8 August 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 9%** of their entitlement. The increment brings the general security account balance to 517 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 87% of entitlement.

The improvement in resources this month is largely due to improved inflows to the system. About 80 GL of combined inflows were recorded in July, which is the highest monthly inflow recorded so far in 2025.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 July 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

8 August 2025	Allocation increment	Average account balance
General security	9%	87%

Key information

- Additional resources are available this month following 80 GL of combined inflow to Wyangala Dam and the downstream tributaries recorded in July 2025. This is the highest monthly inflow since December 2024, when about 82 GL of combined inflow was recorded.
- Despite the recent improvement, total inflow to the dam and tributaries from January to July 2025 still represents the lowest January to July inflow since 2019.
- Lake Cargelligo will be maintained at maximum 50% until the end of September 2025, while the Cargelligo Embankment Upgrade project is progressing. Please refer to this link for more information.
- Applicable account balances will be reset if all three storages are simultaneously full (or deemed full) as per clause 45(3) of the water sharing plan. Lake Cargelligo will be deemed full at 50% until end of September 2025. Water users are advised to ensure they are informed of the water sharing plan rules on account reset conditions, when considering water management decisions.

PUB25/615

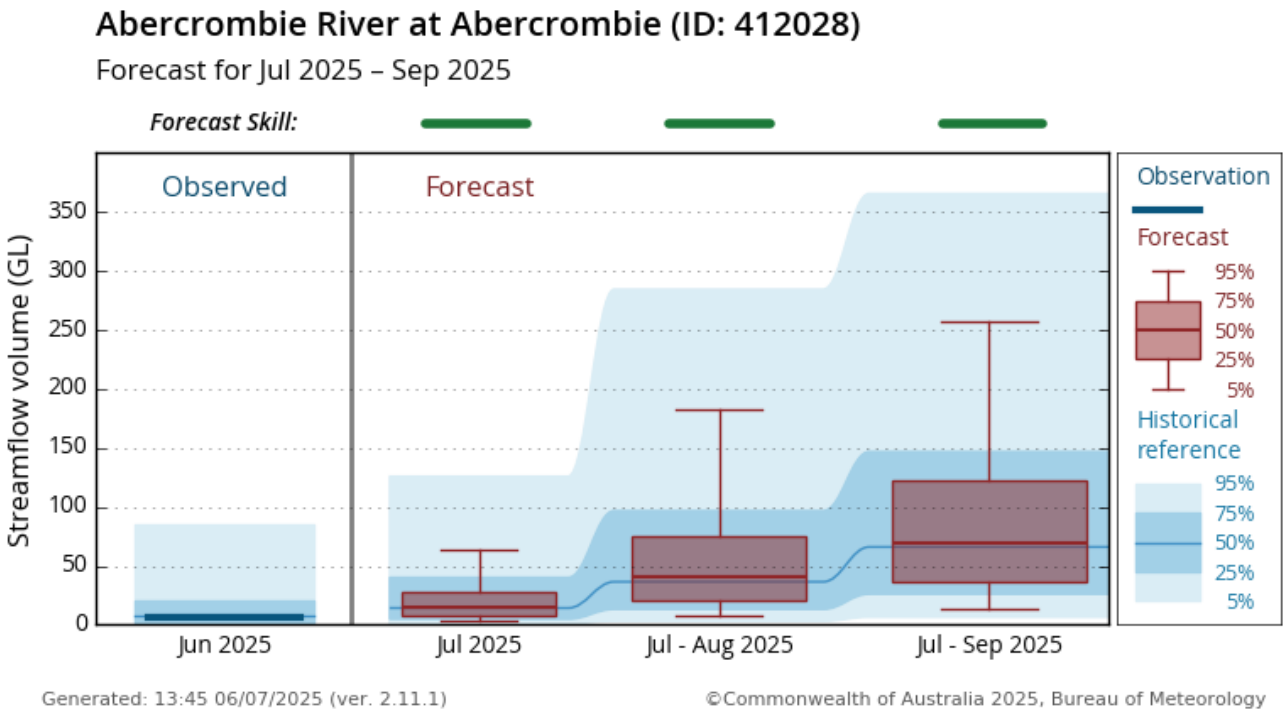
- The evaporation reduction factor, for the quarter ending June 2025, has been calculated by WaterNSW as 0.31%. Based on the estimated reduction percentages for Q2 (1.11%), Q3 (1.24%) and Q4 (0.31%), a reduction of 2.66% is applied at the end of the water year 2024–25. Please refer to this link for more information.
- Delivery of domestic and stock replenishment flow has started in Merrowie Creek, Willandra Creek, Merriimajeel and Muggabah Creeks.

