

8 February 2024

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is **no increase** in allocation to **general security (GS) licenses** in the Lachlan regulated river water source. Water currently assigned to general security accounts totals 550 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 93% of entitlement.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 January 2024. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in March 2024.

Current allocation

8 February 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	93%

Key information

- Carryover evaporation reductions have been applied by WaterNSW for Quarter 1 (Q1) and Q2 of 0.23% and 0.88% respectively to GS Hold (then Take) sub-accounts.
- As recommended by the Lachlan Water Quality Technical Advisory Group, the department approved extending the use of the water quality allowance until the end of March 2024.
- The reduced maximum safe level of Lake Brewster (deemed full) is 79.5% of the normal full supply capacity, while current repair work is completed. For more information [click here](#).
- For Lake Cargelligo project update [click here](#) and storage update [click here](#). Note that the storage is deemed full at 75% of normal full supply capacity due to on-going work.
- Note that applicable account balances will be reset if all storages are deemed to be full (considers reduced full supply capacity where applicable), and inflows cannot be regulated, in accordance with clause 45(3) of the water sharing plan.

Storage levels (as of 7 February 2024)

- Wyangala Dam is about 97% full - holding around 1,186 GL.
- Lake Cargelligo is about 68% full - holding around 27 GL.
- Lake Brewster is about 70% full - holding about 104 GL.

Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

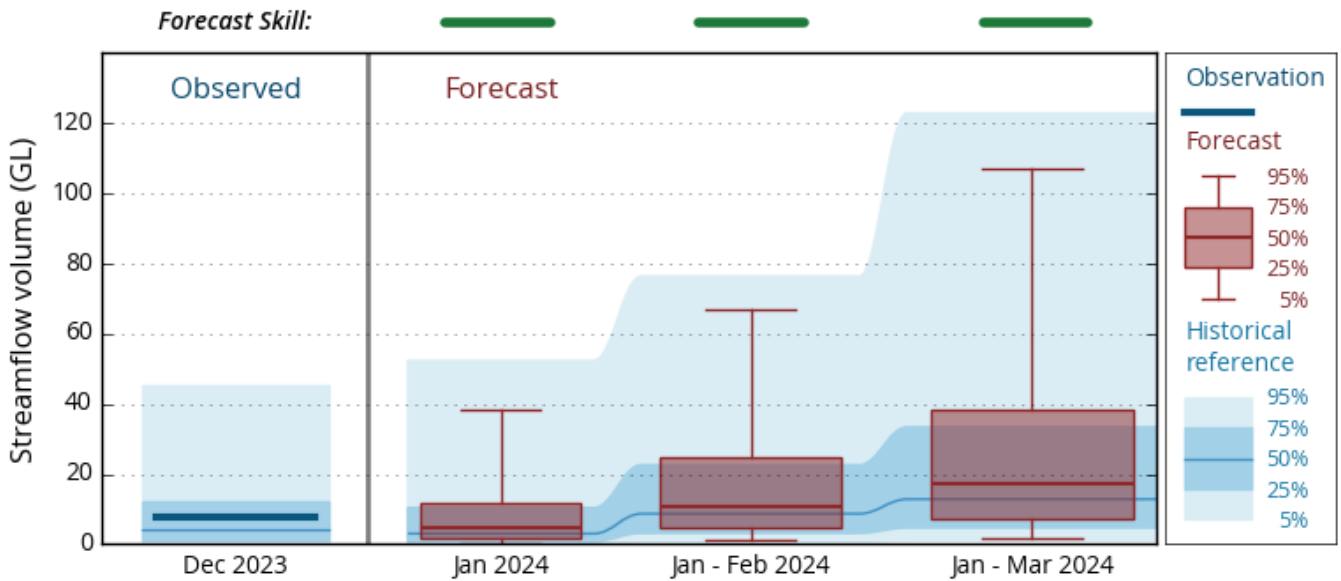
The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April 2024 indicates that rainfall will likely to be median to above median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months for the catchment.

For further details: <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 forecast quantiles for total flow volumes from January to March 2024, except one, are higher than the historical flows, indicating likely wetter inflows than historical inflows over this period. The graph from January to March 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=412028>.

