

9 December 2021

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is no increase to general security entitlement this month. The total cumulative allocation to general security licences remains at 116% of entitlement for this water year.

Wet conditions have continued throughout November, with approximately 630 gigalitres (GL) flowing into Wyangala Dam and from the tributaries. However, with little airspace available in the storages, the majority of this water cannot be captured for allocation and future use.

Surplus water will continue to be used to meet demands where possible. Translucent flow obligations have been fully met for this water year. Lake Brewster has been drawn down to capture the flood flows currently in transit and mitigate flood risk. In so doing, Lake Brewster could reach surcharge levels of about 169% full.

Airspace operations are still underway at Wyangala Dam. Recent flooding has caused damage to crops, particularly in the mid and upper Lachlan and irrigation demand is likely to be reduced this summer.

Current operations are focused on balancing flood mitigation and dam safety with maximum capture of water to underpin allocations and water security. The current target is to hold the dam at 95% full through December and aim to have the dam full by the end of January. In that time there will be minimal releases from storage to allow floods to recede and create airspace in the river system to mitigate flood risks. Further details at: waterinsights.watersw.com.au/1983-lachlan-regulated-river/updates

This month, the resource assessment planning horizon has stepped out an additional 12 months, taking the planning horizon from 19 to 30 months. Additional resources are required to plan for an additional year of high priority needs and system overheads (evaporation and essential requirements). This has caused a small temporary deficit in the resource assessment, some 32 GL. However, this will be made up in coming months with expected continuing flows into Wyangala Dam.

Water users are advised that there will be no further account reset before 21 March 2022, six months after the last reset, regardless of whether the system again fills and spills. The annual use limit of 100% of entitlement for general security entitlement holders 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%	116%

Storage levels (as at 9 December 2021)

- Wyangala Dam is 96% full – steady – holding around 1,168,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 120% full – rising – holding around 43,000 ML.

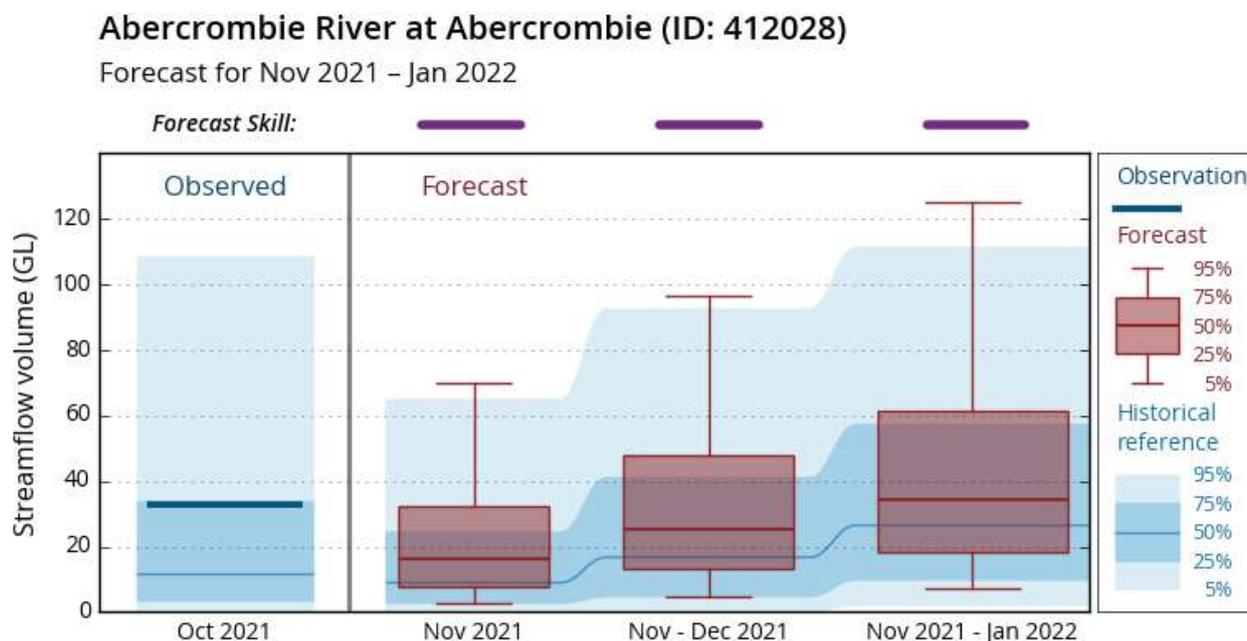
- Lake Brewster is 86% full – rising – holding about 131,000 ML (2 December 2021).

