

11 June 2024

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

**General security (GS) licenses in the Lachlan regulated river water source have received an allocation increase of 4% of their entitlement.** The increment takes the combined general security account balance to 635 gegalitres (GL) or an average of 107% of entitlement. The improved resources have come from inflows and less-than-budgeted operation and transmission losses.

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

### Current allocation

11 June 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	4%	107%

### Resource outlook for 2024/25

The outlook for likely 1 July 2024 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that the forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including for towns, is secure for the 2024/25 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including **local water utility, stock and domestic, and high security** can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July 2024.
- **Conveyance** account receives allocation commensurate with the opening balance of the relevant general security licence. This time the allocation will likely be 100%.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward into new water year. The maximum volume that may be held in an account at any time is 2.0 megalitres (ML)/unit share (200% of entitlement).
- General security water users will have access to their carried over account water, but no new allocation will be announced on 1 July 2024. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessments will continue, and any resource improvements will be allocated in the monthly statements resuming on 8 July 2024.
- Total general security carryover is expected to exceed 50% of entitlement, therefore both the Wyangala and Brewster Environmental Water Allowances will be allocated 10 GL each on 1 July. The water quality allowance (WQA) will receive 20 GL on 1 July in accordance with the water sharing plan.

## Key information

- Airspace operations and releases from Wyangala Dam will continue in June as necessary to keep storage around the airspace target agreed by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel on 22 May 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 deemed to be full (considers reduced full supply capacity where applicable), and inflows cannot be regulated, in accordance with clause 45(3) of the water sharing plan.
- A storage outlook plot for the assessment horizon is provided later in this statement.

## Storage levels (as of 11 June 2024)

- Wyangala Dam is about 100% full – holding around 1,223 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 83% full – holding around 31 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 73% full – holding around 106 GL.

## Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

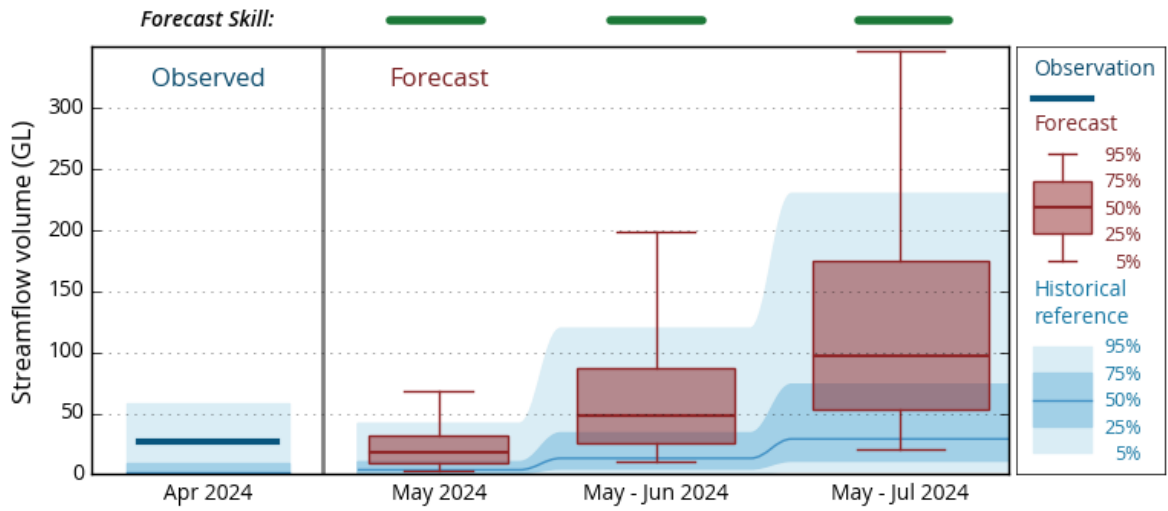
The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for June to August 2024 indicates that rainfall will likely to be above median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months for the catchment.

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 May to July 2024, are noticeably higher than the historical flows, indicating likely wetter inflows than historically over this period. The graph from May to July 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-outlook/seasonal-streamflow-forecasts)

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

Forecast for May 2024 – Jul 2024



Generated: 15:07 06/05/2024 (ver. 2.9.0)

