

8 December 2023

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation to general security licenses in the Lachlan regulated river water source. Water currently assigned to general security accounts totals 598 gigalitres (GL) or an average of 100% of entitlement.

Low inflow conditions since the last assessment have meant no significant capture of new resources and no increase in allocations at this assessment. This resource assessment is based on information to 30 November 2023. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in January.

Current allocation

8 December 2023	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	100%

Key information

- As usual, this end of November assessment steps out another 12 months and extends the assessment horizon to May 2026. This requires increased reserves.
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Environment Heritage Group (EHG) in partnership with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) 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 was returned to operation from Monday 2 October 2023. For more information [click here](#). From November 2023 the storage will be limited to a maximum 75% storage capacity (deemed full) in the short term, so that WaterNSW can maximise progress with work ahead of the next irrigation season. For more information [click here](#).
- The reduced maximum safe level of Lake Brewster (deemed full) is 79.5% of full supply capacity, until current repair work is completed. For more information [click here](#).
- Note: the applicable account balances will be reset if all storages are deemed to be full (reduced full supply capacity), as per clause 45(3) of the water sharing plan.

Storage levels (as of 7 December 2023)

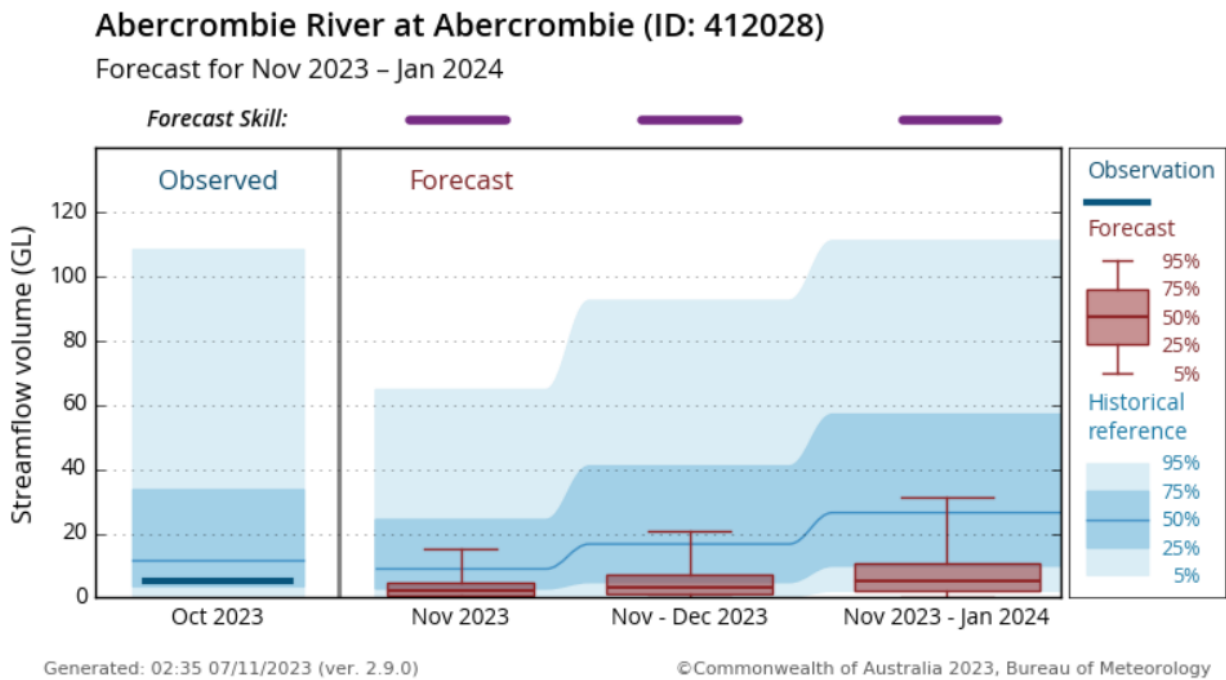
- Wyangala Dam is about 94% full - holding around 1,143 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 70% full - holding around 27 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 75% full - holding about 110 GL.

