

23 March 2022

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

High flows resulting from rainfall and airspace releases from Wyangala Dam have kept the Lachlan storages filling and spilling over the past six months. Given it is now six months since the last account reset in September, Clause 56 of the Water Sharing Plan for the Lachlan Regulated River has again been triggered, resulting in the following adjustment to accounts:

- All balances remaining in general security accounts, conveyance accounts and spillable high security sub-accounts are **withdrawn**.
- After the withdrawal of existing balances, all general security accounts have been **equalised** with a new **allocation of 121%** of entitlement.
- After the withdrawal of existing balances, conveyance accounts have been **equalised** with a new **allocation of 100%** of entitlement.

This assessment has fully assured high priority needs to May 2024, contingent on assumed minimum inflows occurring. The flows in the system from recent airspace releases from Wyangala Dam, together with flows from Lake Cowal, will keep the downstream storages at the current levels until at least the end of April 2022.

Lake Brewster will be held at 150 gigalitres (GL) (103%) for a pelican breeding event and will not be surcharged to 170 GL (117%), as would normally occur in these circumstances. The 20 GL difference will be accounted as environmental water usage and debited from applicable water accounts. The 350 GL translucent flow obligation has been fully met for this water year.

An account reset rarely delivers the maximum 136% allocation to general security users, as it is dependent on the month of the reset and the relevant applicable future inflow sequence. Additional allocations may be announced in subsequent regular assessments once regulated usage increases, creating airspace in the storages for additional resources to accumulate.

Water users are reminded about the following:

- All valid orders made in good faith prior to the account reset date (23 March) 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. To be clear, those orders for which releases are made from storages prior to the reset date will be debited from the account balances prior to the reset being applied, even though the water may not be extracted prior to reset. However, any water released on or after the reset will be treated as post account reset.
- There will be **no further reset** for another 6 months, regardless of potential spill volumes.
- The annual use limit of 100% of entitlement for general security entitlement holders **will not be reset** and still applies for the 2021-22 water year, plus any adjustments for trade.
- The annual use limit of 100% of entitlement for general security entitlement holders will also apply for the 2022-23 water year, despite high account balances.

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	100%	121%

Storage levels (as at 22 March 2022)

- Wyangala Dam is 98% full – falling – holding around 1,196,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 99% full – falling – holding around 36,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 105% full – rising – holding about 153,000 ML (21 March 2022).

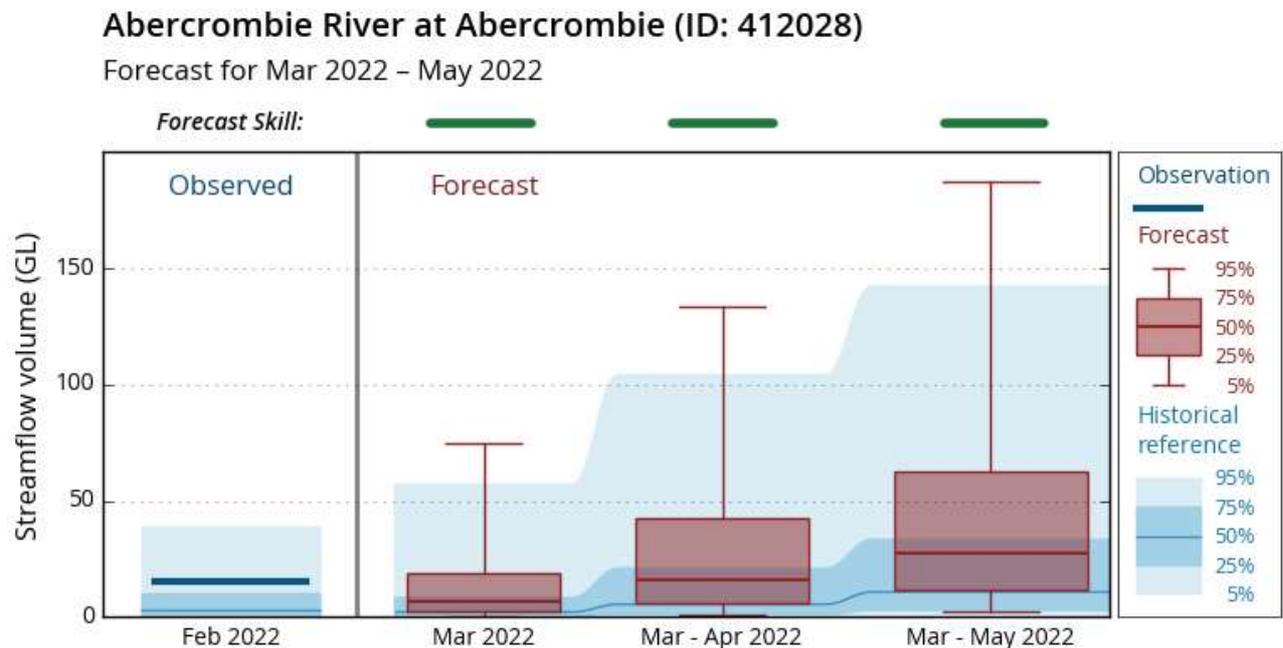
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that rainfall is likely to be about average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about average and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

