

8 September 2021

## Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

### Water allocation update

**Allocations to general security entitlements have increased by 1% in the Lachlan regulated river water source**, bringing the total cumulative allocation to 48% for this water year. All other entitlements, including conveyance, are fully allocated. With average general security carryover equivalent to 71% of entitlement, the total available water to general security users totals approximately 119% of entitlement.

The catchment is wet. Throughout August, system inflows totalled around 500 gigalitres (GL). Water is being released from Wyangala Dam to create airspace and reduce downstream flood risks, but the storage will be filled when irrigation demand commences. The releases from Wyangala Dam and tributary inflows are continuing to be used to meet translucent flow obligations with the balance being captured downstream including in Lake Brewster.

It is likely that all major storages in the Lachlan catchment will fill in September. When all storages are full and airspace releases continue to be required, a spill and reset of general security and conveyance accounts, as well as a spill of high security spillable sub-accounts, will occur in accordance with the water sharing plan, where these accounts are emptied and credited with a new allocation.

Translucent flows have been triggered in the Lachlan since the end of July. Translucent flows are to deliver environmental outcomes by providing some mimicking of natural flow variability. Floodplains and creeks that have benefited include Moon Moon Swamp, Booligal wetlands, the Great Cumbung Swamp and the effluent creeks in the Lower Lachlan. The annual translucent flow limit of 350 GL is approaching, with about 344 GL expected to be delivered by mid-September.

The Annual Use Limit that applies to water users in this 2021-22 water year is a volume equivalent to 100% of entitlement. This is the maximum amount that can be used in the 2021-22 water year, plus any up or down adjustments for trade. **Note: that in the event of a system spill and an account reset, the annual use limit is not reset.**

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	100%	48%

### Storage levels (as at 7 September 2021)

- Wyangala Dam is 96% full – rising – holding around 1,167,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 112% full – rising – holding around 40,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 64% full – rising – holding about 94,000 ML.

### Wyangala Dam airspace operations and spills

The strategy to manage airspace in Wyangala Dam has been developed in line with rules in the water sharing plan. It aims to provide a good chance (at least 80%) of Wyangala Dam, Lake Brewster

and Lake Cargelligo being full when irrigation demand begins in October. Pre-releases from Wyangala Dam will continue and will be stored in Lake Brewster whenever possible. These releases are being actively managed in consultation with the Lachlan Airspace Panel to avoid exceeding the minor flood level at Forbes, Cottons Weir or Jemalong Weir and to minimise impacts on communities.

Updates on the flood and airspace operations can be found on the Water Insights portal: [waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/11983-lachlan-regulated-river/updates](https://waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/11983-lachlan-regulated-river/updates)

Information on flood updates and advice can also be found at the NSW SES website: [www.ses.nsw.gov.au/](https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/)

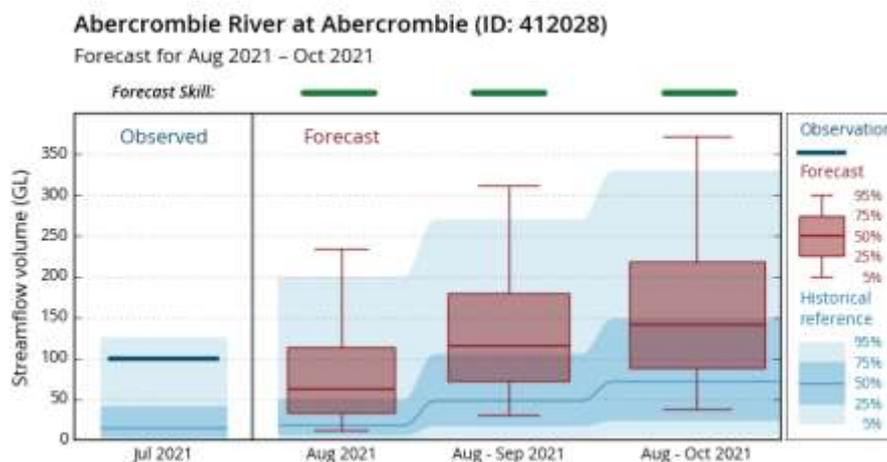
Water users are advised to note the following:

- 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.
- If there is an account spill and reset, there will be no further reset in the following 6 months.
- An account reset will rarely deliver the maximum 136% allocation because it depends on the time of year of the reset and the future inflow sequence. An account reset in September is unlikely to produce allocations higher than the current average general security water availability 119% of entitlement.
- The allocation from a reset will be based on the usual resource assessment at the time.

## Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for September to November indicates that rainfall is 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. A negative Indian Ocean Dipole event is underway and is expected to persist until at least mid-spring. This increases the chance of above average spring rainfall in the catchment.

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. Four out of five forecast flow references are much higher than the historical references for August to October, indicating the likelihood of higher than historical flows throughout these months.



For further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=412028](https://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=412028)

### Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (September 2021 to May 2023)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,477
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance <sup>(6)(7)</sup>	637
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	45
High Security <sup>(3) (6)</sup>	97
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(3)</sup>	56
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	159
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	428
Inaccessible storage	<u>19</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup>	<u>0</u>

#### Notes:

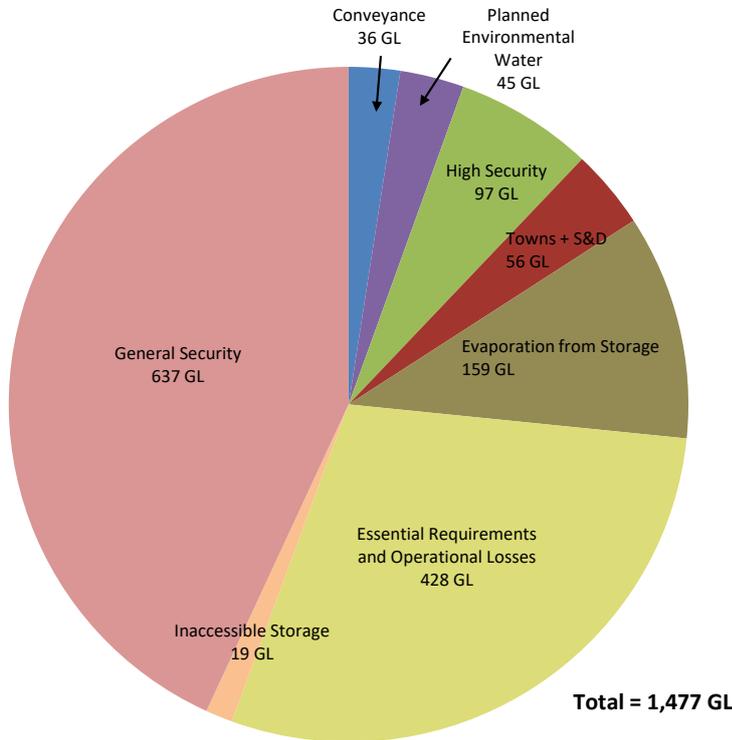
- (1) End of August 2021 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the expected minimum inflows from September 2021 to May 2023.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA). The volume represents the balance of the allocated volumes to WQA and EWAs. The Wyangala and Brewster EWAs have been allocated 10 GL each for the 2021/22 water year, with 5 GL of the Brewster EWA already been used. Another, 10 GL has also been allowed for the Wyangala EWA for next water year. In addition, 10 GL each year is allocated to the WQA. '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 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 83 GL of GS, and 37 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 plus GS water carried over from the previous year.
- (8) All available water resources have been fully allocated. The system is secure to May 2023 and beyond.

# Water Allocation Statement

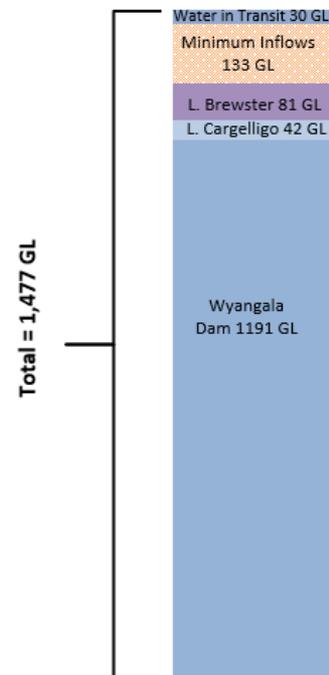
Water availability and allocation update



## Resource Distribution: September 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 **Monday 11 October 2021** or earlier if the resource situation changes significantly.

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