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for December to February 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

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 November 2023 to January 2024 are lower than the historical flows, indicating likely lower inflow than historically over this period. The graph from November 2023 to January 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028



Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

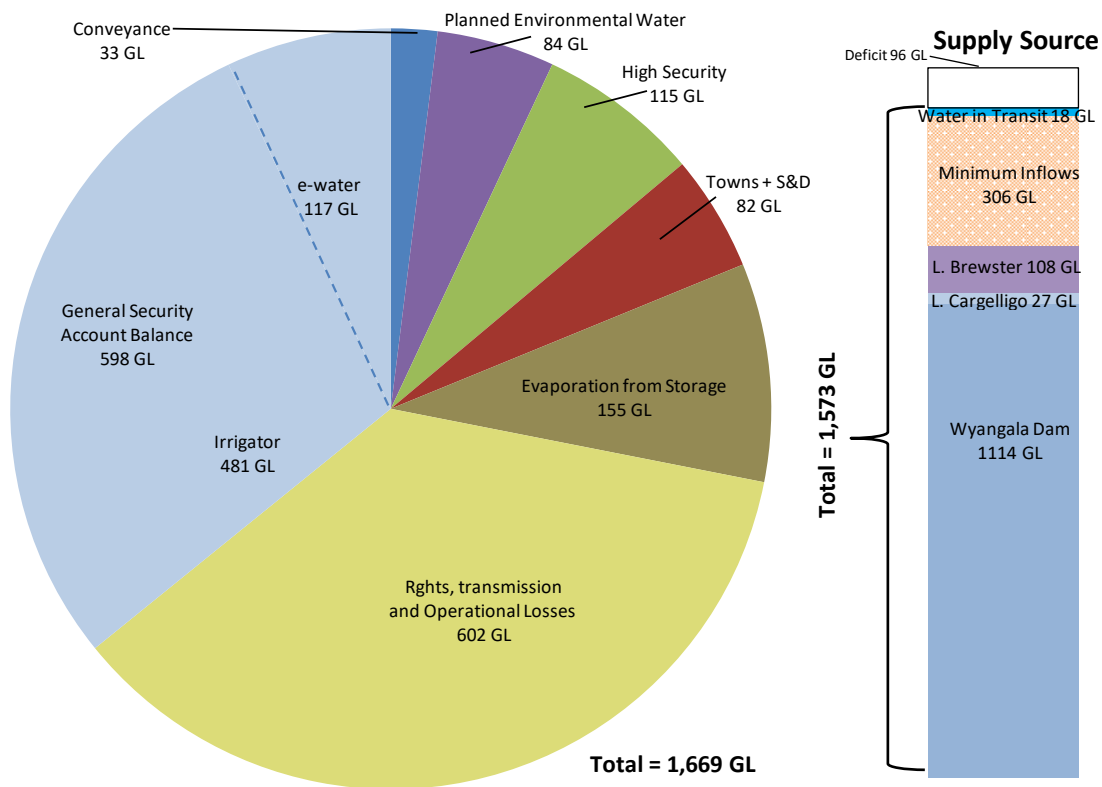
Resource Distribution (December 2023 to May 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,573
<i>less</i>	
This water year (12/23 to 06/24)	
Planned Environmental Water balance ⁽²⁾	34
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	26
High Security balance	59
Conveyance balance	0
General Security balance ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	598
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	88
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁶⁾	155
Storage reserve for 2024/25 and 2025/26	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	50
Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁷⁾	112
Conveyance	33
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	67
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁶⁾	447
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	(96)

Notes:

- (1) End of November 2023 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from December 2023 to May 2026 and flows in transit of 18 GL. 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 117 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 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.
- (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. This temporary deficit results from reserving another year of high priority water from this month. This will be monitored closely.

Resource Distribution as at 30 November 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%

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Average Account Balance
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%
8-Dec	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	100%

*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

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Tuesday 9 January 2024**.

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

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