

8 November 2023

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation to general security licenses in the regulated Lachlan water source. Water currently assigned to general security accounts totals 641 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 108 % of entitlement.

Low inflow conditions since the last assessment have meant no significant capture of new resources and no increase in allocations at this time. This resource assessment is based on information to 31 October 2023. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in December.

### Current allocation

8 November 2023	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	108%

### 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, was applied to the general security accounts that carried water into this water year on 5 October 2023.
- An information sheet on the carryover evaporation reduction was released on 5 October 2023 and can be found on the department's website. For more information [click here](#).
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Environment Heritage Group (EHG) and Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) in partnership have committed up to 50 GL for pelican management at Lake Brewster until 31 December 2023 (subject to ongoing review and adaptive management).
- Lake Cargelligo returned to operation from Monday 2 October 2023. For more information [click here](#).
- The revised full capacity of Lake Brewster is 79.5% when it reaches its reduced maximum safe level, until repair work enables it to safely hold more water. For more information [click here](#).
- The applicable account balances will be reset if all storages are deemed to be full, as per clause 45(3) of the water sharing plan.

### Storage levels (as of 7 November 2023)

- Wyangala Dam is about 95% full - holding around 1,154 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 48% full - holding around 21 GL.

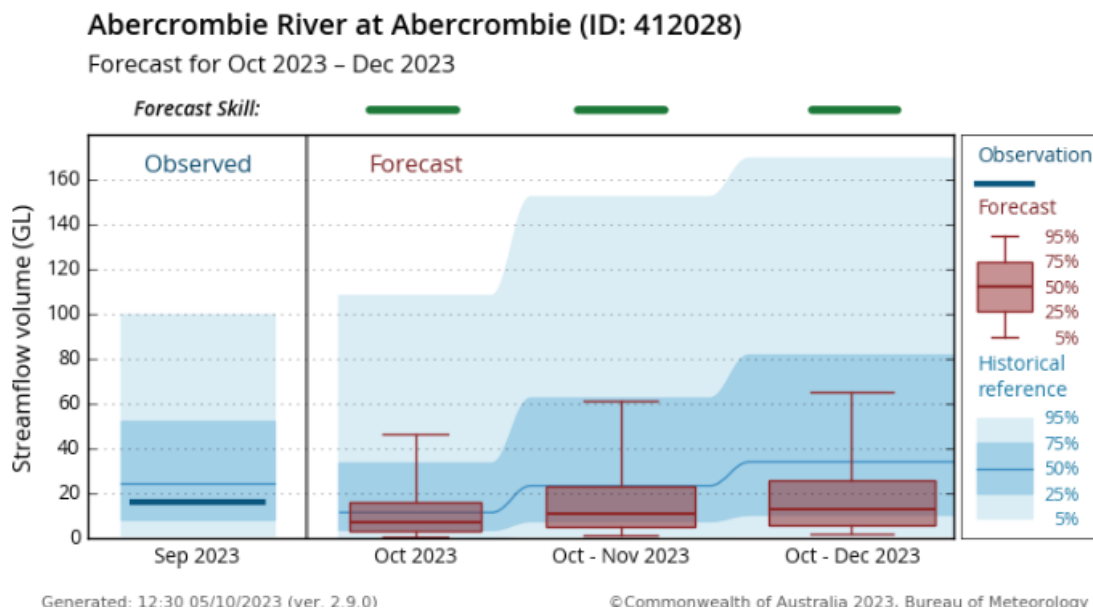
- Lake Brewster is about 73% full - holding about 108 GL.

## 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.

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. Most of the forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from October to December are lower than the historical flows indicating a likely drier outlook. The graph from October to December 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)



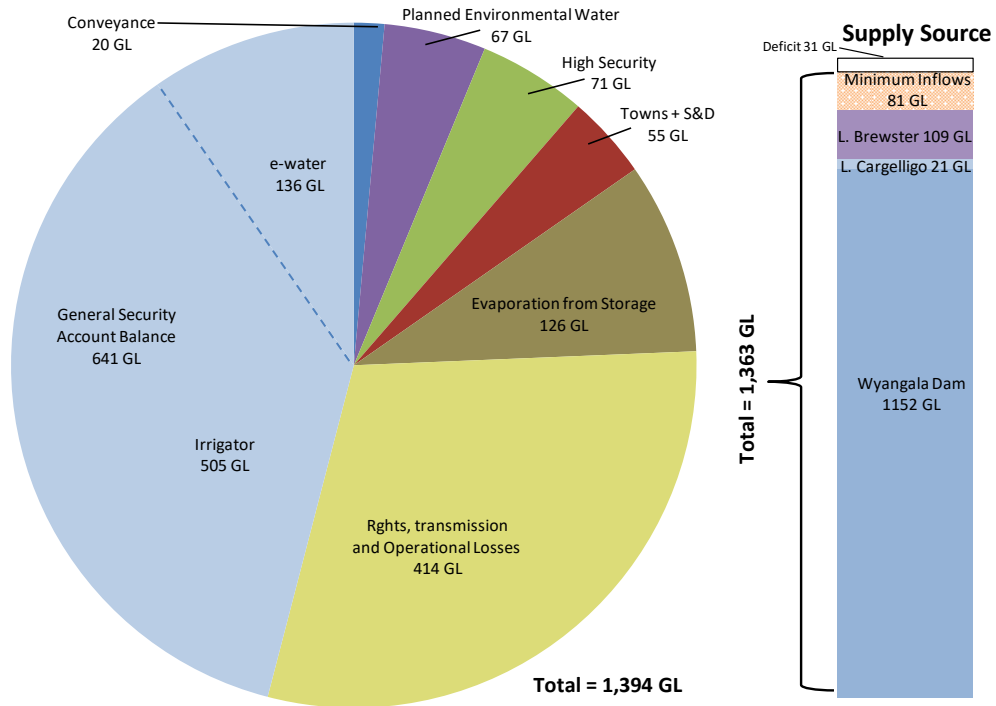
## Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (November 2023 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,363
<i>less</i>	
This water year (11/23 to 06/24)	
Planned Environmental Water balance <sup>(2)</sup>	37
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	27
High Security balance	43
Conveyance balance	2
General Security balance <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	641
Evaporation from storage <sup>(5)</sup>	92
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(6)</sup>	183
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>	34
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(6)</sup>	231
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup>	(31)

### Notes:

- (1) End of October 2023 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from November 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 31 October 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%
8-Nov	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	108%

\*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 **Friday 8 December 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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