

8 July 2025

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security (GS) licences in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source have received an allocation increase of 3% of their entitlement. The increment brings the general security account balance (including held environmental water) to 502 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 85% of entitlement.

All higher priority licences including the conveyance licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2025. Both the Water Quality Allowance and Environmental Water Allowance account balances for the 2025/26 is 20 GL each.

Additional resources are available this month following 14 GL of combined inflows recorded in June, along with the return of unused water from the previous water year to the general resource pool, forfeited from certain licence types in accordance with water sharing plan rules.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 June 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

8 July 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	3%	85%

Summary of last water year (2024/25)

All higher-priority licences, including local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security entitlements received their maximum allocations at the start of the 2024/25 water year.

Conveyance licences also received their maximum (100%) allocation, commensurate with the high opening balance of the associated general security licences.

General security licence holders began the 2024/25 water year with a high average account balance of 110% of entitlement. Over the water year, three allocation increments were made, resulting in a total additional allocation of 9% of entitlement. By the beginning of June 2025, general security account balances had decreased to an average of 76% of entitlement, reflecting moderate usage of around 43% in response to the prevailing drier climate conditions.

Lake Brewster, Lake Cargelligo and Wyangala Dam started the 2024/25 water year with healthy combined storage levels at 95% of capacity. Storage volumes remained above 90% through the first half of the year, supported by inflows from above-average rainfall during 2024. However, conditions shifted in 2025, with drier weather and the lowest January to June inflows experienced since 2019.

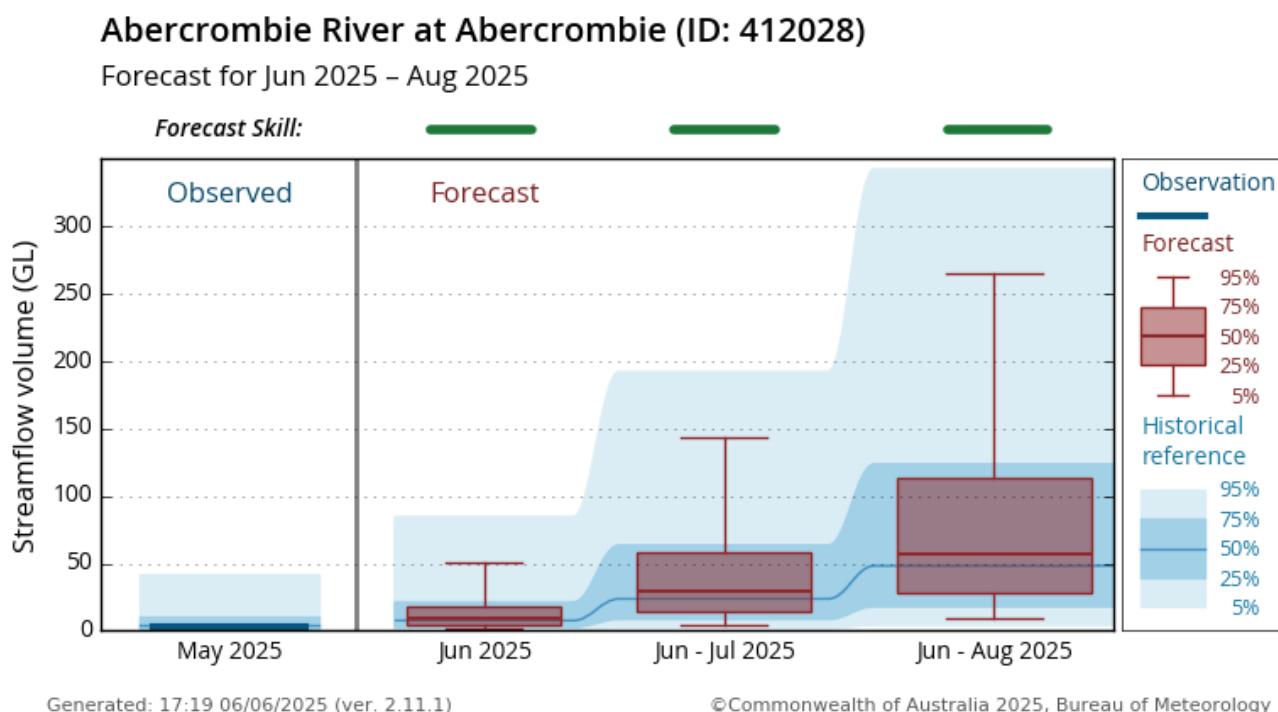
Regarding environmental water usage, the full 20 GL Water Quality Allowance (WQA) was used, reaching the annual limit while 19.9 GL of the Wyangala and Brewster Environmental Water Accounts (EWA) was utilised out of the 20 GL available.