Inflow outlook

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.

For July to September 2025, the median forecast streamflow aligns with the historical median, and all forecast quantiles are tighter around the median relative to the historical range, suggesting an average inflow conditions during this period.

The graph for July to September 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au)



Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (August 2025 to June 2027)	Volume (GL)	
Current and future resources [1]		1,308
less		
This water year (08/25 to 06/26)		
Planned environmental water balance [2]	37	
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance	28	
High security balance	58	
Conveyance balance	18	
General security balance [3]	517	
Evaporation from storage [4]	73	
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	234	
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]	34	
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	219	
equals		
Surplus (or deficit) [7]		0

Notes:

(1) End of July 2025 active storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, plus the planned minimum storage inflows and useful tributary flows from August 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).

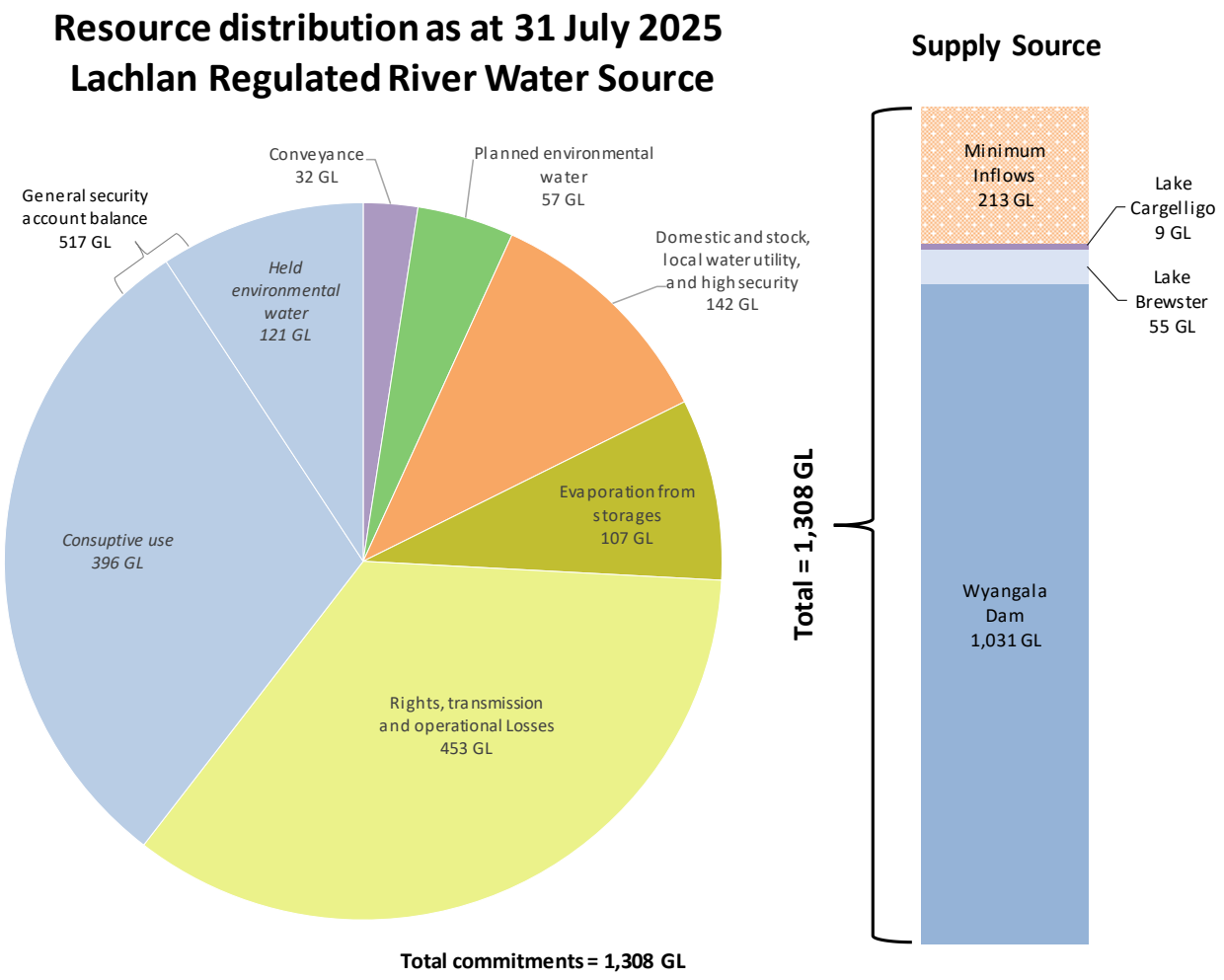
(3) The held environmental water (HEW) balance is estimated to be 121 GL of GS entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW environmental water holder and the Commonwealth environmental water holder (CEWH).

