

10 October 2023

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders this time. The total allocation balance of general security licenses is currently about 664 gigalitres (GL) or 112% of entitlement. The resource assessment this month has returned a small temporary deficit due to a drop in the inflow sequence along with higher than expected losses.

### Current allocation

| 10 October 2023  | Allocation Increment | Average Account Balance |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| General security | 0%                   | 112%                    |

### Key information

- The total carryover volume on 1 July 2023 was 714 GL.
- The first quarterly reduction, 0.787% of the 1 July 2023 carry over balance, has been applied to the general security accounts that carried water into this water year.
- The same quarterly reduction will be applied at the end of December 2023. The Hold sub-account is debited unless depleted, otherwise the Take sub-account.
- An information sheet on the carryover evaporation reduction was released on 5 October 2023 and can be found on the departments website. For more information [click here](#).
- Lake Brewster storage level will be maintained at 76% until at least the end of February 2024 to reduce the risk of mass abandonment of the current Pelican breeding event.
- There will be no further account reset before 5 November 2023, six months after the last reset, regardless of the system again filling/spilling. In the event of an account reset, any remaining evaporation reduction will be discontinued.

### Storage levels (as of 9 October 2023)

- Wyangala Dam is about 98.8% full - holding around 1,203 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 51% full - holding around 22 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 78.4% full - holding about 121 GL.

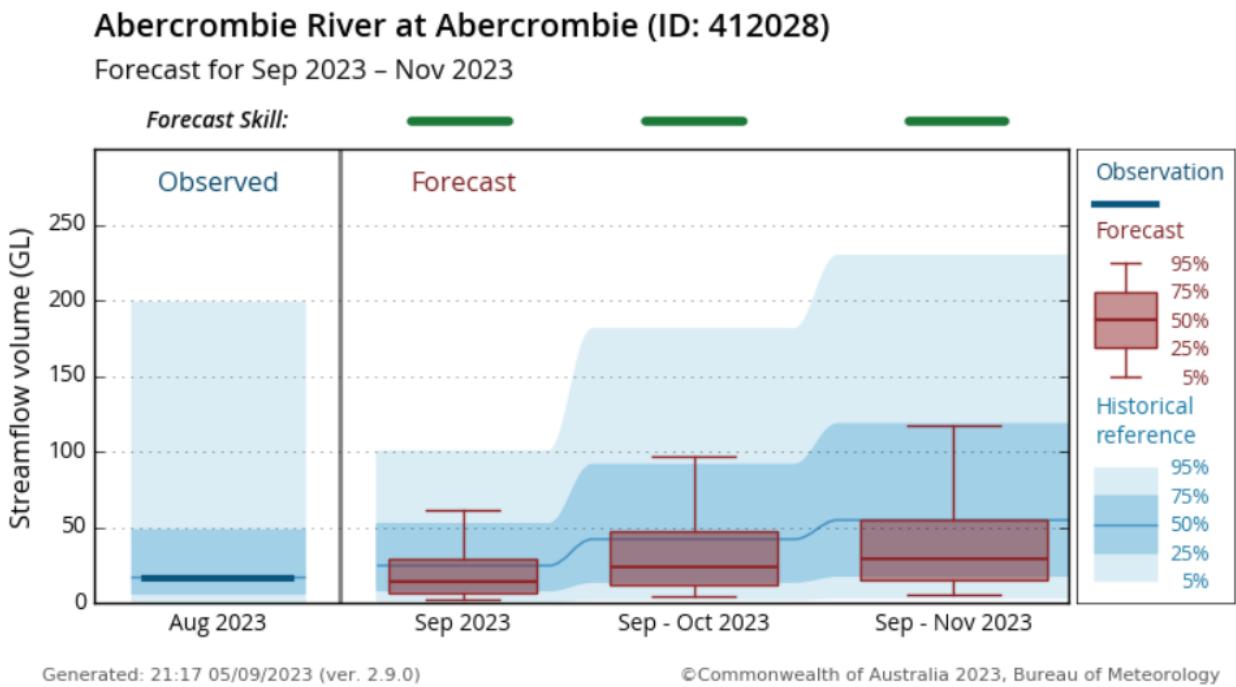
### Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November to January indicates that rainfall will likely be below median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than median over the next three months for the catchment.

