

10 May 2021

## Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

### Water allocation update


There is a **4% increase in allocation to general security (GS) entitlements** in the Lachlan regulated river water source this month, bringing the total cumulative allocation for this water year to 68% of entitlement.

Ongoing recessions from recent rainfall have maintained inflows into Wyangala Dam during April. There has also been a further reduction in the budget needed for essential requirements because the system remains wet. Inflows into Wyangala Dam and useable tributary flows totalled 19 GL in April. Replenishment flows to the effluent creeks in the Lower Lachlan have commenced using tributary flows from autumn rainfall and water stored in Lake Brewster. Approximately 25 GL will be delivered to the effluent creeks by the end of the water year.

Based on historical inflows, there is more than a 10% chance that the major storages within the system will spill by the end of June 2021. Should a spill occur, general security accounts will be reset and equalised in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Inflows in excess of 10 GL are required in May to facilitate an increase in general security allocations in the next assessment. This is subject to losses remaining within budget. The planning outlook runs to May 2023 and ensures that all high priority needs can be met through this period before further allocations to general security are made.

General security water users are advised that the Annual Use Limit that applies in the 2020/21 water year is a volume equivalent to 100% of their entitlement. This is the maximum amount that can be used in the 2020/21 water year, plus any up or down adjustments for trade.

2020/21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	100%	68%	 Stage 1

### Resource outlook for 2021/22

- Domestic and stock, towns, and high security licences will likely be allocated 100% of entitlement on 1 July.
- Approximately 408 GL of general security water is expected to be carried over into the new water year. This equates to approximately 69% of share component for these licences.
- Water remaining in general security accounts after 30 June 2021 is expected to be fully deliverable in the new water year.
- As the general security account balance is forecast to be over 50% at the start of the new water year, the Wyangala and Brewster EWAs are likely to be credited with 10 GL each at the start of the new water year in accordance with the water sharing plan. However if the capacity of Lake Brewster falls below 10 GL, then the volume of the Brewster EWA available for release will reduce accordingly.

- There is no limit on cumulative allocations to general security licences in a water year. The Department will continue to allocate any surplus water as it becomes available.
- The maximum general security account limit is 2 ML/unit share (200% of entitlement).

## Wyangala Dam Penstock Outage

Maintenance on Wyangala Dam penstock has now begun and is expected to be completed in early July 2021. The penstock outage will reduce the maximum release capacity to 250 ML/day. Irrigation demand is typically low throughout these months, so this dam release capacity combined with continued high tributary flows is expected to be adequate to meet water orders. To the extent that translucent releases cannot be made, they will be released at the next most practicable opportunity. Water users are encouraged to check with WaterNSW for more details.

## Storage levels (as at 10 May 2021)

- Wyangala Dam is about 70% full – steady – holding around 850,000 ML.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 72% full – rising – holding around 28,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 22% full – falling – holding about 34,000 ML.

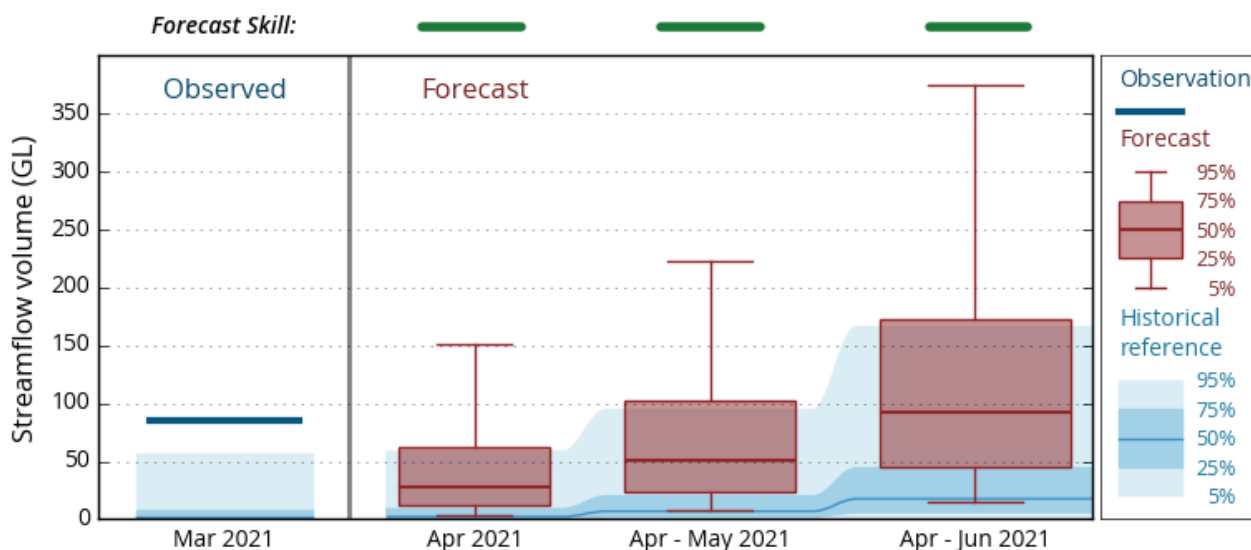
## Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for May to July indicates that rainfall is likely to be around or above average across the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

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 an indicative distribution of potential inflows. All forecast flow quartiles are much higher than the historical flows for next 2 to 3 months. This shows a clear potential for higher flows than the historical volumes throughout these months.

