast for Jul 2024 – Sep 2024



Generated: 16:41 05/07/2024 (ver. 2.9.0)

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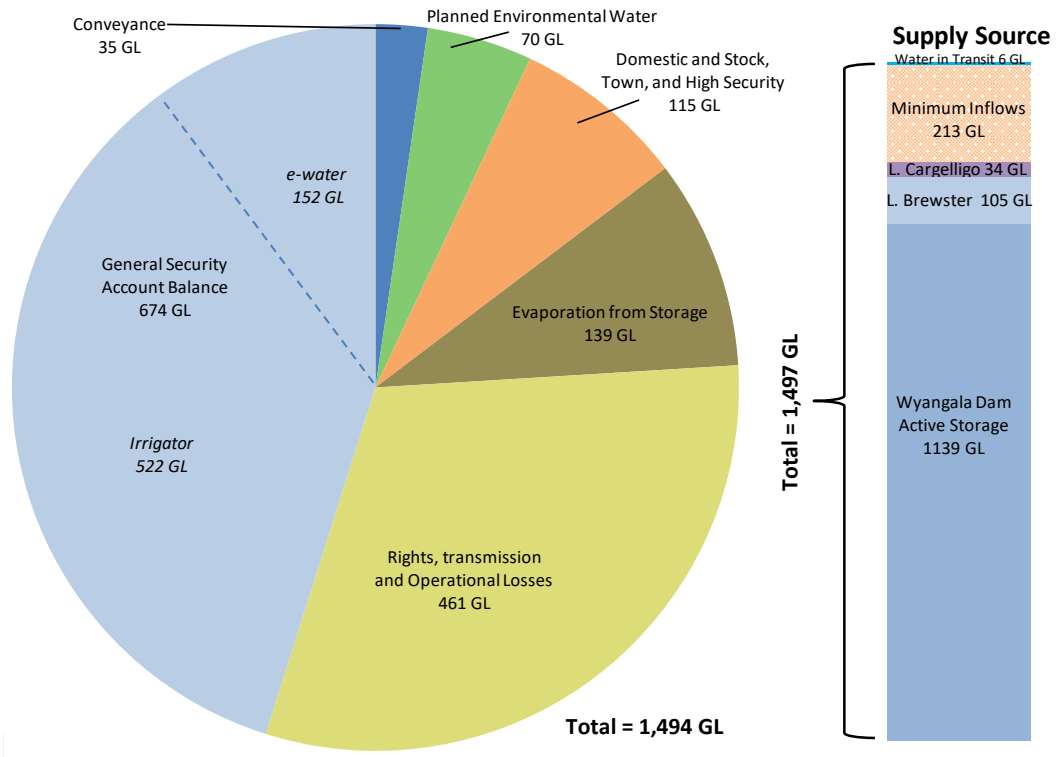
## Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

<b>Resource Distribution (August 2024 to May 2026)</b>	<b>Volume (GL)</b>
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,497
<i>less</i>	
This water year (08/24 to 06/25)	
Planned Environmental Water balance <sup>(2)</sup>	40
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	28
High Security balance	31
Conveyance balance	18
General Security balance <sup>(3)</sup>	674
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	105
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	235
Storage reserve for 2025/26	
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	30
Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security <sup>(6)</sup>	56
Conveyance	17
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	34
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	226
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	3

**Notes:**

- (1) End of July 2024 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from August 2024 to May 2026 and 6 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 152 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) The resource assessment returns a small surplus. This volume will be rolled over to next month's resource assessment.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 July 2024**  
**Lachlan Regulated River Water Source**



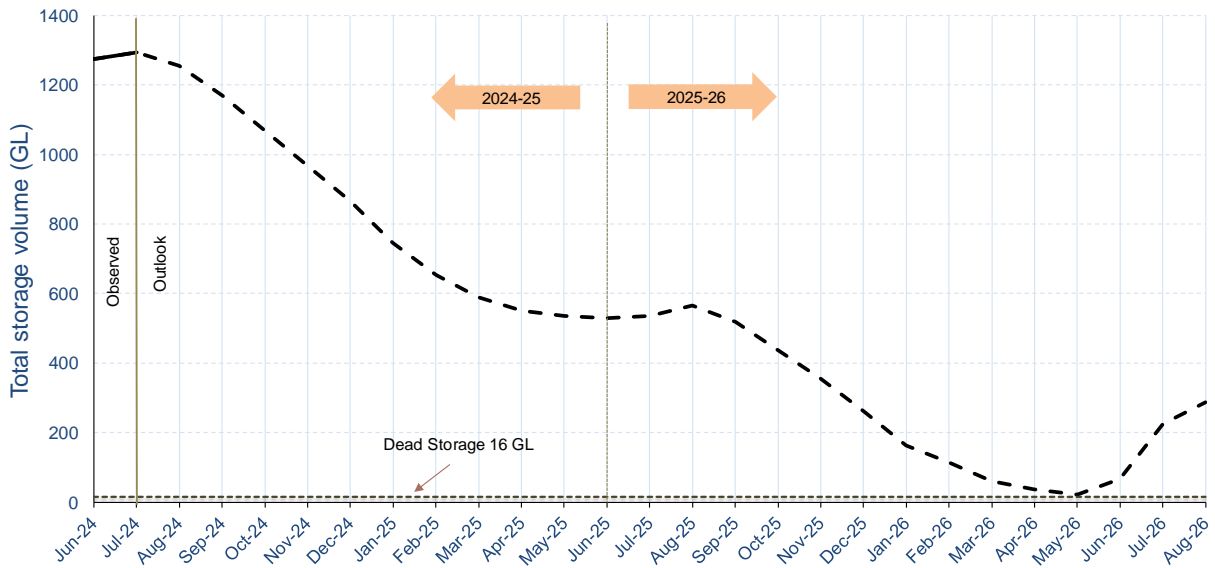
**Allocations in 2024/25 for the Lachlan regulated river water source**

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%
8-Aug	General Security	0.00 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 **Monday 9 September 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 \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/water)

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