

9 August 2021

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security entitlements have been allocated an additional 36% in the Lachlan regulated river water source, bringing the total cumulative allocation to 47% for this water year. All other entitlements, including conveyance, are fully allocated.

Recessions from higher than average rainfall throughout July have produced very high inflows into Wyangala Dam and downstream tributaries, totalling approximately 458 gigalitres (GL). To improve airspace in Wyangala Dam as a precaution against potential flooding, the pre-release of water has begun with the aim of ensuring a full storage when irrigation demand commences.

There is a good chance that the major Lachlan storages, including Wyangala Dam, will spill by the end of August 2021. When all storages are full and airspace releases continue to be required, a spill and reset of general security accounts and conveyance accounts, as well as a spill of high security spillable sub-accounts, will occur in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Translucent flows were triggered on 29 July and will continue until mid-August. Approximately 91 GL of translucent flows will be delivered over this period from tributary flows.

The Brewster and Wyangala Environmental Water Allowances (EWAs) were credited with 10 GL each at the start of the water year. About 5 GL was delivered to Willandra Creek during July 2021. A focus of environmental watering over the next 12-18 months will be the water levels in the Lake Brewster inflow wetland to establish a diverse aquatic plant community, waterbird and frog habitat. This will also assist long-term improvements in water quality for downstream water users.

General security water users are reminded that the Annual Use Limit that applies in this 2021-22 water year is a volume equivalent to 100% of their entitlement. This is the maximum amount that can be used in the 2021-22 water year, plus any up or down adjustments for trade. Note: that in the case of a system spill and an account reset, **the annual use limit is not reset**.

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	100%	47%

Storage levels (as at 6 August 2021)

- Wyangala Dam is 95% full – falling – holding around 1,162,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 80% full – rising – holding around 31,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 31% full – rising – holding about 48,000 ML.

Wyangala Dam airspace operations and spills

The strategy to manage airspace in Wyangala Dam has been developed in line with rules in the water sharing plan. It aims to provide a good chance (at least 80%) of Wyangala Dam, Lake

Brewster and Lake Cargelligo being full for when irrigation demand begins in October. Pre-releases from Wyangala Dam have begun and will be stored in Lake Cargelligo or Lake Brewster where possible. These releases are being carefully managed to not exceed the minor flood level at Forbes, Cottons Weir or Jemalong Weir, and to minimise impacts on communities and landholders. Dry conditions over the next week will enable higher releases from Wyangala Dam to be made to provide airspace, while not exceeding these minor flood levels.

Water users may check the Water Insights portal for any airspace operation updates: waterinsights.watersw.com.au/11983-lachlan-regulated-river/updates, and the NSW SES website for any flood updates and advice: www.ses.nsw.gov.au/

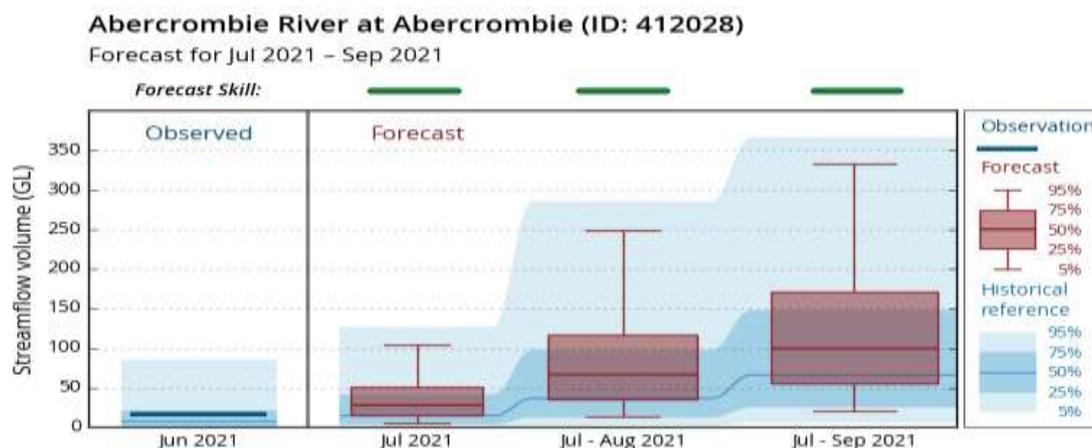
Water users are advised to note the following:

- All valid orders made in good faith prior to the account reset date will be honoured in full according to the accounting arrangements at the time the order was made, taking into consideration travel times to extraction points.
- If there is an account spill and reset, there will be no further reset in the following 6 months.
- An account reset will rarely deliver the maximum 136% allocation because it depends on the time of year of the reset and the future inflow sequence. An account reset now is unlikely to produce allocations higher than about 118%.
- The allocation from a reset will be based on the usual resource assessment at the time.