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

Forecast for Apr 2021 – Jun 2021



For further details: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=412028>

## Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

<b>Resource Distribution (May 2021 to May 2023)</b>	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,159
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance <sup>(6)(7)</sup>	380
Conveyance	47
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	58
High Security <sup>(3) (6)</sup>	80
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(3)</sup>	41
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	82
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	455
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Water available for allocation (or deficit)	<u>0</u>

### Notes:

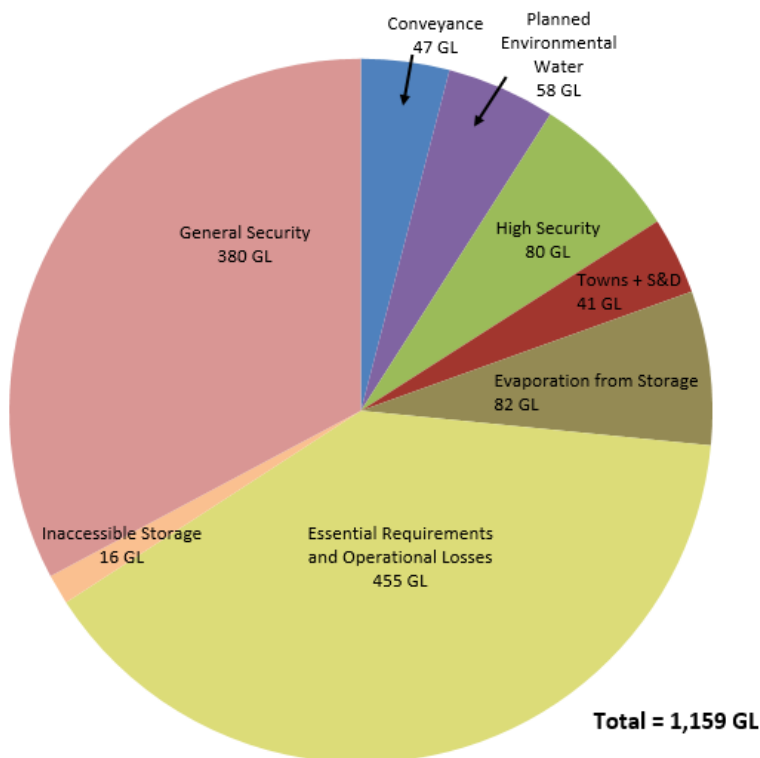
- (1) End of April 2021 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, plus expected minimum inflows from May 2021 to May 2023.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA) under the water sharing plan. The total volume represents the balance of the WQA and EWAs. EWA allocation for 2020-21 is currently 20 GL and another 20 GL has been allowed for the Wyangala and Brewster EWAs' in to the 2021-22 water year. 'Licence-based' environmental water is excluded from this category.
- (3) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet projected use of these users to 31 May 2023. Balances in high security accounts also include water traded in from general security licences, if any.
- (4) The evaporation from all three storages are based on the forecast drawdown over the assessment period.
- (5) Essential requirements include basic rights 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 2023. This mostly comprises 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 57 GL of GS, and 5 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW DPIE - Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (7) The GS account balance includes any AWDs made this current water year and GS water carried over from the previous years.

# Water Allocation Statement

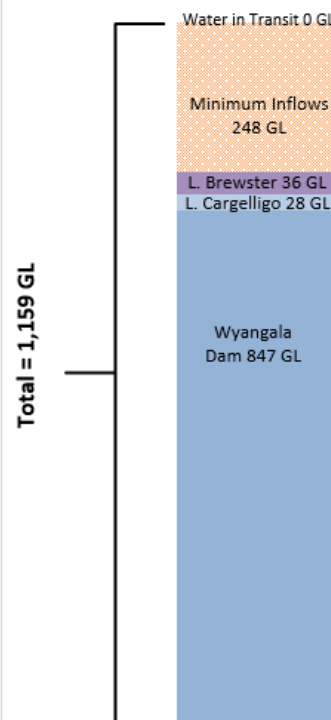
Water availability and allocation update



## Resource Distribution: May 2021 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



## Supply Source



### Next announcements

The next water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 9 June 2021**.

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