

10 June 2021

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

Allocation to general security (GS) entitlements has increased by 2% in the Lachlan regulated river water source this month, bringing the total cumulative allocation for this water year to 70% of entitlement. The commensurate assignment to conveyance entitlement now makes it fully allocated.

Recession inflows from rainfall throughout May have continued to improve resources in the system. Inflows into Wyangala Dam and useable tributary flows totalled 20 gegalitres (GL) in May. The system remains wet and the actual utilisation of water for essential requirements has been under budget.

Replenishment flows for Merrimajeel and Merrowie Creeks are underway, they have not yet commenced for Willandra Creek, and in Muggabah Creek they ceased on the 20 May. Approximately 25 GL will be delivered to the effluent creeks by the end of the water year.

The Brewster and Wyangala Environmental Water Allowances (EWAs) were credited with 10 GL each in April 2021 and environmental water deliveries have been underway in the Lower Lachlan to achieve multiple environmental objectives. Higher base flows to Booligal Weir until the end of June 2021 are being used to assist threatened species, such as the Southern Bell Frog, by providing water instream and for fringing vegetation. During April and May, a pulse was delivered past Whealbah to refresh off-river wetlands and lagoons and provide habitat for waterbirds in early spring.

Flows into Muggabah Creek are being used to provide instream benefits and water a nationally significant river red gum and lignum floodplain wetland for the first time since 2016. Throughout June, there will be an increased base-flow into Booberoi Creek to support the recovery of wetlands and native fish and water plants.

Based on historical inflows, there is more than a 30% chance that the major storages within the system will spill by the end of August 2021. Should a spill occur, general security accounts will be reset and equalised in accordance with the rules outlined in the water sharing plan.

Inflows more than 15 GL are required in June to facilitate an increase in general security allocations in the next assessment. This is subject to losses remaining within budget. The planning outlook runs to May 2023 and ensures that all high priority needs can be met through this period before further allocations to general security are made.

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

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source	100%	70%	 Stage 1

Resource outlook for 2021-22

- Water for all critical needs is secure for the 2021-22 water year.
- There is enough water to provide **domestic and stock, local water utility and high security** water access licences with their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2021.
- **Conveyance** entitlement holder can expect a high opening allocation on 1 July 2021.
- Wyangala and Brewster EWAs will be fully allocated with 10 GL each at the start of the new water year in accordance with the water sharing plan. However, if the capacity of Lake Brewster falls below 10 GL, the volume of Brewster EWA available will reduce accordingly.
- At this stage the opening **general security** allocation on 1 July 2021 will likely be zero. However, potential storage and tributary inflows in June 2021 will be assessed for any resource improvement and announced in an early July statement.
- **Carryover** water will be fully available and deliverable in 2021-22. Approximately 408 GL of general security water is expected to be carried over into the new water year. This equates to approximately 69% of share component for these licences.
- The **Annual Use Limit** for the next 2021-22 water year will be 100% of entitlement.

Wyangala Dam penstock outage

Maintenance on Wyangala Dam penstock has now begun and is expected to be completed in early July 2021. The penstock outage will reduce the maximum release capacity to 250 megalitres (ML)/day. Irrigation demand is typically low throughout these months, so this dam release capacity combined with continued high tributary flows, is expected to be adequate to meet water orders. To the extent that translucent releases cannot be made, they will be released at the next most practicable opportunity. Water users are encouraged to check with WaterNSW for more details.

Storage levels (as at 10 June 2021)

- Wyangala Dam is 71% full – rising – holding around 862,000 ML.
- Lake Cargelligo is 63% full – rising – holding around 25,000 ML.
- Lake Brewster is 15% full – falling – holding about 23,000 ML.

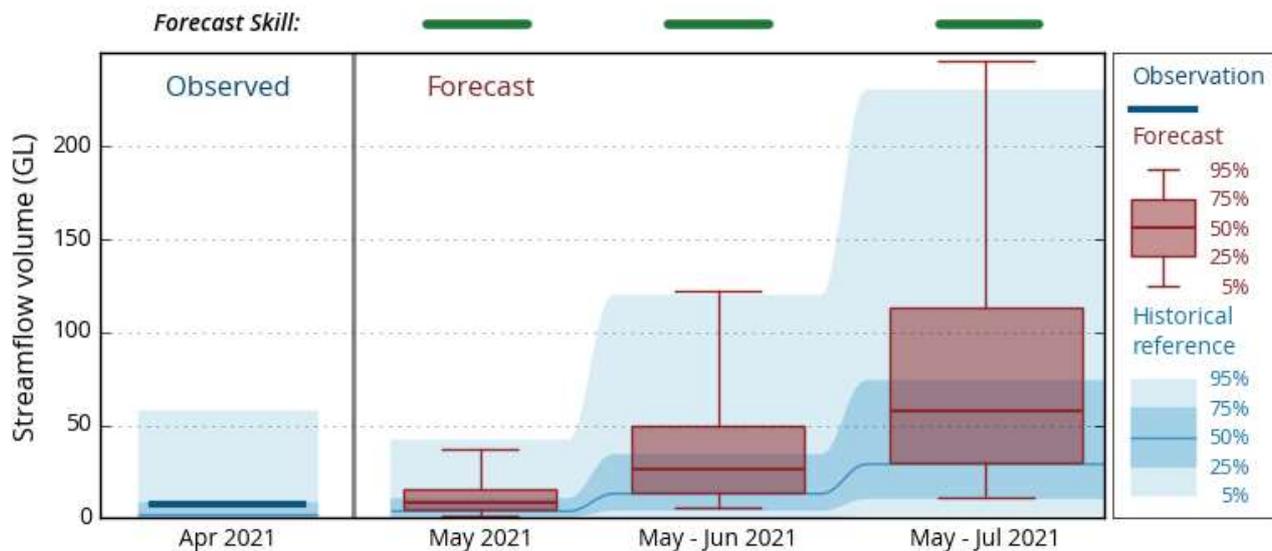
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

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 below average and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

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 inflows. All forecast flow quartiles are much higher than the historical flows for next 2 to 3 months, demonstrating a clear potential for higher than historical flows throughout these months.