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for December 2021 to February 2022 indicates that maximum temperatures are likely to be about or below median, while there is a good chance that rainfall will be above median.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau of Meteorology also issues a seasonal flow forecast of the Abercrombie River that drains into Wyangala Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indicative distribution of potential inflows. All forecast flow quartiles are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating that inflow over these months are very likely to be higher than historical inflow.



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

Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (December 2021 to May 2024)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,702
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance ⁽⁶⁾	667
Conveyance	51
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	67
High Security ^{(3) (6)}	90
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽³⁾	83

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	209
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	551
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	<u>(32)</u>

Notes:

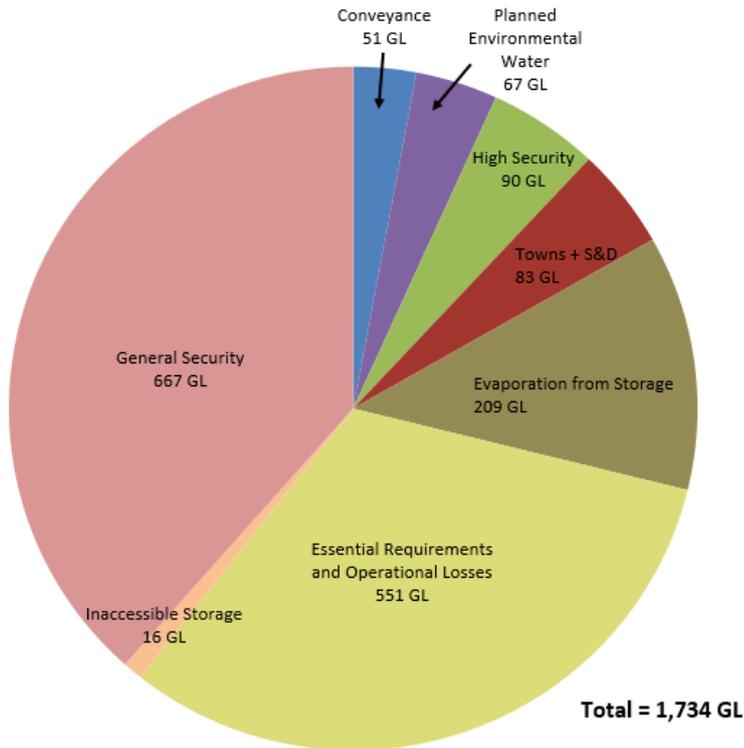
- (1) End of November 2021 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the expected minimum inflows from December 2021 to May 2024 and flow in transit.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA). The volume represents the balance of the allocated volumes to WQA and EWAs. The Wyangala and Brewster EWAs have been allocated 10 GL each for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 water years, 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 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, 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 146 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 delivery of all current account water and essential requirements till May 2024 will require another 32 GL in addition to budgeted minimum inflow. This is a small deficit that likely will be overcome from loss savings, underuse and probable inflows above budgeted minimums by May 2024.

Water Allocation Statement

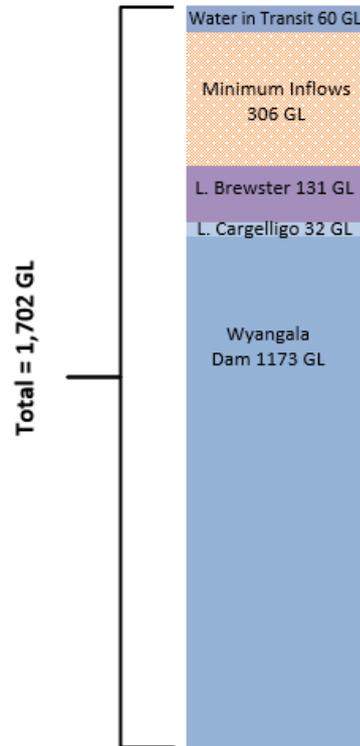
Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution: December 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 **Tuesday 18 January 2021**.

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

You can also follow DPIE-Water on Twitter: @NSWDPIE_Water