(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.



Water allocation in 2025–26

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26	Average 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%
8-Aug	General security	0.09 ML/unit share	0.12 ML/unit share	87%

*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.

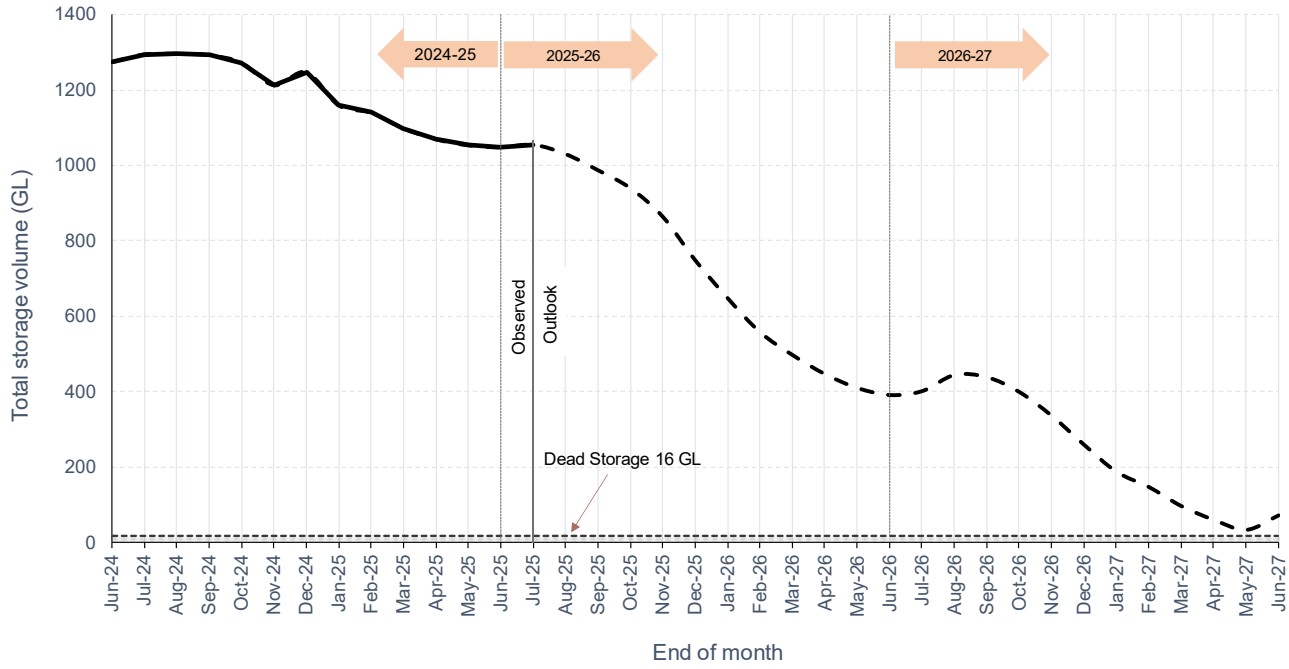


Figure: Simulated depletion of combined Wyangala Dam, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo storage volume

Water sharing plan rules

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decision.

- 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 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 are to 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 **Monday 8 September 2025.**

Subscribe here to receive water allocation statements email updates from Water Group of the department.

You can also follow the department on X: @NSWDCCEEW_Water

Feedback on this work or any aspect of the department's service can be provided using the widget at: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water | NSW Government