

9 November 2020

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

An increase in allocation of 6% of entitlement has been made to general security licence holders in the Lachlan regulated river water source, bringing the total this year to 38%.

Rainfall throughout October has continued to provide system inflows into both Wyangala and from tributaries. There was 8 gigalitres (GL) of tributary inflow and a combined inflow of 56 GL into Wyangala Dam, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo. The improvement has been allocated to general security entitlements, with a commensurate increase to conveyance entitlements, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

The rainfall in late October resulted in inflows into Wyangala Dam that triggered translucent flow conditions between 28 October and 5 November. Environmental water agencies have requested that these flows be delivered from Wyangala Dam now that conditions have significantly improved. Translucent flows may recommence until 15 November if inflows reach the required trigger level in the water sharing plan. Licensed environmental water has been ordered to provide a gradual recession from translucent flows.

There has been some concern amongst water users about the possibility of Wyangala Dam spilling. Based on historical inflows over 110 years, there is less than a 10% chance that the dam and the on-route storages may spill by the end of January 2021. Should that occur, general security accounts will be reset and equalised in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Inflows in excess of 96 GL will be required in November to enable a further general security allocation next month. This is subject to river operations and losses remaining as forecast. The planning outlook for the Lachlan assessment currently runs through to May 2022, some 19 months, and ensures security to higher priority needs for that period before further general security allocations are made. In December, the planning outlook will be increased to May 2023 to start securing essential needs for another year into the future. This is the main reason behind the high amount of inflows required for another allocation.

General security water users are advised that the Annual Use Limit that will apply in the 2020-21 water year is a volume equivalent to 100% of entitlement. This is the maximum amount that can be used in the 2020-21 water year, plus any adjustments up or down for trade.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	100%	38%	 Stage 1

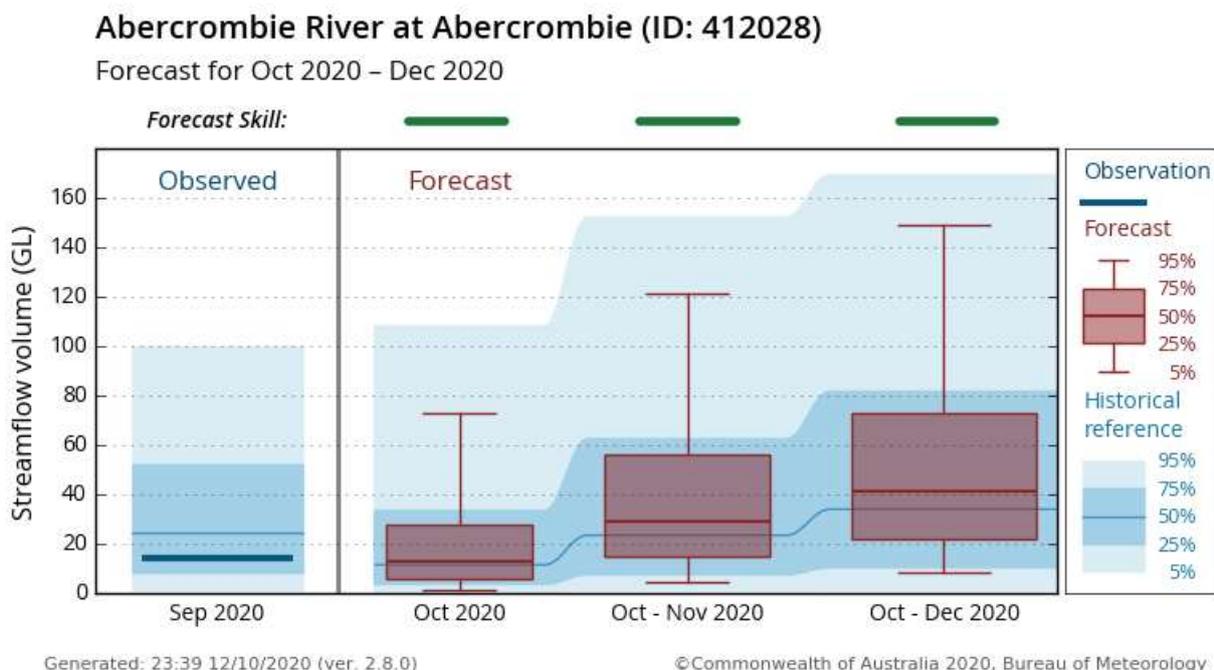
Storage levels (as at 9 November 2020)

- Wyangala Dam is about 65% full – rising – currently at about 792,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is nearly 66% full – steady – currently at about 26,200 ML.
- Lake Brewster is about 40% full – steady – at about 58,600 ML (as at 6 Nov).

