

8 December 2022

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders this month. The current general security account balance is approximately 680 gigalitres (GL) or 115% of entitlement.

During November, the Lachlan catchment experienced very much above average to highest on record rainfall, receiving in places approximately 50 to 300 mm of rain.

This resource assessment is based on information as of 30 November 2022. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the next allocation statement.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security AWDs	Average General Security Account Balance
Lachlan Regulated River	115%	~115%

Storage levels (as of 8 December 2022)

- Wyangala Dam is about 97% full – holding around 1,175 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 175% full – holding around 59 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 107% full – holding about 156 GL (30 November 2022).

Key information

- Water users are advised that there will be no account reset before 28 March 2023, six months after the last reset, regardless of whether Wyangala Dam again spills.
- Water users are reminded that the annual use limit of 100% of entitlement for general security entitlement holders applies for the 2022/23 water year, plus any adjustments for trade.
- During November, inflow into Wyangala Dam was about 825 GL and downstream tributary inflows were 690 GL. There is an estimated 194 GL of flows in transit, with about 69 GL of these tributary flows used to meet demands in December and to surcharge and maintain Lake Brewster at 170 GL.
- Translucent flow obligations have been fully met for this water year, having reached the 350 GL limit in late July.

- Airspace operations and releases from Wyangala Dam will continue to provide some airspace to safely manage higher than average inflows expected through the coming months, as agreed by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel.
- Lake Cargelligo’s storage level has risen to 61 GL (181% full), due to high river flows that have backed-up into the storage. Lake Cargelligo’s storage level will be drawn down and maintained at about 22 GL (~50%) by the end of January 2023, to allow continued work with the embankment upgrades.
- The department has increased the water committed to the water quality allowance to 20 GL this year (and 20 GL for next year) to comply with the water sharing plan clause 28(2), as recommended by a recent external audit.

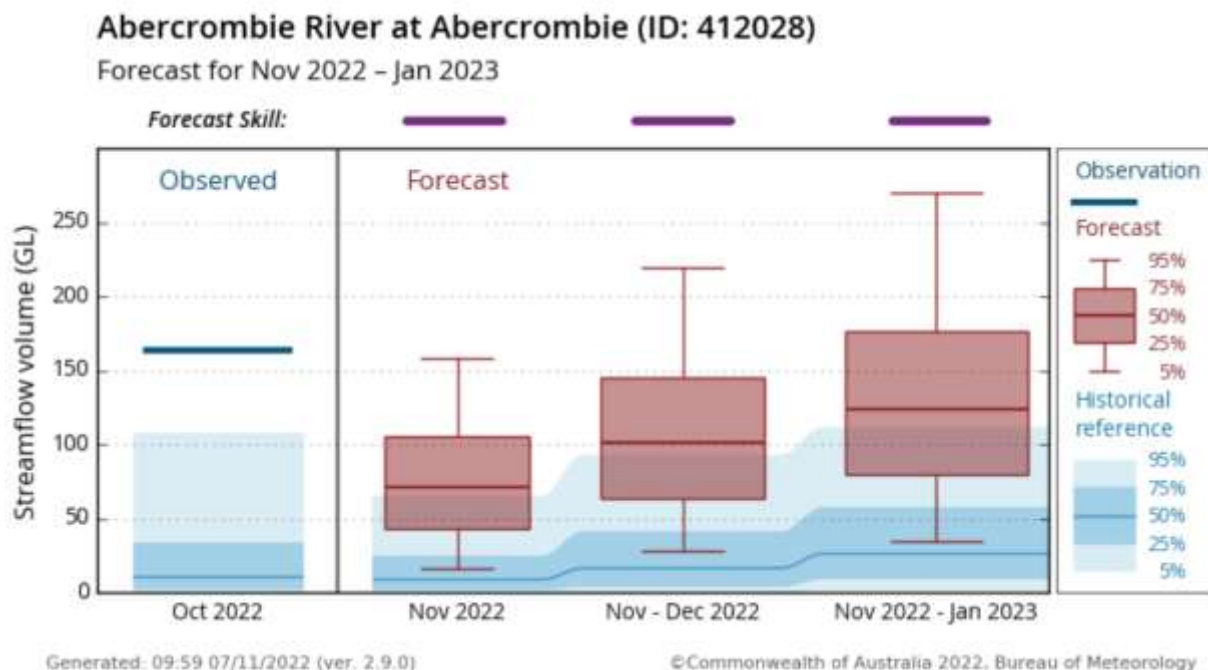
Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for December 2022 to February 2023 indicates that rainfall will very likely be about median across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about or below the median, and overnight temperatures are likely to be cooler than the median.

