

8 March 2022

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

There is a **3% increase to general security entitlement holders this month**. This brings the total allocation to general security licences since the September reset to 128% of entitlement.

High flows have been receding towards the end of February; however, flows have remained adequate to keep all storages full and surplus resource in the system. There was approximately 53 gigalitres (GL) of inflow into Wyangala Dam and from downstream tributaries throughout February.

Airspace operations at Wyangala Dam have continued, with the dam to be held near full and pre-releases occurring as required to safely deal with forecast rainfall. Most system demands are being met from storage spills and downstream tributaries. Translucent flow obligations have been fully met for this water year.

All the storages are forecast to remain at full capacity from the current flows in the system throughout March. As such, there will likely be a storage spill and account reset soon after 21 March 2022, 6 months from the previous reset. The annual use limit of 100% of entitlement for general security entitlement holders still applies for the 2021-22 water year, plus any adjustments for trade.

| 2021-22                              | High Security | General Security |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Lachlan Regulated River Water Source | 100%          | 128%             |

## Storage levels (as at 7 March 2022)

- Wyangala Dam is 97% full – steady – holding around 1,185 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is 100% full – rising – holding around 37 GL.
- Lake Brewster is 98% full – rising – holding about 146 GL (4 March 2022).

## Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for March to May indicates rainfall is likely to be above median conditions and temperatures are likely to be around or below average.

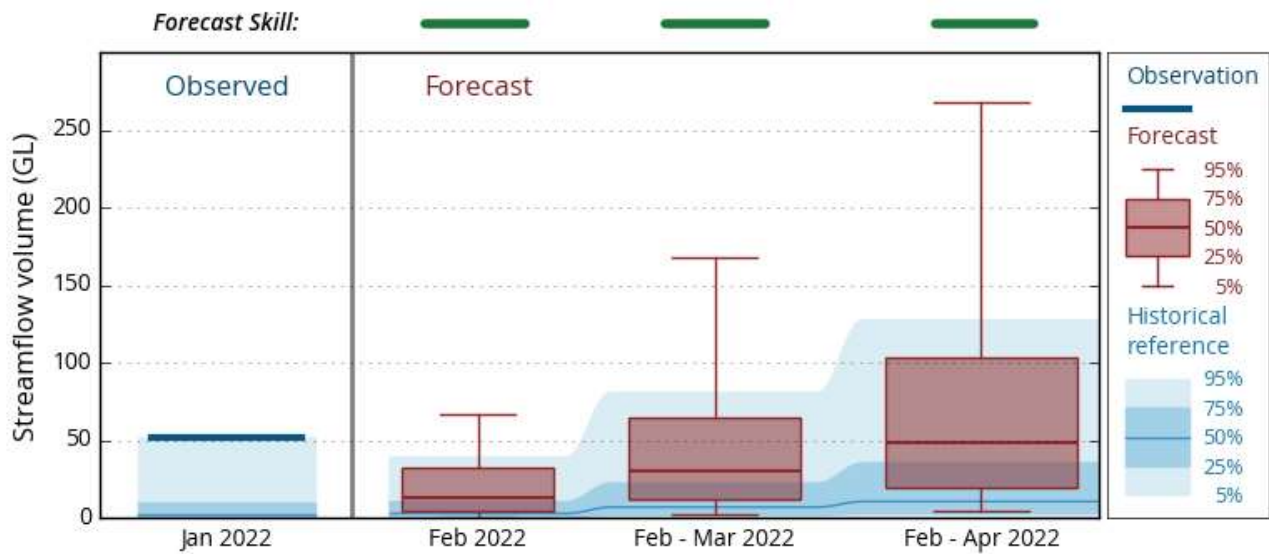
Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#!/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#!/overview/summary)

The Bureau of Meteorology also issues a seasonal flow forecast of the Abercrombie River that drains into Wyangala Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indicative temporal distribution of potential inflows. All forecast flow quartiles are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating that flows over these coming months is likely to be higher than historical flows.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=412028](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=412028)