For further details: [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. Most of the forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from September to November are lower than the historical flows indicating a likely drier outlook. The graph to November 2023 is shown below, and updates can be found at:

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



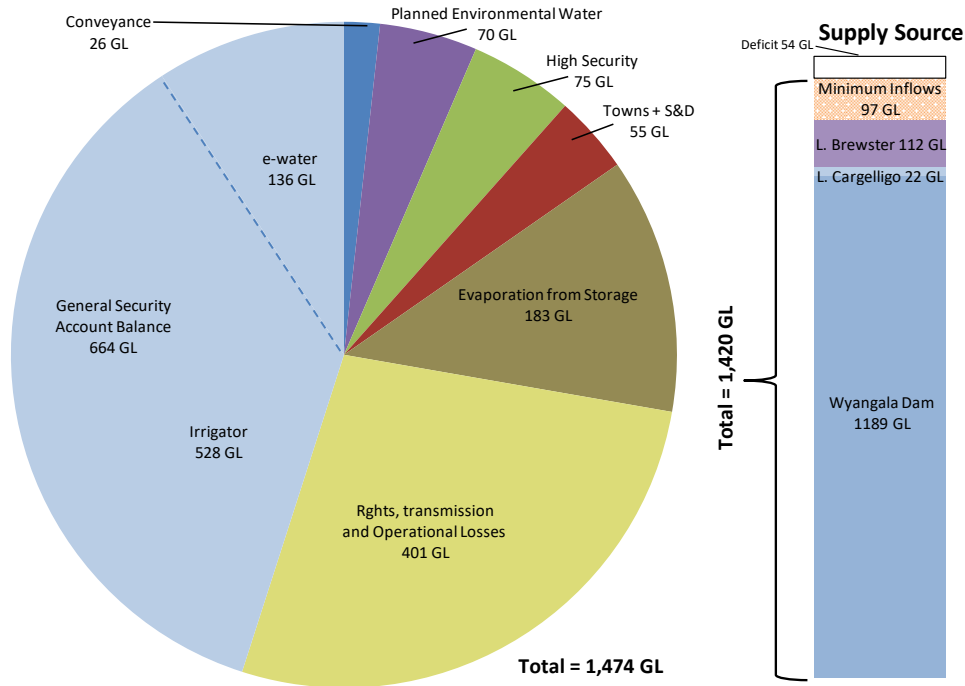
## Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

| Resource Distribution (October 2023 to May 2025)            | Volume (GL) |
|---|-------------|
| Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>                 | 1,420       |
| <i>less</i>   |             |
| This water year (10/23 to 06/24)                            |             |
| Planned Environmental Water balance <sup>(2)</sup>          | 40          |
| Domestic and Stock, Town balance                            | 27          |
| High Security balance                                       | 47          |
| Conveyance balance  | 8           |
| General Security balance <sup>(3)(4)</sup>                  | 664         |
| Evaporation from storage <sup>(5)</sup>                     | 134         |
| Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(6)</sup> | 165         |
| Storage reserve for 2024/25                                 |             |
| Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>                  | 30          |
| Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security <sup>(7)</sup>  | 56          |
| Conveyance  | 18          |
| Evaporation from storage <sup>(5)</sup>                     | 49          |
| Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(6)</sup> | 236         |
| <i>equals</i>   |             |
| Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup>                         | (54)        |

### Notes:

- (1) End of September 2023 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from October 2023 to May 2025 and flows in transit if any. Also, this is net of 16 GL of inaccessible (dead) volume.
- (2) Water reserved for the Water Quality Allowance (WQA) and the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA).
- (3) Volume in general security accounts including water carried over from last water year.
- (4) The held environmental water (HEW) is estimated to be about 136 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 Department of Planning and Environment - Environment and Heritage Group (EHG) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) Evaporation loss from three storages is based on projected storage depletions.
- (6) The volume required to run the river to meet all non-licence-based demands and delivery overheads. This mostly comprises of basic landholder rights, transmission and operational losses under dry conditions.
- (7) Required volume to allow full utilisation of 100% allocation to these licence holders.
- (8) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small deficit which will be monitored closely.

**Resource Distribution as at 30 September 2023**  
**Lachlan Regulated River Water Source**



**Allocations in 2023/24 for the Lachlan regulated river water source**

| Date   | License Category    | Increment          | Total 2023/24       | 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%*                   |
| 10-Jul | General Security    | 0.00 ML/unit share | 0.00 ML/unit share  | 120%                    |
| 8-Aug  | General Security    | 0.00 ML/unit share | 0.00 ML/unit share  | 120%                    |
| 8-Sep  | General Security    | 0.00 ML/unit share | 0.00 ML/unit share  | 117%                    |
| 10-Oct | General Security    | 0.00 ML/unit share | 0.00 ML/unit share  | 112%                    |

\*Maximum allowable

## 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: [water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/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 **Wednesday 8 November 2023**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [water.dpie.nsw.gov.au](https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au)

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