

8 March 2023

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders this month. The current volume in general security accounts on average is 641 gegalitres (GL) or 108% of entitlement.

This resource assessment is based on information as of 28 February 2023. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the next allocation statement.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security Allocation	Average GS Account Balance
Lachlan Regulated River	115%	108%

Storage levels (as of 8 March 2023)

- Wyangala Dam is about 97% full, holding around 1,180 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is holding around 30 GL.
- Lake Brewster is holding about 109 GL.

Key information

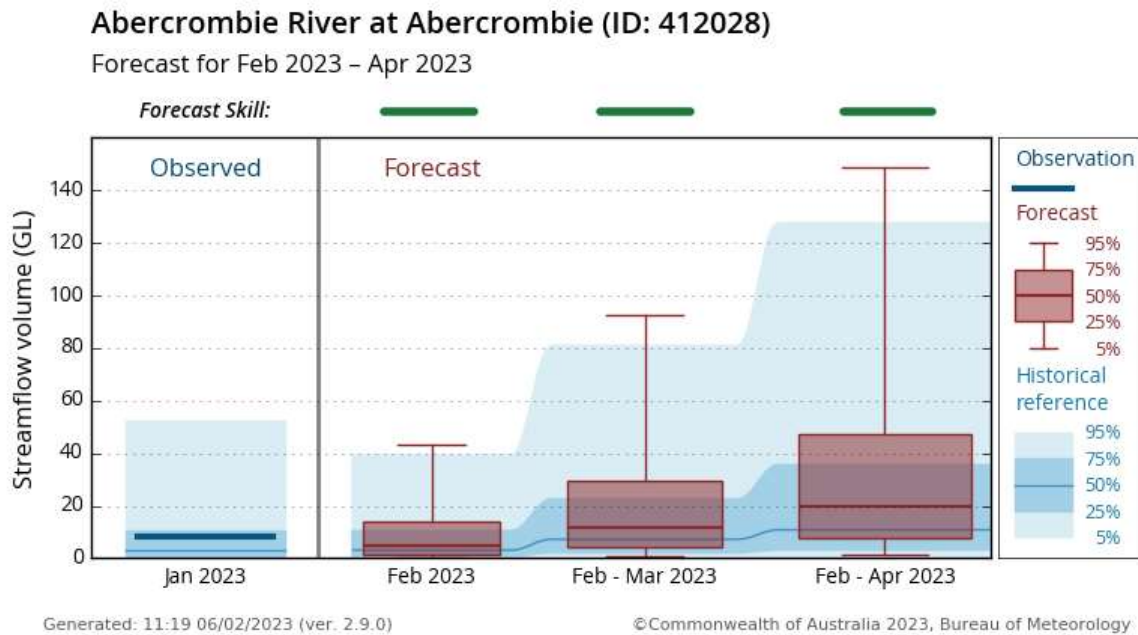
- There will be no account reset before 28 March 2023, six months after the last reset, regardless of whether Wyangala Dam spills again before then.
- The applicable account balances will be reset if all storages are 'deemed' to be full after 28 March 2023, as per clause 45(3) of the water sharing plan.
- The department will deem Lake Brewster full when it reaches its (reduced) maximum safe level of 116 GL, until repair work enables it to safely hold more water. Full supply levels at Wyangala Dam and Lake Cargelligo remain unchanged.
- Water users are reminded that there is no change in annual use limit, which remains at 100% for general security water access licence holders, plus any adjustments for trade.

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for March to May indicates that rainfall will likely be below the median across the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are warmer than the median.

Further details at: 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. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from February to April are higher than the historical flows, indicating flows to April are likely to be higher than historically over this period. The graph to April 2023 is shown below, and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028



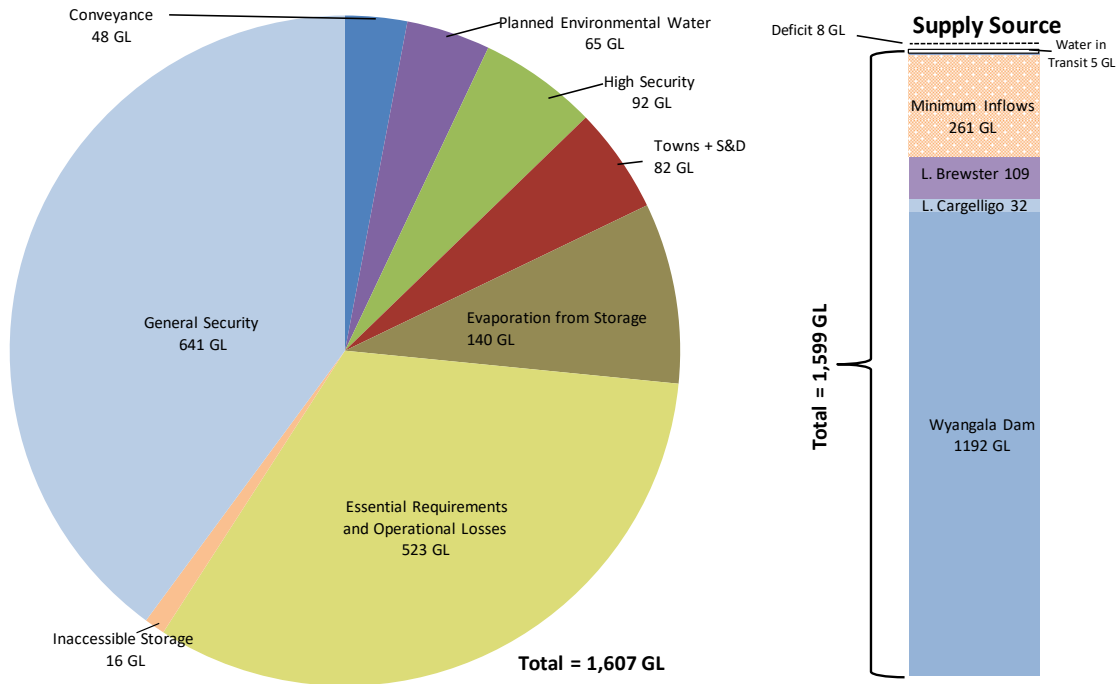
Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (March 2023 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,599
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance ⁽⁶⁾	641
Conveyance	48
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	65
High Security ^{(3) (6)}	92
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽³⁾	82
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	140
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	523
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	<u>(8)</u>

Notes:

- (1) End of February 2023 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from March 2023 to May 2025 and flows in transit.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance (WQA) and the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA). The volume represents the balance of the allocated volumes to WQA and EWAs. EWAs have been allocated 20 GL per year for 2022/23 and 2023/24. In addition, WQA have been allocated 20 GL per year for 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- (3) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to deliver current year balances and to meet full allocation for these licences in 2023/24 and 2024/2025. Balances in high security accounts also include any water traded from general security licences.
- (4) Evaporation loss from the three storages is based on 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 2025. 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 to be about 129 GL of GS, and 15.4 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Environment and Heritage (EHG) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (7) All available water resources have been allocated, and there is a small notional deficit. This is unlikely to materialise and will resolve with probable better-than-planned use of tributary inflows in the coming months. All commitments are considered deliverable, and the system is secure to May 2025 and beyond.

**Resource Distribution as at 28 February 2023
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%*
1-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	124%
28-Sep	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share**	1.00 ML/unit share**	100%**
28-Sep	General Security	1.15 ML/unit share#	1.15 ML/unit share#	115%#

*Maximum allowable

#Following an account equalisation and reset on 28 September 2022 due to dam spill

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water published 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:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next routine water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Tuesday 11 April 2023**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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