

8 July 2022

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders this month. The general security carryover from 2021/22 water is estimated to be 737 gigalitres (GL) or 124% of entitlement. Final carryover volumes will be determined by the end of July and reported in the August statement.

All high priority and conveyance licences in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source were given full allocations on 1 July 2022.

With general security account balance being over 50%, the Wyangala and Brewster Environmental Water Allowances (EWAs) were fully allocated (10 GL each) on 1 July 2022.

During the month of June, the Lachlan catchment experienced below average to very much below average rainfall, receiving approximately 10 to 50 mm of rain.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 June 2022. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the August allocation statement.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security	Average Account Balance
Lachlan Regulated River	0%	124%

Storage levels (as of 8 July 2022)

- Wyangala Dam is about 101% full – holding around 1,229 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 55% full – holding around 23 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 100% full – holding about 147 GL (7 July 2022).

Key information

- The annual use limit is 100% of entitlement for general security license holders for current 2022/23 water year.
- There will be no account reset until at least 23 September 2022, irrespective of any spill earlier.
- 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.
- During June, inflow into Wyangala Dam was approximately 120 GL and downstream tributaries inflow was 41 GL. About 20 GL of these tributary flows will be used to fill Lake Brewster to its surcharge level.

- Releases will continue to be made from Wyangala Dam to keep it at about 92% full. This will provide some airspace to safely manage the higher-than-average inflows expected through winter, as advised by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel.
- Approximately 35 GL of translucent flows were delivered throughout June.
- 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 53% full (22 GL), while embankment safety upgrades are undertaken.

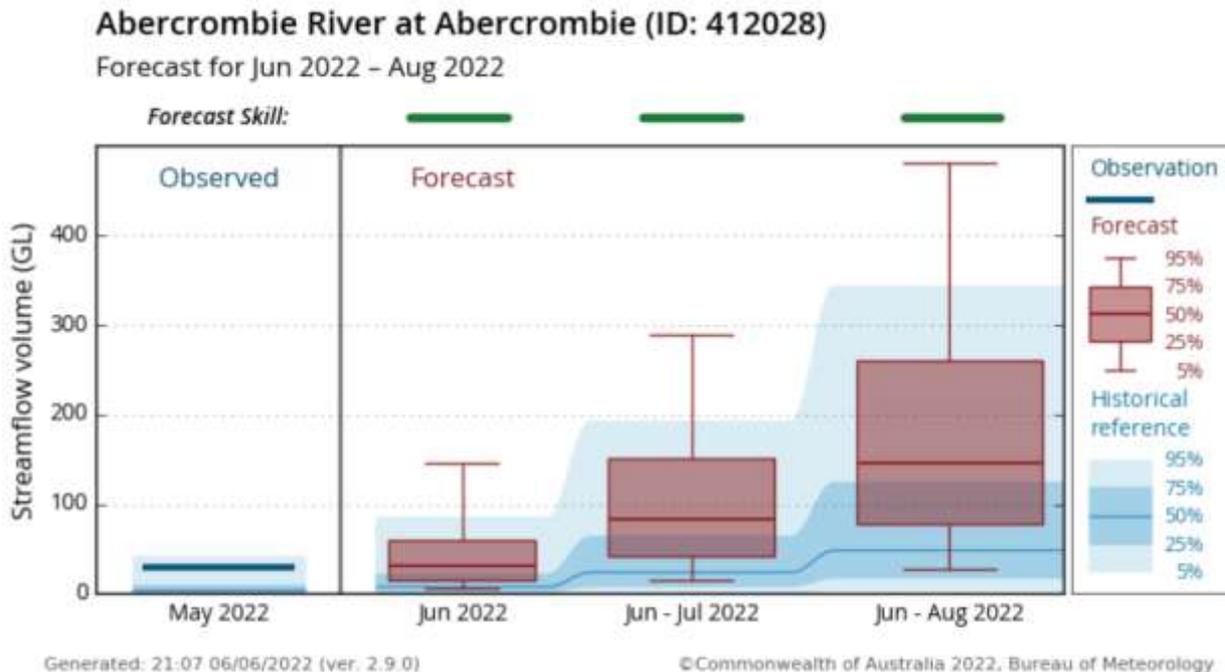
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for July to September 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 June to August, indicating that higher than historical inflows are likely over these months.