Abercrombie River at Abercrombie (ID: 412028)

Forecast for May 2021 – Jul 2021



For further details: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=fr#id=412028

Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (June 2021 to May 2023)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,141
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance ⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾	392
Conveyance	46
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	51
High Security ^{(3) (6)}	76
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽³⁾	40
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	80
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	440
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	0

Notes:

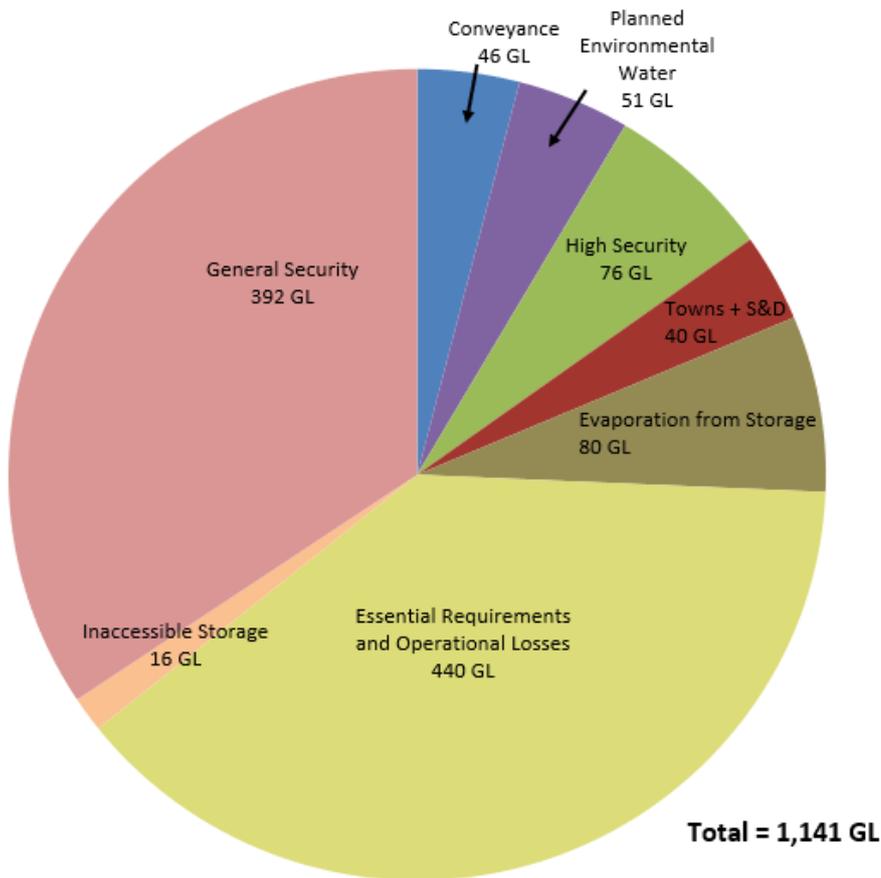
- (1) End of May 2021 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, plus expected minimum inflows from June 2021 to May 2023.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance and/or the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA). The total volume represents the balance of the WQA and EWAs. EWA allocation for 2020-21 is currently 11 GL and another 20 GL has been allowed for the Wyangala and Brewster EWA's into the 2021-22 water year. In addition, 10 GL each year is allocated the WQA. 'Licence-based' environmental water is excluded from this category.
- (3) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet projected use of these users to 31 May 2023. Balances in high security accounts also include water traded in from general security licences, if any.
- (4) The evaporation from all three storages are based on the forecast drawdown 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 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 58 GL of GS, and 5 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 any AWDs made this current water year and GS water carried over from the previous years.
- (8) All available water resources have been fully allocated with no surplus left. The system is secure to May 2023 and beyond with no deficit.

Water Allocation Statement

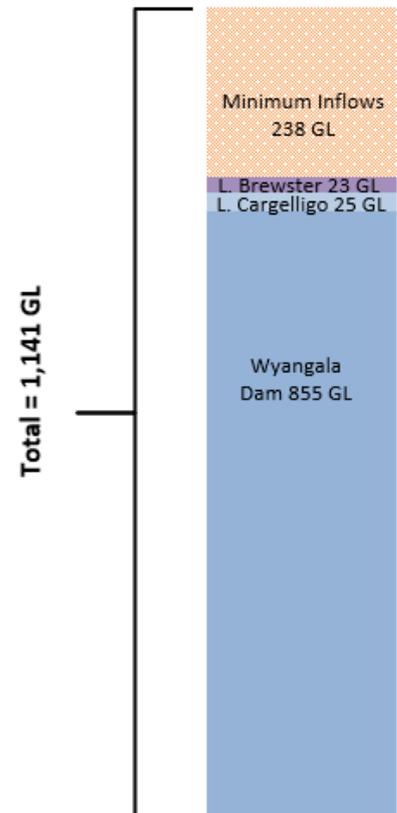
Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution: June 2021 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Supply Source



Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for Lachlan Regulated River will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statement on 1 July 2021.

The next routine water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Thursday 8 July 2021**.

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

You can also follow DPIE-Water on Twitter: @NSWDPIE_Water