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 five forecast flow references are higher than the historical references for March to May, indicating that higher than historical inflows are likely throughout these months.

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



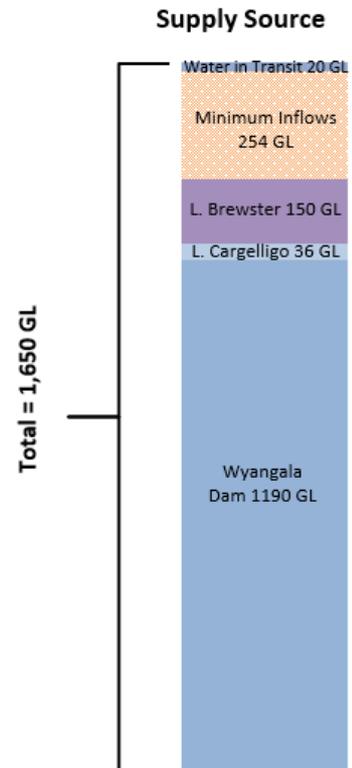
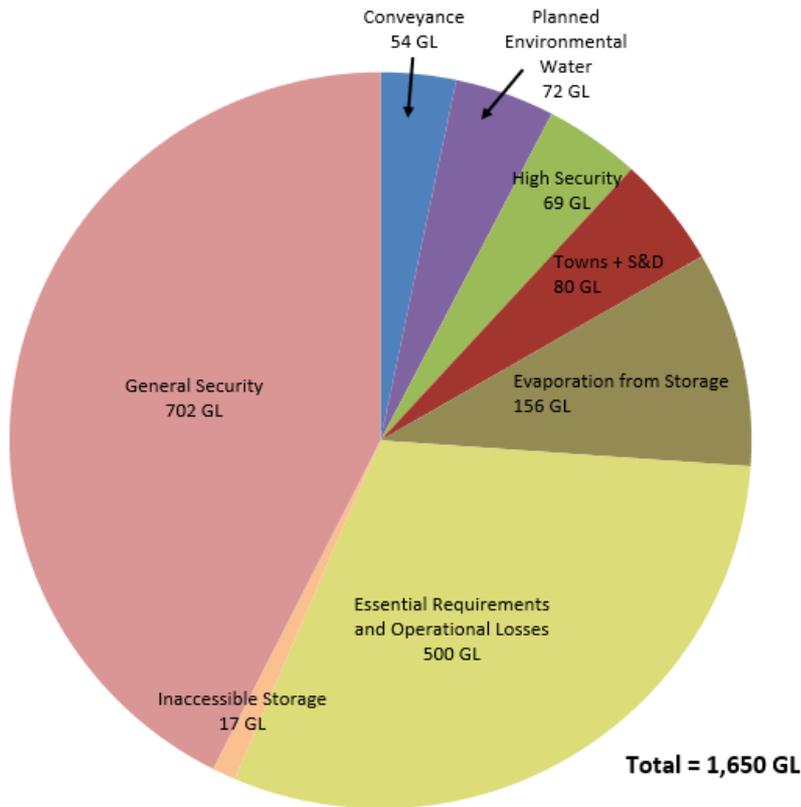
Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (April 2022 to May 2024)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,650
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance ⁽⁶⁾	702
Conveyance	54
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	72
High Security ^{(3) (6)}	69
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽³⁾	80
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	156
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	500
Inaccessible storage	<u>17</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) Forecast end of March 2022 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the expected minimum inflows from April 2022 to May 2024.
- (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 2022/23 and 2023/24. 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 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 135 GL of GS, and 3 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 represents the resource available to allocate after all other high priority needs, minus 15 GL of licensed environmental water debits.
- (8) All available water resources have been fully allocated. The system is secure to May 2024 and beyond.

Resource Distribution: April 2022 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Next announcement

The next routine water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Monday 9 May 2022**. This 23 March 2022 ‘reset’ statement replaces the statement that was scheduled for Friday 8 April 2022.

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