

10 May 2022

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

**There is no increase to general security entitlement holders this month.** The total allocation to general security licences remains at 121% of entitlement. This statement also provides below an outlook for opening allocations on 1 July for the 2022/23 water year.

There was approximately 38 gigalitres (GL) of inflow into Wyangala Dam and from downstream tributaries throughout April. Releases from Wyangala are being made to draw down the dam to 92% in anticipation of higher-than-average inflows into the dam through the winter months, as advised by water users in the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel.

Approximately 40 GL of these releases will be captured in Lake Brewster to maintain the capacity at 160 GL (110%). Lake Brewster cannot be surcharged to the usual 170 GL (117%), due to a pelican breeding event and the 10 GL difference has been debited from environmental water accounts. Lake Cargelligo is being drawn down to 50% full for embankment safety upgrades.

The releases from Wyangala Dam have caused a small deficit (17 GL) in system resource. This will soon correct itself and is of no material risk to water users. All account water can be accessed as required.

The period for translucent flows begins on 15 May once Wyangala Dam has received 250 GL of inflow during the calendar year. Since around 300 GL of inflow has already been received, translucent flows will be triggered after 15 May and once the required flow thresholds outlined in the water sharing plan are reached.

Water users are reminded that there will be **no account reset** until 23 September 2022, six months from the previous reset, regardless of potential spill volumes. The annual use limit of 100% of entitlement for general security entitlement holders **will not be reset** and still applies for the 2021/22 water year, plus any adjustments for trade. The annual use limit of 100% of entitlement for general security entitlement holders will also apply for the 2022/23 water year, despite high account balances.

### Resource outlook for 2022-23

This outlook for the likely 1 July 2022 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that these forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including local water utility licences, are secure until May 2024.
- High priority water access licence holders, including **local water utility, stock and domestic**, and **high security**, can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July 2022.
- At this stage, there is not enough resource to assure an opening allocation for **general security** entitlements. However, unused water carried forward in general security

accounts will be fully deliverable in 2022/23. Average general security **carryover** into 2022/23 is expected to be about 104% of entitlement, totalling around 718 GL.

- General security carryover is expected to be over 50% of entitlement, therefore both the Wyangala and Brewster Environmental Water Allowances will be allocated 10 GL each. The water quality allowance will be allocated 10 GL.

### Storage levels (as at 6 May 2022)

- Wyangala Dam is 92% full – steady – holding around 1,124,000 megalitres (ML).
- Lake Cargelligo is 60% full – falling – holding around 24,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 110% full – rising – holding about 160,000 ML (30 April 2022).

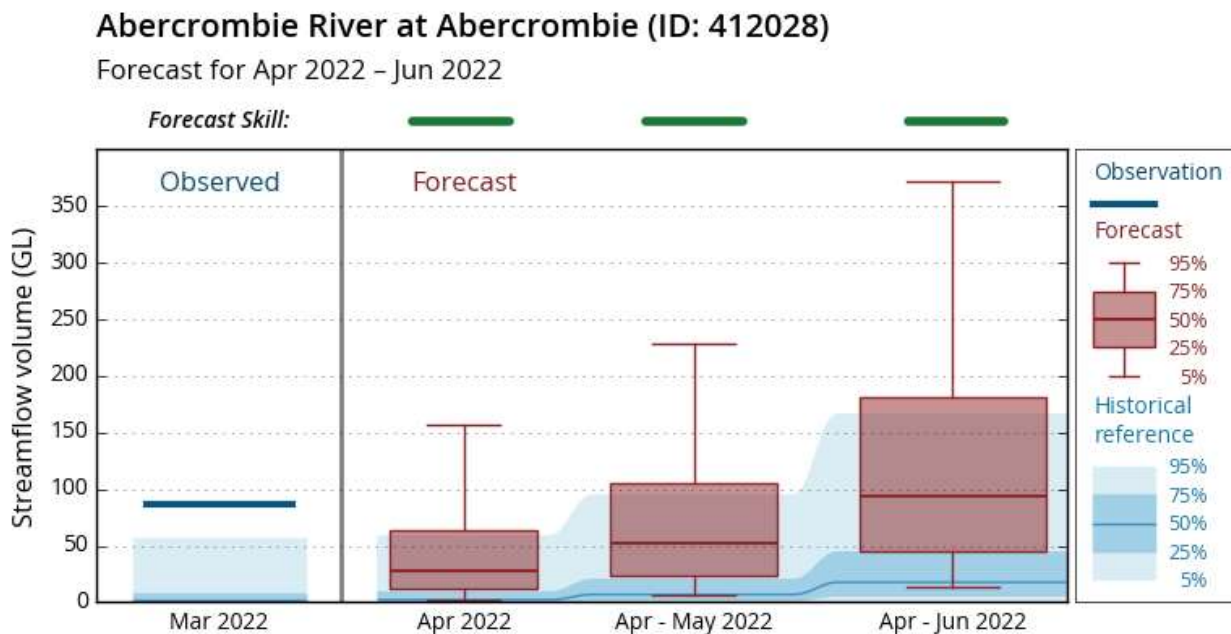
### Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for June to August indicates that rainfall is very 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.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://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. All five forecast flow references are higher than the historical references for April to June, indicating that higher than historical inflows are likely over these months.