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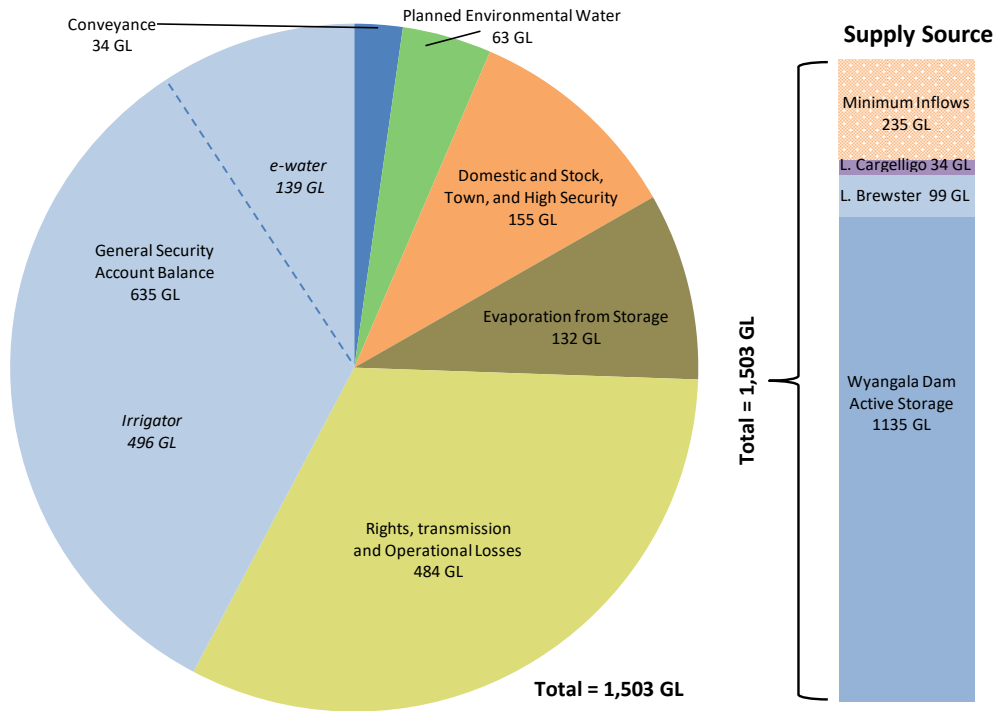
## Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (June 2024 to May 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,503
<i>less</i>	
This water year (06/24)	
Planned Environmental Water balance <sup>(2)</sup>	3
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	19
High Security balance	24
Conveyance balance	0
General Security balance <sup>(3)</sup>	635
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	2
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	16
Storage reserve for 2024/25 and 2025/26	
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	60
Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security <sup>(6)</sup>	112
Conveyance	34
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	130
Rights, transmission, and operational losses <sup>(5)</sup>	468
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	0

**Notes:**

- (1) End of May 2024 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from June 2024 to May 2026 and flows in transit if any. 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). The 23/24 balance includes 3 GL of EWA, with WQA used in full by now.
- (3) The held environmental water (HEW) is estimated to be 139 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) Surplus volume is allocated in full and there is no deficit.

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



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

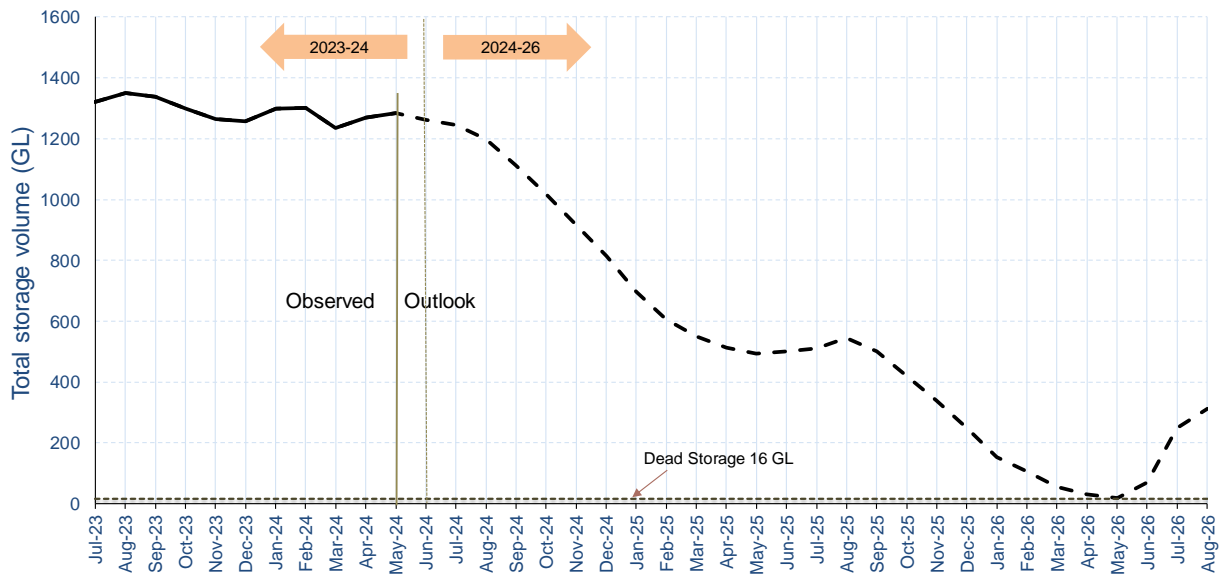
Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Average Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
10-Jul	General Security	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%
8-Dec	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	100%
9-Jan	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	95%
8-Feb	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	93%
8-Mar	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.02 ML/unit share	90%
9-Apr	General Security	0.12 ML/unit share	0.14 ML/unit share	98%

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Average Account Balance
8-May	General Security	0.06 ML/unit share	0.20 ML/unit share	103%
11-June	General Security	0.04 ML/unit share	0.24 ML/unit share	107%

\*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>

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## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Monday 8 July 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)

Subscribe [here](#) to receive Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

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