

22 September 2021

## Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

### Water allocation update

Significant inflows in recent months has resulted in storages effectively filling and spilling in the Lachlan regulated valley. Consequently, Clause 56 of the Water Sharing Plan has 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All balances remaining in general security accounts, conveyance accounts and spillable high security sub-accounts are **withdrawn**.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 115%** 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 2023, contingent on assumed minimum inflows occurring. Lake Cargelligo is currently surcharged above full capacity, and current excess flows are sufficient to fill Lake Brewster by the end of September. The limit for translucent flows will be reached by the end of September, after which translucent flow deliveries will cease. With low irrigation demand, it is expected that there will be excess flows in the system into October, triggering unregulated conditions.

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 assessments once regulated usage increases, creating airspace in the storages for additional resources to accumulate.

Water users are advised to note the following:

- All valid orders made in good faith prior to any 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. 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 after the reset will be treated as post account reset.
- There will be **no further reset** in the following 6 months.
- 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.

2021/22	High Security	General Security
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	100%	115%

### Storage levels (as at 21 September 2021)

- Wyangala Dam is 96% full – steady – holding around 1,169,000 ML.
- Lake Cargelligo is 139% full – steady – holding around 42,000 ML.

- Lake Brewster is 80% full – rising – holding about 117,000 ML.

### Wyangala Dam airspace operations

Airspace releases have been taking place since 18 July, when Wyangala Dam increased to 92.9%. The release strategy was developed in line with the Water Sharing Plan and in consultation with water users. The airspace releases are based on 80% chance of the system being full by the start of the irrigation season in November.

Several large rainfall events since July 2021 have produced inflows into Wyangala and downstream tributaries totalling over 1,100,000 ML. The major demand in the system has been environmental water, with 350,000 ML of translucent flows to be delivered at Brewster Weir by end of September, plus additional water from the Lake Brewster Environmental Water Allowance and licensed environmental entitlements. These flows have been used to water wetlands and floodplains in the lower Lachlan that were recovering from the drought. The excess flows from airspace releases and natural recessions in the tributaries have been stored downstream in Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo where possible. For further details please visit:

<https://waterinsights.waternsw.com.au/11983-lachlan-regulated-river/updates>.

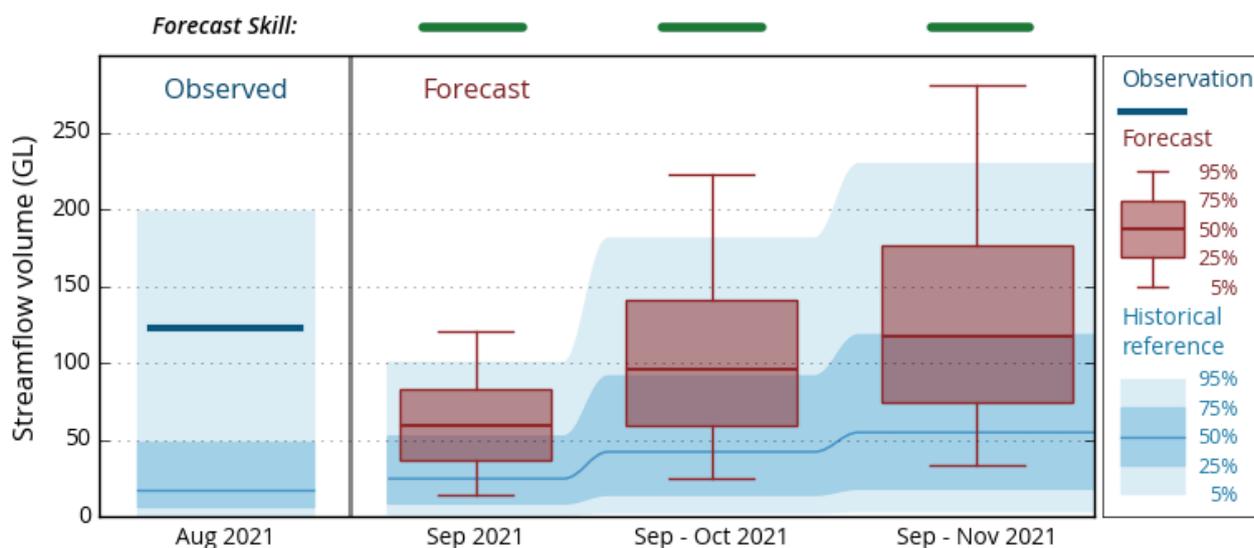
### Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for October to December indicates that rainfall is 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. The current negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event has weakened. A negative IOD event increases the chance of above average 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. All five forecast flow references are higher than the historical references for September to November, indicating that higher than historical inflows are likely throughout these months.