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



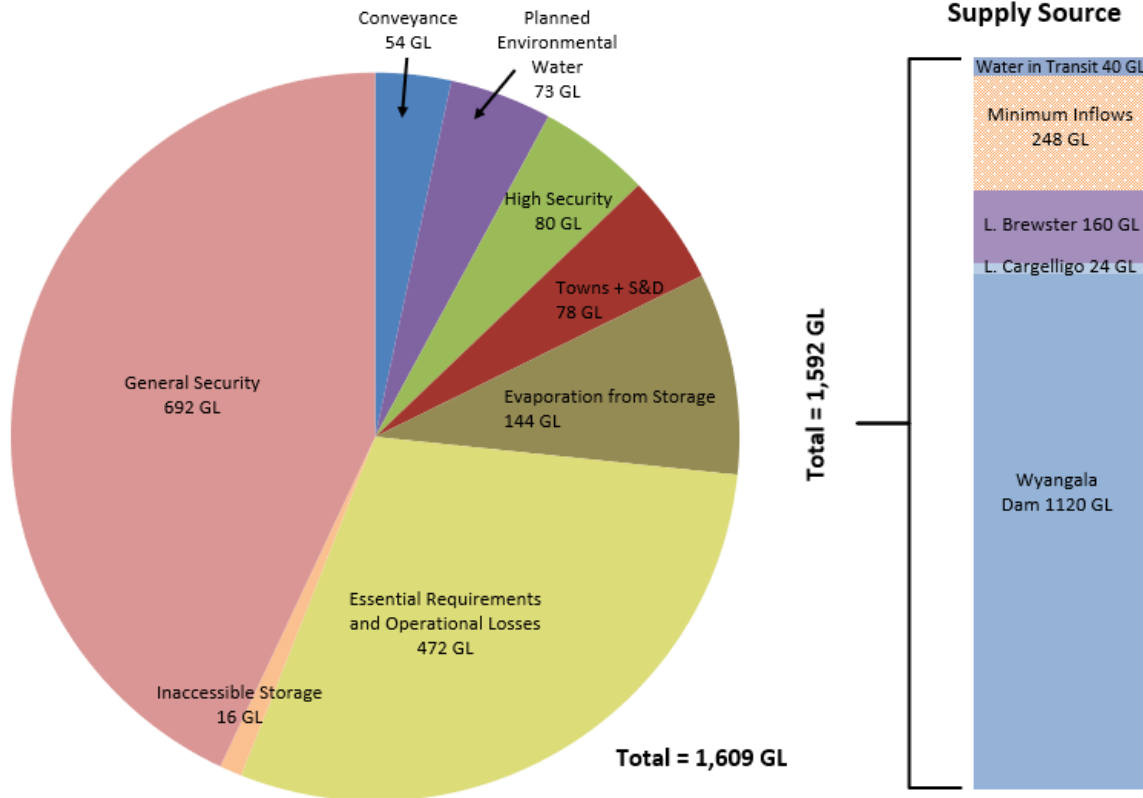
## Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

<b>Resource Distribution (May 2022 to May 2024)</b>	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,592
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance <sup>(6)(7)</sup>	692
Conveyance	54
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	73
High Security <sup>(3) (6)</sup>	80
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(3)</sup>	78
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	144
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	472
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup>	(17)

**Notes:**

- (1) Forecast end of April 2022 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, any usable flows in transit and the assumed minimum inflows from May 2022 to May 2024.
- (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, 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 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 2022/23 and 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 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 147 GL of GS, and 12 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 represents the resource available to allocate after all other high priority needs.
- (8) There is a 17 GL deficit in available resources this month.

### Resource Distribution: May 2022 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



### Allocations in 2021/22 for Lachlan

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2021/22	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%*
1-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	71%
1-Jul	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share*	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
9-Jul	General Security	0.11 ML/unit share	0.11 ML/unit share	82%
9-Aug	General Security	0.36 ML/unit share	0.47 ML/unit share	118%
8-Sep	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.48 ML/unit share	119%
22-Sep	General Security	1.15 ML/unit share <sup>#</sup>	1.15 ML/unit share <sup>#</sup>	115% <sup>#</sup>
22-Sep	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share <sup>#*</sup>	1.00 ML/unit share <sup>#*</sup>	100% <sup>#*</sup>
8-Nov	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	1.16 ML/unit share	116%
18-Jan	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	1.19 ML/unit share	119%
9-Feb	General Security	0.06 ML/unit share	1.25 ML/unit share	125%
8-Mar	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	1.28 ML/unit share	128%
23-Mar	General Security	1.21 ML/unit share	1.21 ML/unit share	121% <sup>#</sup>
23-Mar	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share <sup>#*</sup>	1.00 ML/unit share <sup>#*</sup>	100% <sup>#*</sup>

\*maximum possible  
#account reset

## Next announcement

The next routine water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 8 June 2022**.

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