Key information

- Additional resources are available this month following 14 GL of combined inflow recorded in June 2025, along with the return of unused water from the previous water year to the general resource pool, forfeited from certain licence types in accordance with water sharing plan rules.
- The total inflows Wyangala Dam, and tributary flows to the river from January to June 2025 were the lowest for this period since 2019.
- Lake Cargelligo will be maintained at 50% until the end of September 2025, while the Cargelligo Embankment Upgrade project is progressing. [Please refer to this link for more information.](#)
- The evaporation reduction factor for the quarter ending June 2025 will soon be calculated and applied after account reconciliation by WaterNSW.
- Delivery of domestic and stock replenishment flow has started in Merrowie Creek, Willandra Creek, Merriimajeel and Muggabah Creeks.

Inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal streamflow forecast for the Abercrombie River, which flows into Wyangala Dam (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam in the coming months. The higher forecast quantiles are predicting below the historical flows except for the median and lower quantiles from June to August 2025, which may indicate an overall average condition during this period. The graph for June to August 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/water/information/forecasting/streamflow/seasonal/)



Resource assessment data sheet

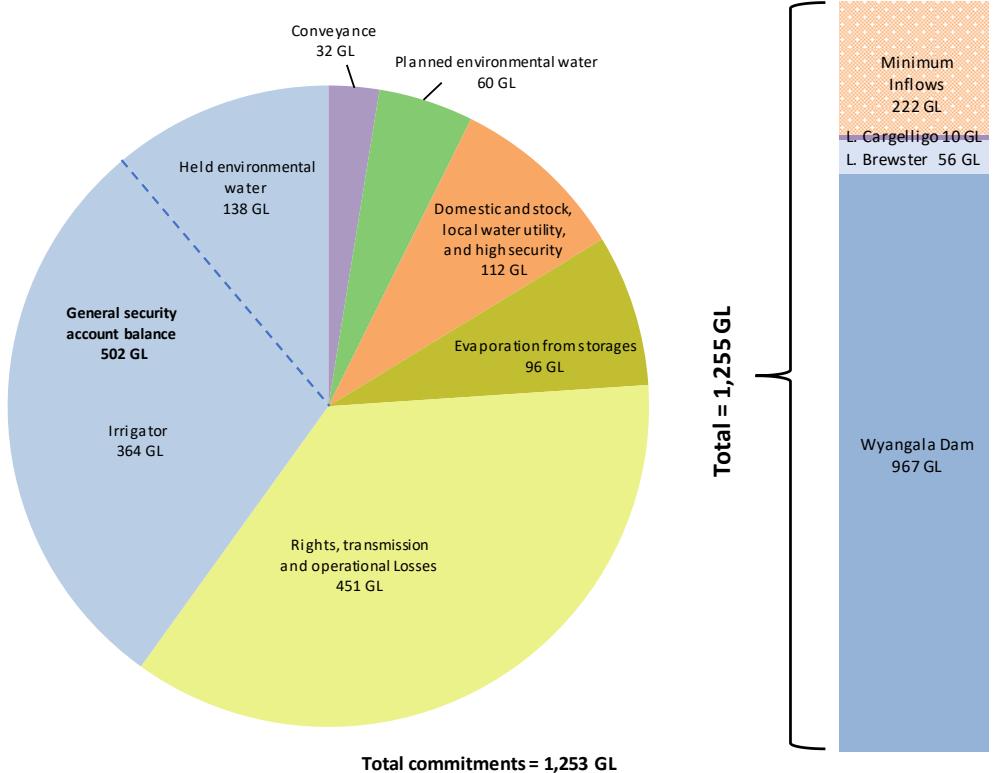
Resource distribution (July 2025 to June 2027)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources ⁽¹⁾	1,255
<i>Less</i>	
This water year (07/25 to 06/26)	
Planned environmental water balance ⁽²⁾	40
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance	28
High security balance	28
Conveyance balance	18
General security balance ⁽³⁾	502
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	64
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	239
Storage reserve for 2026/27	
Planned environmental water ⁽²⁾	20
Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security ⁽⁶⁾	56
Conveyance	14
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	32
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	212
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	2

Notes:

- (1) End of June 2025 active storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, plus the planned minimum storage inflows and useful tributary flows from July 2025 to May 2027. Also, this is net of 16 GL of inaccessible (dead) storage volume.
- (2) Water reserved for the water quality allowance (WQA) and the environmental water allowances (EWA).
- (3) The held environmental water (HEW) balance is estimated to be 138 GL of GS entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW environmental water holder and the Commonwealth environmental water holder (CEWH).
- (4) Budget for evaporation loss from three storages is based on projected storage depletions.
- (5) The volume required to run the river to meet all non-licence-based demands and delivery overheads. This mostly comprises of 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 of respective periods.
- (6) Required volume to allow full utilisation of 100% allocation to these licence holders.
- (7) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small surplus remaining after this allocation, which will be rolled over to the next resource assessment.