Abercrombie River at Abercrombie (ID: 412028)

Forecast for Jan 2024 – Mar 2024



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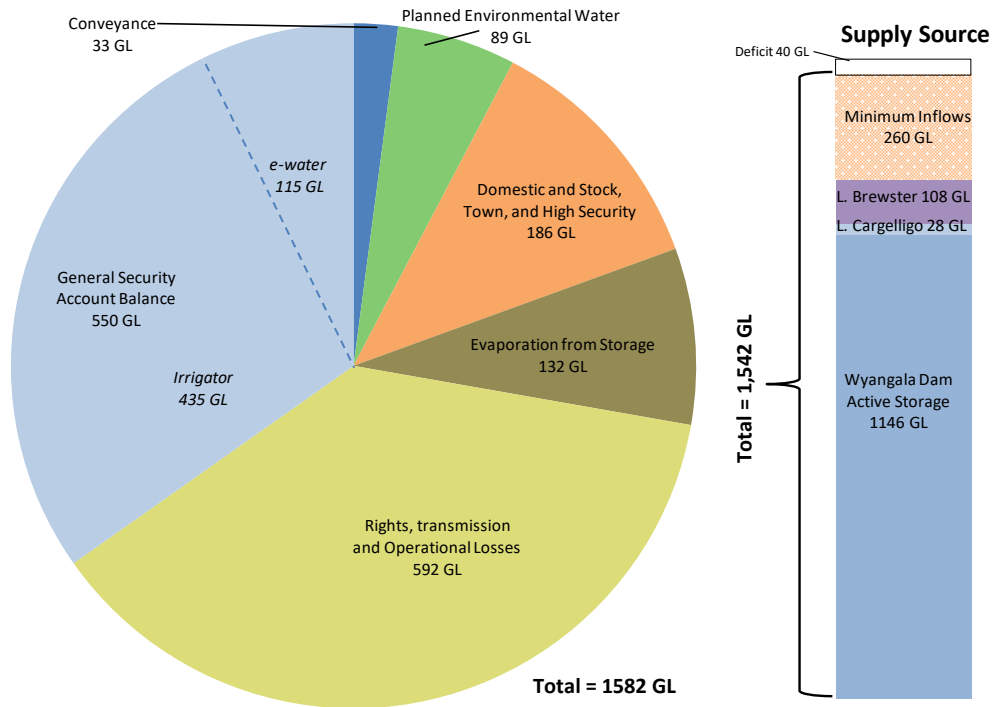
Lachlan Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (February 2024 to May 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,542
<i>less</i>	
This water year (02/24 to 06/24)	
Planned Environmental Water balance ⁽²⁾	29
Domestic and Stock, Town balance	24
High Security balance	50
Conveyance balance	0
General Security balance ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	550
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	51
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁶⁾	145
Storage reserve for 2024/25 and 2025/26	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	60
Domestic and Stock, Town, and High Security ⁽⁷⁾	112
Conveyance	33
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁵⁾	81
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁶⁾	447
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	(40)

Notes:

- (1) End of January 2024 storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, and the planned minimum storage inflows and tributary flows from February 2024 to May 2026 and flows in transit if any. Also, this is net of 16 GL of inaccessible (dead) volume.
- (2) Water reserved for the Water Quality Allowance (WQA) and the Environmental Water Allowances (EWA).
- (3) Volume in general security accounts including water carried over from last water year.
- (4) The held environmental water (HEW) is estimated to be about 115 GL of GS entitlements, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW DCCEEW - Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group (BCS) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) Evaporation loss from three storages is based on projected storage depletions.
- (6) The volume required to run the river to meet all non-licence-based demands and delivery overheads. This mostly comprises basic landholder rights, and transmission and operational losses under dry conditions. The volumes needed for the remainder of the water year and the future are based on the projected demands.
- (7) Required volume to allow full utilisation of 100% allocation to these licence holders.
- (8) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small deficit which presents minimal risk but will be monitored closely.

Resource Distribution as at 31 January 2024
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Allocations in 2023/24 for the Lachlan regulated river water source

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	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%*
10-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	120%
8-Aug	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	120%
8-Sep	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	117%
10-Oct	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	112%
8-Nov	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	108%
8-Dec	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	100%
9-Jan	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	95%
8-Feb	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	93%

*Maximum allowable

Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water published 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.

For further details: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process>

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Friday 8 March 2024**.

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

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

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