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

Forecast for Sep 2021 – Nov 2021



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

# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



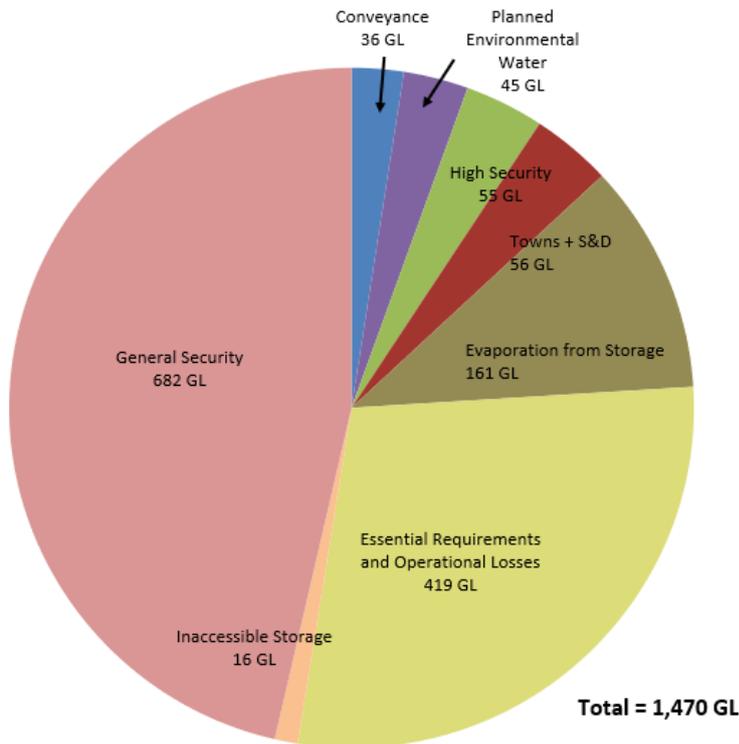
## Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (October 2021 to May 2023)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,470
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance <sup>(6)(7)</sup>	682
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	45
High Security <sup>(3) (6)</sup>	55
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(3)</sup>	56
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	161
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	419
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup>	<u>0</u>

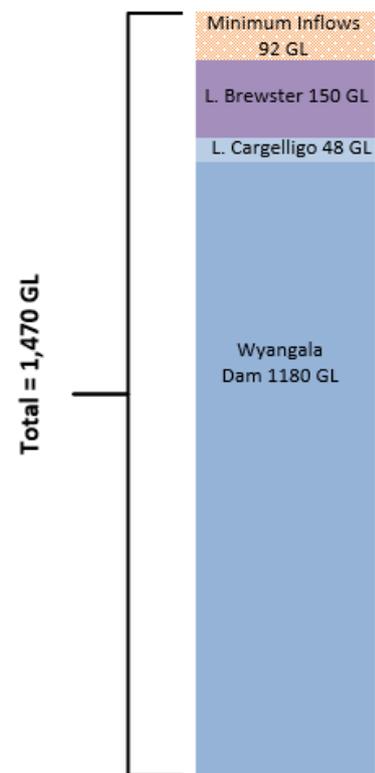
### Notes:

- (1) Forecast end of September 2021 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the expected minimum inflows from October 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 already been used. Another, 10 GL has also been allowed for the Wyangala EWA for next water year. In addition, 10 GL each year is allocated to the WQA each water year. 'Licence-based' environmental water is excluded from this category.
- (3) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet full allocation of these licences to 2022/23. 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 142 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 AWDs made this water year.
- (8) All available water resources have been fully allocated. The system is secure to May 2023 and beyond.

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



## Supply Source



### Next announcements

The next routine water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Monday 8 November 2021** or earlier if the resource situation changes significantly. The scheduled statement on Monday 11 October 2021, as communicated in the previous statement published on 8 September 2021, will no longer be published.

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