Resource Distribution as at 30 June 2025

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Water allocation in 2025/26

Date	Category	Increment	Total 2025/26	Account balance
1-Jul	Domestic and 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%*
8-Jul	General security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.03 ML/unit share	85%

*Maximum allowable

Storage volume simulation

The storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current allocations and commitments and an assumed repeat of the historical minimum inflow sequence (known at the start of the water sharing plan), together with forecast demands, the combined Wyangala, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo storage volume will deplete to a minimum by May 2027 and then start to recover from June 2027.

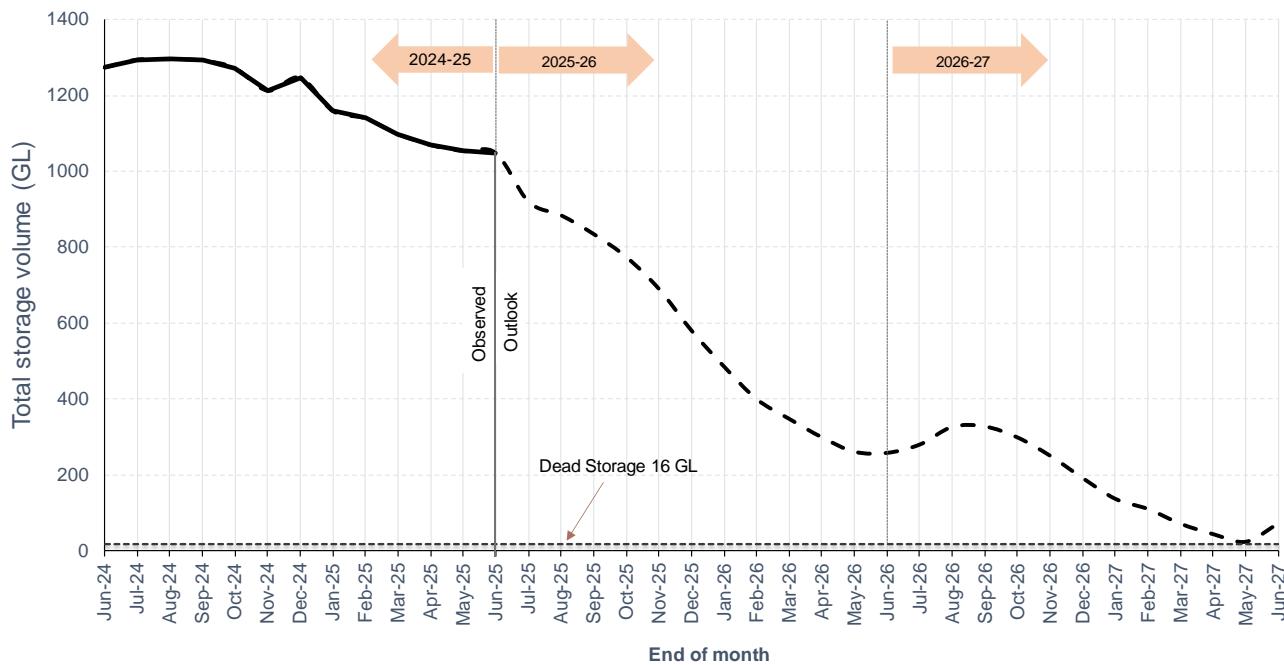


Figure: Simulated depletion of combined Wyangala Dam, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo storage volume

Water sharing plan rules

- Domestic and stock, local water utility and high security licence categories are to receive an allocation of 100% of their share component at the start of the water year. These licences cannot carry over unused balances into the next water year.
- The water quality allowance t is to be credited with 20 GL at the start of the water year. The closing balance cannot be carried over into the next water year.
- General security access licences receive allocation after all higher priority categories have been fully allocated. Any unused water can be carried over into next water year, but total account balances cannot exceed 200% of entitlement. Water use or trade within a single water year is limited to 100% of entitlement.

- Wyangala environmental water allowance (EWA) and Brewster EWA is to be credited with 10 GL each at the start of the water year if the opening GS account balance exceeds 50%. If this does not occur, the 10 GL credit is deferred until the available GS carryover balance, plus the cumulative allocation reaches 75% of GS entitlement.
- Conveyance allocation is a function of the Jemalong Irrigation Limited GS account balance. Allocation to conveyance entitlement reaches its maximum (100%) when the Jemalong Irrigation Limited GS account balance reaches 75%.
- Evaporation reductions apply to carried over volumes to account for the additional evaporation lost from storages that is generated by water carried to the next water year. Reductions are calculated by the operator at the end of each quarter and applied to balances at the end of a water year.
- If Wyangala Dam, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo are full—or are expected to fill from flows already in the system—the minister may, at their discretion, withdraw water allocations from applicable accounts and make new available water determinations. The withdrawal can happen no more than once every 6 months.

Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Water allocation statement - The water allocation statement for all water sources can be accessed at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – We developed a dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources. The dashboard can be accessed at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water Sharing Plan – The water sharing plan for this water source is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source 2016](#)

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on Friday, 8 August 2025.

Information on available water determinations is available on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website: [NSW Government Water](#)

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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