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be below average and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average. A negative Indian Ocean Dipole event is underway and is expected to persist until at least mid-spring. This increases the chance of above average winter-spring rainfall in the catchment.

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. Four out of five forecast flow references are much higher than the historical references for July to September, indicating the likelihood of higher than historical flows throughout these months.



Further details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=412028

Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (August 2021 to May 2023)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,452
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance ⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾	658
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	35
High Security ^{(3) (6)}	94
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽³⁾	40
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	120
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	451
Inaccessible storage	<u>18</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	<u>0</u>

Notes:

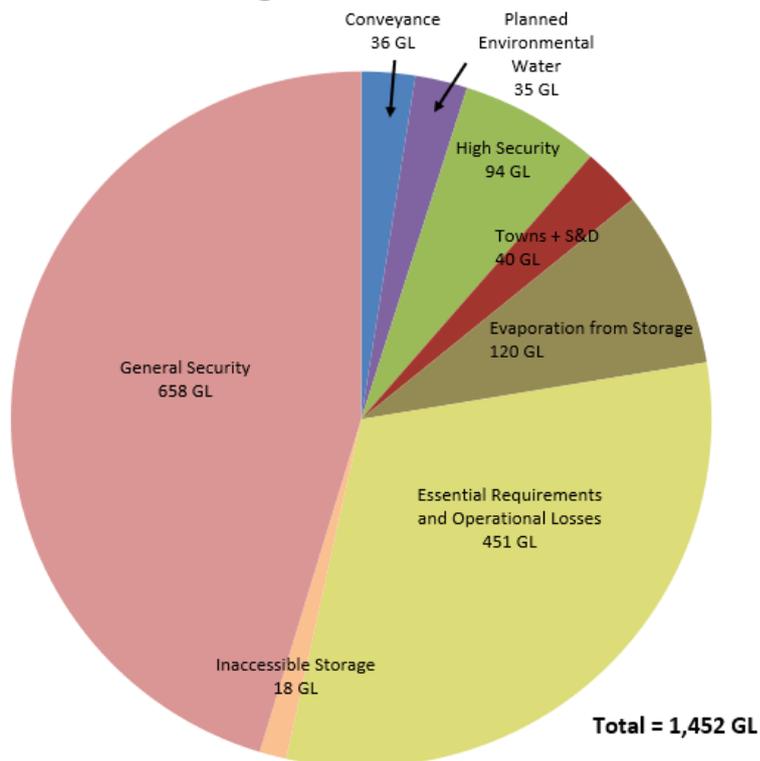
- (1) End of July 2021 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the expected minimum inflows from August 2021 to May 2023.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA). The volume represents the balance of the allocated volumes to WQA and EWAs. The Wyangala and Brewster EWAs have been allocated 10 GL each for the 2021/22 water year, with 5 GL of the Brewster EWA has been delivered throughout July 2021 bringing the balance to 15 GL. In addition, 10 GL each year is allocated to the WQA. '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 volumes from all three storages are based on the forecast storage levels 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 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 92 GL of GS 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 AWDs made this water year plus GS water carried over from the previous year.
- (8) All available water resources have been fully allocated with no surplus left. The system is secure to May 2023 and beyond with no deficit.

Water Allocation Statement

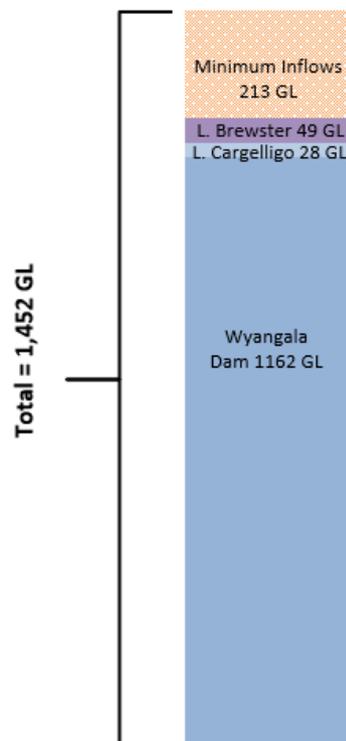
Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution: August 2021 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Supply Source



Next announcement

The next routine water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 8 September 2021**.

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