

8 September 2022

# Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders this month. Total general security water availability in the valley for this water year is 124% of entitlement, or 733 gigalitres (GL), comprising the carryover from the 2021/22 water year. The current general security account balance is approximately 711 GL or 120% of entitlement.

All higher priority and conveyance licences in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source received their maximum allocation for the 2022/23 water year on 1 July 2022.

During August, the upper parts of the Lachlan catchment experienced above average to very much average rainfall, receiving approximately 50 to 200 mm of rain.

This resource assessment is based on information as of 31 August 2022. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the next allocation statement.

## Current allocation

2022/23	General Security	Average Account Balance
Lachlan Regulated River	0%	120%

## Storage levels (as of 7 September 2022)

- Wyangala Dam is about 94% full – holding around 1,146 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 156% full – holding around 53 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 116% full – holding about 168 GL (1 September 2022).

## Key information

- Water users are reminded that the annual take limit for general security water access licences this year is 100% of entitlement.
- With Wyangala Dam forecast to continue under airspace releases, it is likely there will be a **storage spill and account reset on 28 September 2022**, about 6 months since the previous reset. However, the annual take limit of 100% of entitlement for general security entitlement holders will not be reset for the 2022/23 water year.
- During August, inflow into Wyangala Dam was about 304 GL and downstream tributary inflows were 165 GL. About 22 GL of these tributary flows will be used to meet environmental demands throughout September and surcharge Lake Brewster.
- Translucent flow obligations have been fully met for this water year, having reached the 350 GL limit in late July.

- Releases will continue to be made from Wyangala Dam to keep it between 91% to 92% capacity. This will provide some airspace to safely manage higher than average inflows expected through the next three months, as agreed by the Lachlan Airspace Reference Panel.
- Lake Cargelligo’s storage level has risen to 53 GL (156% 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 October to continue with the embankment upgrade.

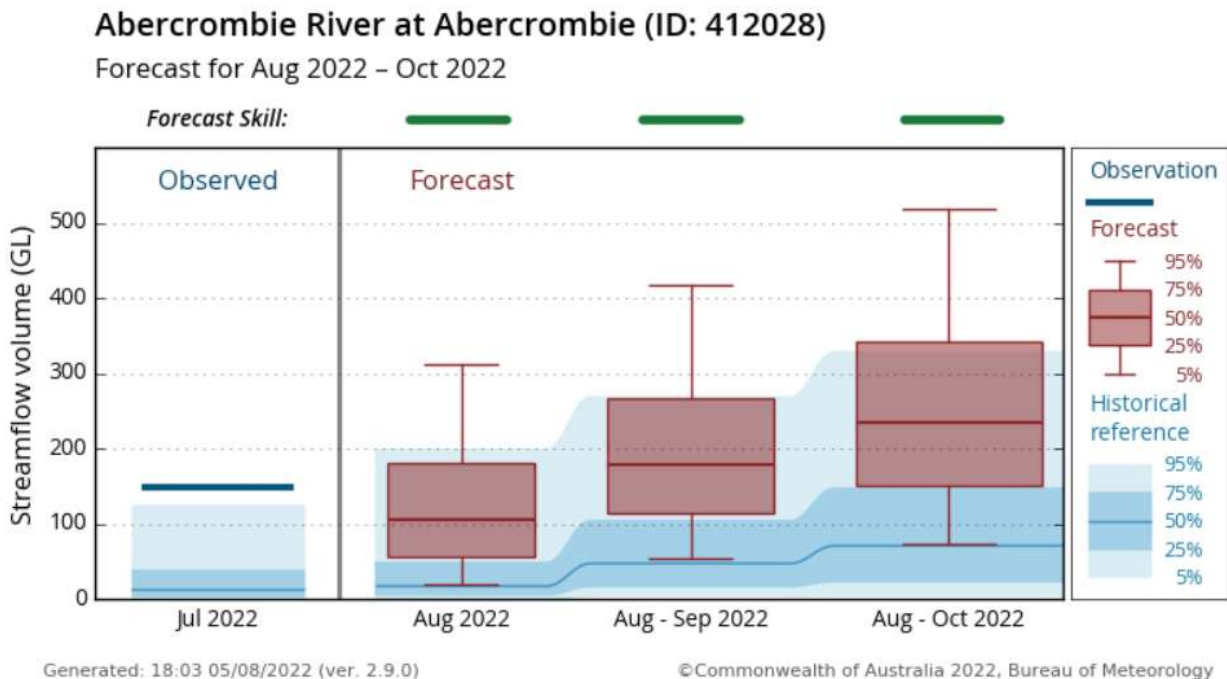
### Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for September to November indicates that rainfall will very likely be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about or 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. The forecast total median flow volume from August to October is higher than the historical flows, indicating more flow than usual is likely.

