

8 November 2021

## Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

### Water allocation update

**There is sufficient resource to increase allocations to general security licences by 1% of entitlement.** This brings the total cumulative allocation to general security licences to 116% of entitlement for this water year.

Wet conditions have continued throughout October, with approximately 240 gigalitres (GL) of system inflows 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. Access to unregulated flows has been provided to Booberoi Creek water users until at least 9 November 2021.

Translucent flows began on 29 July and continued until around mid-September, when the 350 GL limit was reached. These flows enabled a watering of large wetlands and braided channel creeks in the Lower Lachlan, such as Moon Swamp, Booligal wetlands and the Great Cumbung Swamp, as well as having continued the watering of the effluent creeks in the Lower Lachlan.

Airspace operations are still underway at Wyangala Dam, with the current operations likely to have the dam full for the start of irrigation season in December. Flows along the river are receding and there is now more airspace in the river, so pre-releases can be made safely if required. For further details please visit: [waterinsights.watersw.com.au/1983-lachlan-regulated-river/updates](https://waterinsights.watersw.com.au/1983-lachlan-regulated-river/updates)

Next month the resource assessment, as usual, steps out an additional year, taking the planning horizon from 19 to 30 months. This requires additional resources to provide for nearly three years of high priority needs and essential requirements. This makes further general security allocation more difficult until usage occurs to create more airspace to backfill with new regulated resource.

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 8 November 2021)

- Wyangala Dam is 98% full – steady – holding around 1,196,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 99% full – steady – holding around 36,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 107% full – rising – holding about 155,000 ML (5 November 2021).

## Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November 2021 to January 2022 indicates that maximum temperatures are likely to be about or below median, while there is a good chance that rainfall will be at least median.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

## Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

<b>Resource Distribution (November 2021 to May 2023)</b>	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,469
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance <sup>(6)(7)</sup>	669
Conveyance	35
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	57
High Security <sup>(3) (6)</sup>	64
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(3)</sup>	55
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	162
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	411
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup>	<u>0</u>

### Notes:

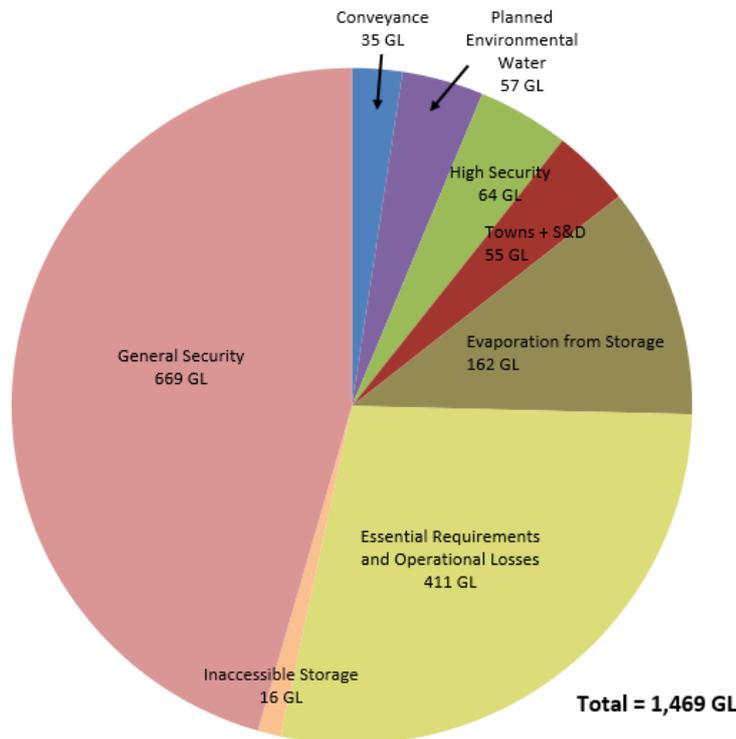
- (1) End of October 2021 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the expected minimum inflows from November 2021 to May 2023.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA). The volume represents the balance of the allocated volumes to WQA and EWAs. The Wyangala and Brewster EWAs have been allocated 10 GL each for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 water years, with some usage occurring this 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, 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 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 143 GL of GS, and 3 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.

# Water Allocation Statement

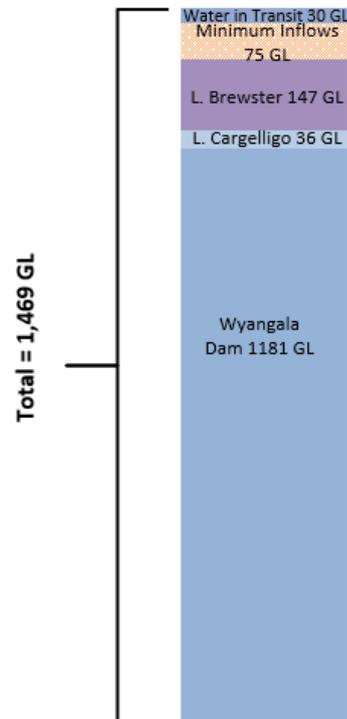
Water availability and allocation update



## Resource Distribution: November 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 **Thursday 9 December 2021**.

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