

8 June 2022

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase to general security entitlement holders this month. The total allocation to general security licences remains at 121% of entitlement.

As the main storages have remained full or near full, with only minor usage, there has been no significant change in resource balance. This simplified statement is primarily to update the outlook for opening allocations on 1 July for the 2022/23 water year.

Water users are reminded that there will be **no account reset** until at least 23 September 2022, which is 6 months from the previous reset, regardless of spill volumes. However, the annual use limit of 100% of entitlement for general security license holders **will not be reset**. It applies for the current 2021/22 water year, plus any adjustments for trade and will again apply for the up-coming 2022/23 water year, despite likely high account balances.

Resource outlook for 2022-23

This outlook for the likely 1 July 2022 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that these forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including local water utility licences, are secure until May 2024.
- High priority water access licence holders including **local water utility, stock and domestic**, and **high security** can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July 2022.
- There is not enough resource to assure an opening allocation for **general security** entitlements. However, unused water carried forward in general security accounts will be fully available and deliverable in 2022/23.
- Average general security **carryover** into 2022/23 could be up to 126% of entitlement, some 747 gigalitres (GL). This assumes approximately 42 GL remaining on Conveyance and High Security licences is likely to be traded to general security.
- The Jemalong Irrigation general security balance will be above 75%, so the Jemalong **conveyance** entitlement will likely receive its maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July.
- General security carryover is expected to be high (above 50% of entitlement), therefore both the Wyangala and Brewster Environmental Water Allowances will be allocated 10 GL each. The water quality allowance will also be allocated 10 GL.

Key facts

- Translucent flows were triggered on 28 May and could cease shortly. The remaining balances of the Brewster and Wyangala Environmental Water Allowance will be utilised for an environmental water delivery to Merrowie Creek.
- The reduced capacities of Wyangala Dam and Lake Cargelligo have caused a small numerical deficit in resources, however; this is of no material risk to water users. All account water can be accessed as required and there is still surplus water flowing through the system that cannot be stored.

- Conditions were very wet throughout May, with approximately 116 GL of inflow received into Wyangala Dam and the downstream tributaries. High releases are being made from Wyangala Dam due to airspace operations. Releases will continue to be made from Wyangala Dam to keep it at about 92% full. This provides some airspace to safely manage the higher-than-average inflows expected through winter, as advised by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel.
- The pelican breeding event has now ended in Lake Brewster and it will be surcharged back to 170 GL (117%) using tributary flows. Lake Cargelligo remains at 50% full (22 GL) while embankment safety upgrades are undertaken.

Storage levels (as at 8 June 2022)

- Wyangala Dam is 95% full – steady – holding around 1,160,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 51% full – falling – holding around 15,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 102% full – rising – holding about 152,000 ML (7 June 2022).

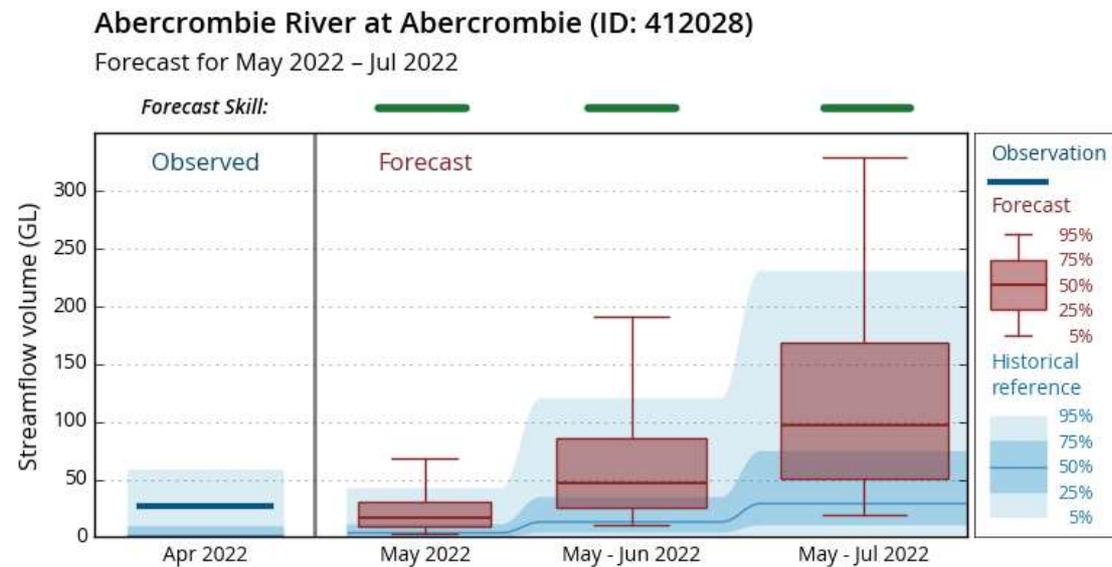
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for June to August indicates that rainfall is very likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be cooler than 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 May to July, indicating that higher than historical inflows are likely over these months.

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



Allocations in 2021/22 for the Lachlan River regulated system

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2021/22	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	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	71%
1-Jul	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share*	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
9-Jul	General Security	0.11 ML/unit share	0.11 ML/unit share	82%
9-Aug	General Security	0.36 ML/unit share	0.47 ML/unit share	118%
8-Sep	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.48 ML/unit share	119%
22-Sep	General Security	1.15 ML/unit share [#]	1.15 ML/unit share [#]	115% [#]
22-Sep	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share ^{**}	1.00 ML/unit share ^{**}	100% ^{**}
8-Nov	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	1.16 ML/unit share	116%
18-Jan	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	1.19 ML/unit share	119%
9-Feb	General Security	0.06 ML/unit share	1.25 ML/unit share	125%
8-Mar	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	1.28 ML/unit share	128%
23-Mar	General Security	1.21 ML/unit share	1.21 ML/unit share	121% [#]
23-Mar	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share ^{**}	1.00 ML/unit share ^{**}	100% ^{**}

*maximum possible
 #account reset

Next announcement

Opening allocations for the 2022/23 water year will be announced on 1 July. The next routine water allocation statement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Friday 8 July 2022**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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