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



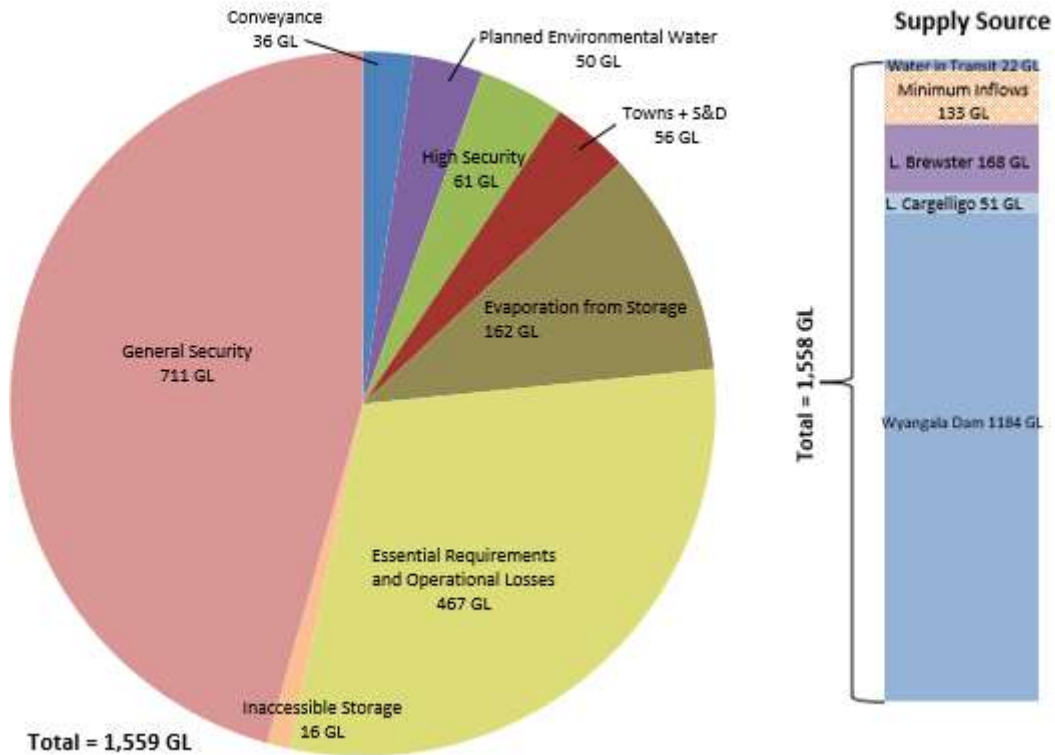
## Lachlan resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (September 2022 to May 2024)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,558
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance <sup>(6)</sup>	711
Conveyance	36
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	50
High Security <sup>(3) (6)</sup>	61
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(3)</sup>	56
Evaporation from storage <sup>(4)</sup>	162
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	467
Inaccessible storage	<u>16</u>
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(7)</sup>	(1)

### Notes:

- (1) End of August 2022 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from September 2022 to May 2024 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 water year, 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 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. Balances in high security accounts also include any water traded from general security licences.
- (4) Evaporation loss from the three storages is based on the 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 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 to be about 146 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 small deficit (1 GL), which is anticipated to be notional with surplus water flowing through the system that cannot be stored. The system is secure to May 2024 and beyond.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 August 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%
8-Aug	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	121%
8-Sep	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	120%

\*Maximum allowable

## 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 the below link:

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://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 **Tuesday 11 October 2022**.

However, an additional earlier announcement will be provided if there is an account reset on 28 September 2022, about 6 months from the previous reset, due to storage spill.

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

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