

28 September 2022

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

Lachlan storages continue to fill and spill under persistent wet conditions. Being six months since the last account reset, Clause 56 of the water sharing plan 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All balances remaining in general security accounts, conveyance accounts and spillable high security sub-accounts are **withdrawn**.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 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 higher priority needs to May 2024, contingent on assumed minimum inflows occurring.

The reset is less than the maximum 136% due to the time of year and therefore, the assumed future inflow sequence. Nevertheless, resource assessments will continue monthly and any future resource regulated for use that is greater than that assumed, will be announced in improved allocations.

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 next 6 months, that is before 28 March 2023.
- The annual use limit of 100% of entitlement for general security licence holders will **not be reset** and applies for the 2022/23 water year, plus any adjustments for trade.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security	Average Account Balance
Lachlan Regulated River	115%	115%

Storage levels (as of 27 September 2022)

- Wyangala Dam is about 95% full – holding around 1,162 gigalitres (GL).
- Lake Cargelligo is about 168% full – holding around 57 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 112% full – holding about 163 GL (as at 19 September 2022).

Key information

- Releases will continue to be made from Wyangala Dam to keep it between 92% to 93% capacity. This will provide some airspace to safely manage potentially higher than average inflows over the next three months, as agreed by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel.
- During September, inflow into Wyangala Dam was about 187 GL and downstream tributary inflows were 281 GL. About 25 GL of these tributary flows will be used to meet environmental demands throughout October and to surcharge and maintain Lake Brewster at 170 GL.
- Translucent flow obligations have been fully met for this water year, having reached the 350 GL limit in late July.
- Lake Cargelligo's storage level has risen to 57 GL (168% full), due to high river flows that have backed-up into the storage. The aim is to drawn down the storage to about 22GL (50% full) by the end of November to allow Lake Cargelligo's dam safety upgrade project to proceed.

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for October to December indicates that rainfall will very likely 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.

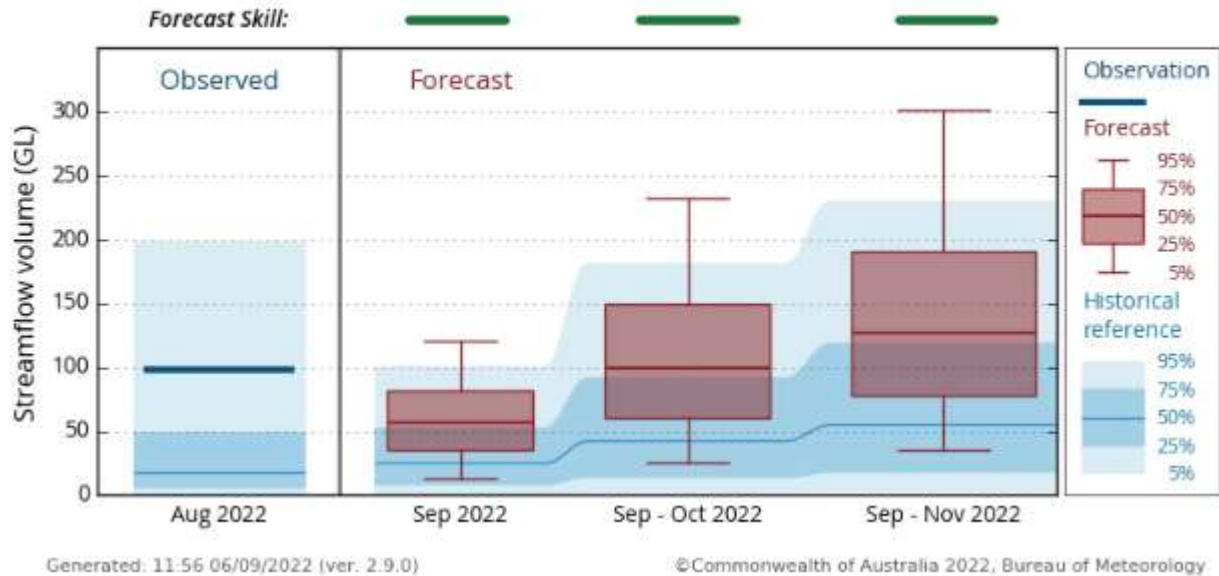
Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

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. The forecast total median flow volume from September to November is higher than the historical flows indicating more flow than usual is likely.