Seasonal inflow and rainfall forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology issues seasonal flow forecast of Abercrombie River that drains into the Wyangala Dam (see figure below). The forecast total median flow from October to December is higher than the historical median flow. This indicates a likely shift to wetter inflow conditions for these months. The forecast dry quartile volume is higher than the historical volume, which is also encouraging.

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



The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November 2020 to January 2021 indicates likely wetter than average conditions across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about average or cooler, while overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Next announcement

The next water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Tuesday 8 December 2020**.

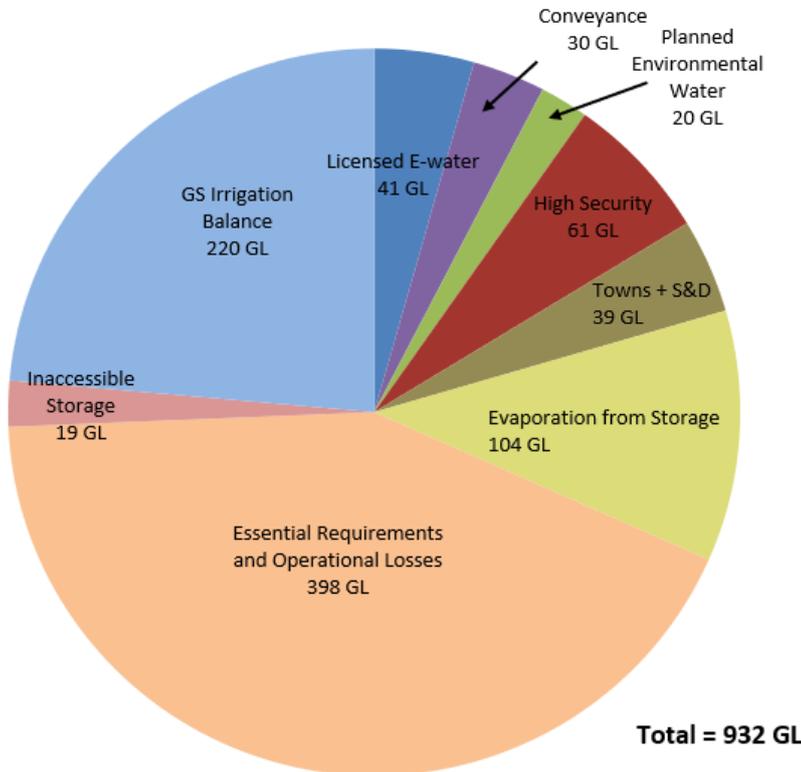
Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (November 2020 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	932
<i>less</i>	
General Security 2020/2021 AWD ⁽⁶⁾	149
Carryover remaining in accounts	96
Conveyance	30
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	20
High Security ^{(3) (6)}	77
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽³⁾	39
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	104
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	398
Inaccessible storage	<u>19</u>
	<u>932</u>

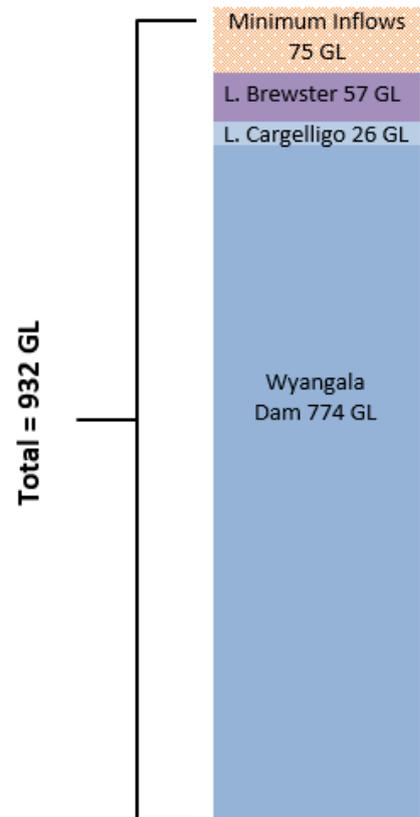
Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of October 2020 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster, plus expected minimum inflows from November 2020 to May 2022.
- (2) Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA) under the water sharing plan. 20 GL (includes 10 GL per year to May 2022 for WQA). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. EWA allocation for 2020-21 is zero currently.
- (3) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet projected use of these users to 31 May 2022. Balances in high security accounts include water traded in from general security licences, if any.
- (4) The assessment assumes that the lakes will be drawn down slowly over the assessment period, increasing storage evaporation.
- (5) Essential Requirements and Losses: Essential requirement includes basic rights and any replenishment deliveries required. The assessment assumes that any current tributary inflows will return to dry conditions going forward. The loss budget (transmission and operation) is based on the best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to May 2022. This mostly comprises 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 25 GL of GS, and 16 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by environmental water holder groups, including the NSW DPIE - Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on e-water holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

Resource Distribution: November 2020 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Supply Source



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