Further details at: 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. The forecast total median flow volume from November to January is higher than the historical flows indicating flows are likely to be higher than median.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028



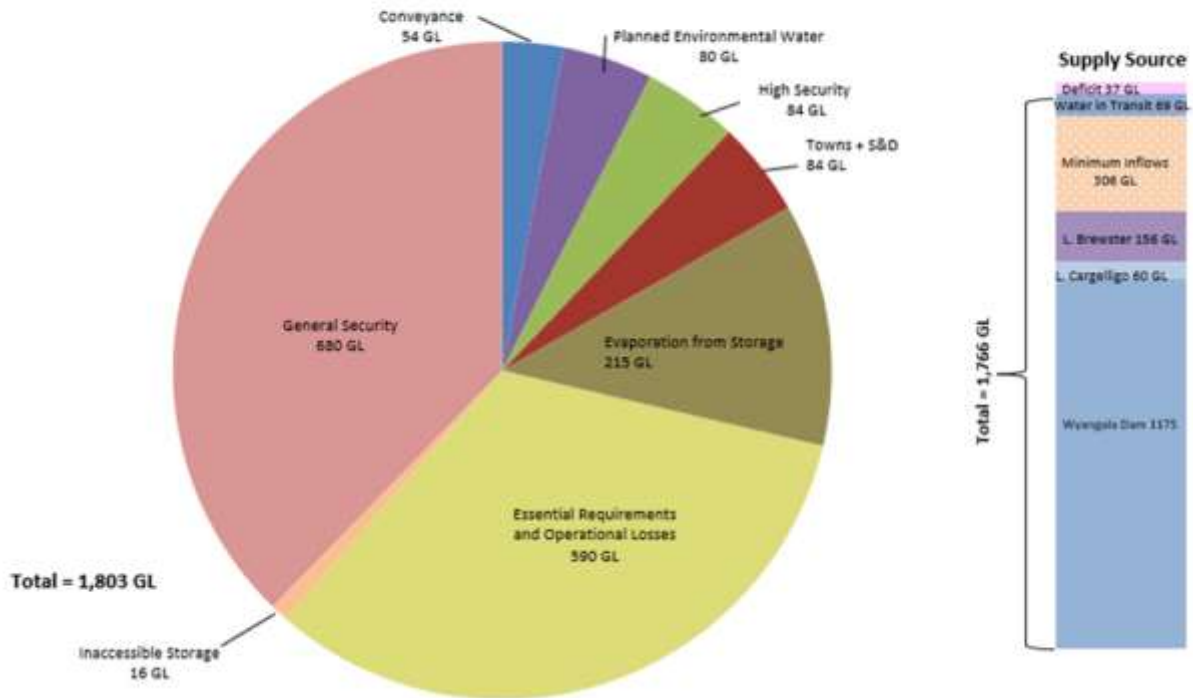
Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (December 2022 to May 2025)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,766
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance ⁽⁶⁾	680
Conveyance	54
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	80
High Security ^{(3) (6)}	84
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽³⁾	84
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	215
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	590
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	<u>(37)</u>

Notes:

- (1) End of November 2022 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from December 2022 to May 2025 and flows in transit.
- (2) Water allocated to the Water Quality Allowance (WQA) 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 2022/23 and 2023/24 water years. In addition, 20 GL per year is allocated to the WQA for 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- (3) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves are set aside to meet full allocation for these licences in 2023/24 and 2024/2025. Balances in high security accounts also include any water traded from general security licences.
- (4) Evaporation loss from the three storages is based on 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 2025. 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 to be about 142.1 GL of GS, and 2.7 GL of HS. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (7) All available water resources have been allocated, and there is a notional deficit of about 37 GL. This is unlikely to materialise, rather will instead be resolved as water begins to be called and used, and recession flows are captured in storage to offset the deficit. Therefore all commitments are considered deliverable, and the system is secure to May 2025 and beyond.

**Resource Distribution as at 30 November 2022
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source**



Allocations in 2022/23 for the Lachlan River regulated system

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Average 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	Conveyance	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	124%
28-Sep	Conveyance	1.00 ML/unit share**	1.00 ML/unit share**	100%**
28-Sep	General Security	1.15 ML/unit share#	1.15 ML/unit share#	115%#

*Maximum allowable

#Following an account equalisation and reset on 28 September 2022 due to dam spill.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Lachlan regulated river water source is available at:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next routine water allocation announcement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be issued on **Friday 13 January 2023**. This is about one week later than usual due to the holiday season.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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