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

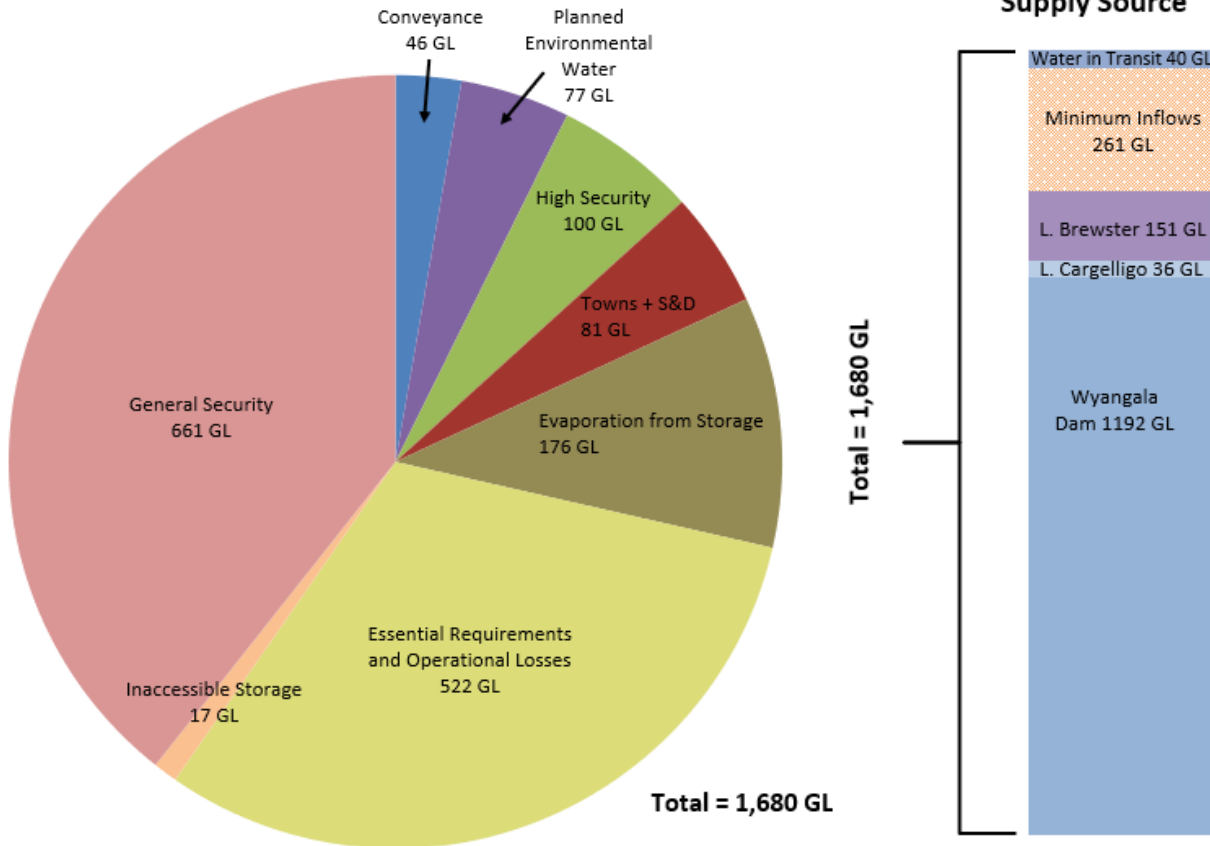
Forecast for Feb 2022 – Apr 2022



### Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

| Resource Distribution (March 2022 to May 2024)   | Volume (GL) |
|--|-------------|
| Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>      | 1,680       |
| <i>less</i>                                      |             |
| General Security account balance <sup>(6)</sup>  | 661         |
| Conveyance                                       | 46          |
| Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>       | 77          |
| High Security <sup>(3) (6)</sup>                 | 100         |
| Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(3)</sup>            | 81          |
| Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>          | 176         |
| Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup> | 522         |
| Inaccessible storage                             | <u>17</u>   |
| <i>equals</i>                                    |             |
| Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>              | 0           |

## Resource Distribution: March 2022 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



**Notes:**

- (1) End of February 2022 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum inflows from March 2022 to May 2024 and flow in transit.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA). The volume represents the balance of the allocated volumes to WQA and EWAs. The Wyangala and Brewster EWAs have been allocated 10 GL each for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 water years, and Wyangala EWA has been allocated 10 GL for the 2023/24 water year, with some usage occurring this water year. In addition, 10 GL per year is allocated to the WQA for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- (3) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet full allocation of these licences to 2023/24. Balances in high security accounts also include water traded in from general security licences, if any.
- (4) Evaporation volumes from all three storages are based on the forecast storage levels over the assessment period.
- (5) Essential requirements include basic rights, end of system flows, losses 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 2024. This mostly consists 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 137 GL of GS, and 23 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW DPE - Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (7) All available water resources have been fully allocated. The system is secure to May 2024 and beyond.

## Next announcement

The next routine water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Friday 8 April 2022**. However, an additional earlier announcement will be provided if an account reset is triggered due to a storage spill after March 2022, 6 months from the previous reset.

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