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

Abercrombie River at Abercrombie (ID: 412028)

Forecast for Sep 2022 – Nov 2022



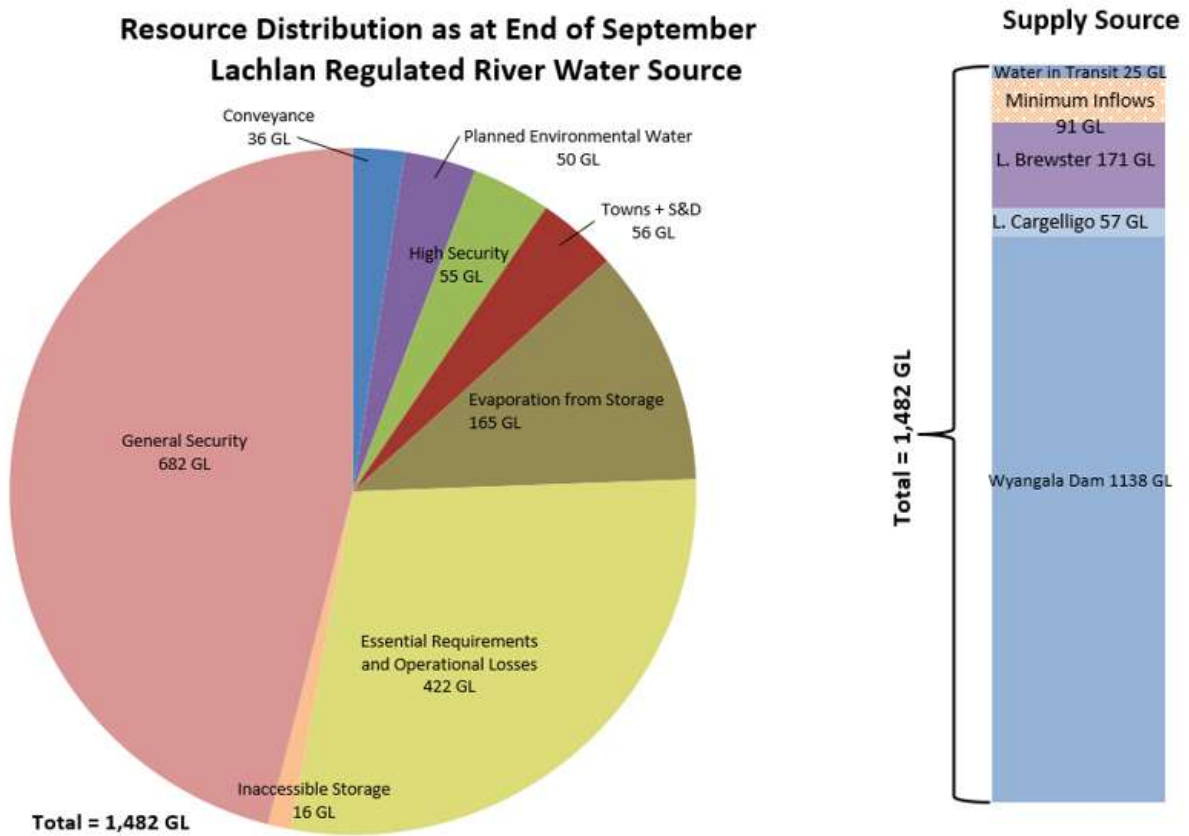
Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (October 2022 to May 2024)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,482
less	
General Security account balance ⁽⁶⁾	682
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	50
High Security ^{(3) (6)}	55
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽³⁾	56
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	165
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	422
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) End of September 2022 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from October 2022 to May 2024 and flows in transit.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance (WQA) 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 for these licences in 2023/24.
- (4) Evaporation loss from the three storages is 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 to be about 142.1 GL of GS, and 2.7 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (7) All available water resources have been fully allocated. The system is secure to May 2024 and beyond.



Allocations in 2022/23 for the Lachlan River regulated system

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Average 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%*

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Average Account Balance
1-Jul	Conveyance	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	124%
28-Sep	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share*#	1.00 ML/unit share*#	100%*#
28-Sep	General Security	1.15 ML/unit share#	1.15 ML/unit share#	115%#

*Maximum allowable

#Following an account equalisation and reset 28 September 2022 due to dam spill

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 water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Tuesday 8 November 2022**.

This current ‘reset’ statement therefore replaces the statement that was scheduled for Tuesday 11 October 2022. However, it should be noted that a water allocation statement can be issued at any time, if required, to announce a significant change in resource position.

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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