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



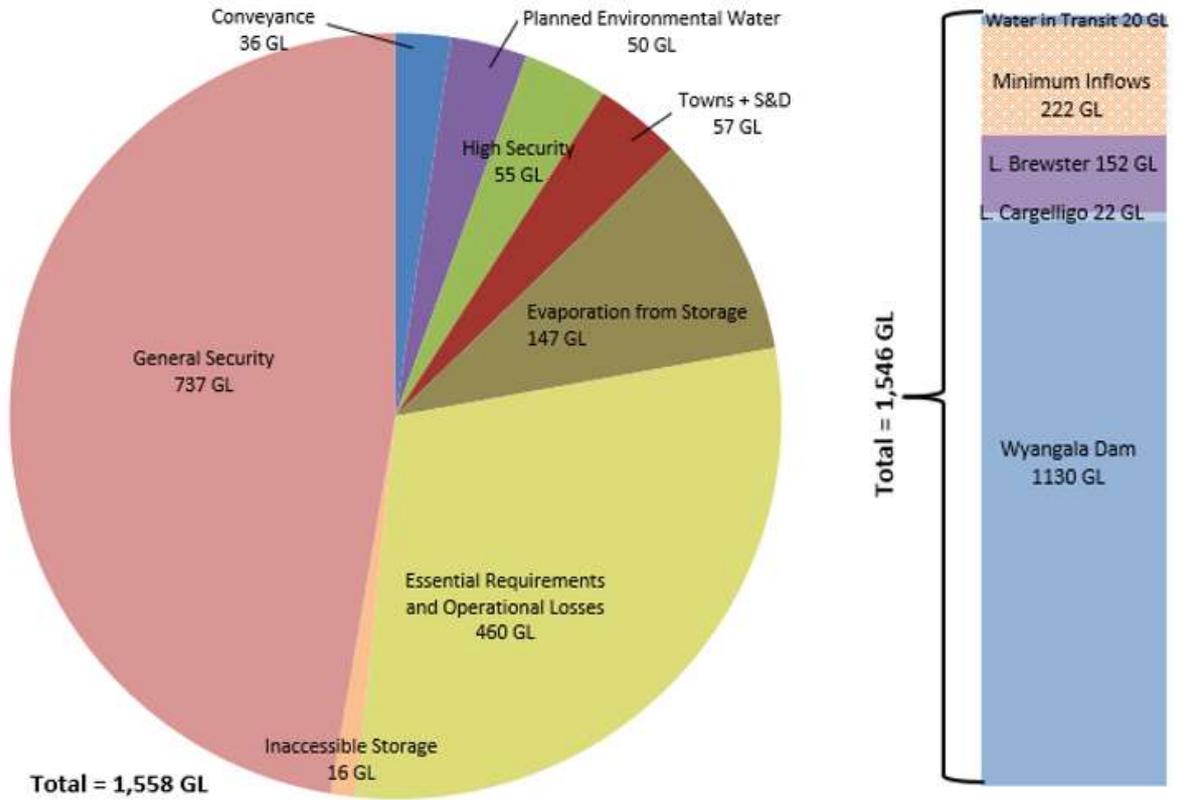
Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (July 2022 to May 2024)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,546
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance ⁽⁶⁾	737
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	50
High Security ^{(3) (6)}	55
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽³⁾	57
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	147
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	460
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	<u>(12)</u>

Notes:

- (1) End of June 2022 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum inflows from July 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 2022/23 water year, 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 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 152 GL of GS, and 5 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 allocated, and there is a small resources deficit (12 GL), which is anticipated to be notional with surplus water flowing through the system that cannot be stored. The system is secure to May 2024 and beyond.

**Resource Distribution as at 30 June 2022
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source**



Allocations in 2022/23 for the Lachlan River regulated system

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	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	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share*	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
8-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	124%

*Maximum possible

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Lachlan regulated river water source is available at the link below:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Monday 8 August 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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