

13 January 2026

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations** in the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source at this time. The cumulative allocation to general security (GS) licences this water year remains at 22% of entitlement. The current GS account balance is about 429 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 72% of entitlement.

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

Current allocation

13 January 2026	Allocation increment	Average account balance
General security	-	72%

Key information

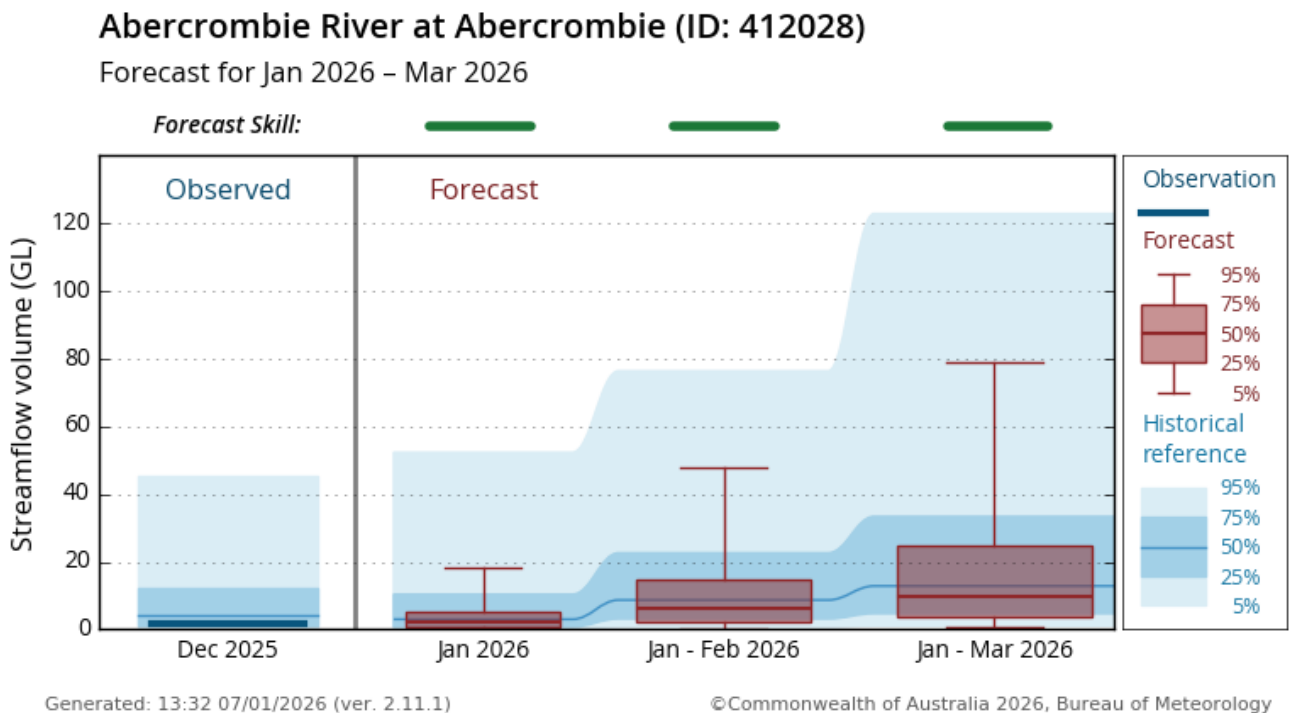
- Lake Cargelligo will be maintained at 70% until the irrigation season finishes, while the Cargelligo Embankment Upgrade project is progressing. Please refer to [project update](#) from WaterNSW.
- Applicable account balances will be reset if all three storages are simultaneously full (or deemed full under reduced operating capacity) as per clause 45(3) of the water sharing plan. Lake Cargelligo will be deemed full at 70% capacity until WaterNSW revises the capacity limit. Water users are advised to ensure they are informed of the water sharing plan rules on account reset conditions, when considering water management decisions.

Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal streamflow forecast for the Abercrombie River, which flows into Wyangala Dam (see the figure below). Though preliminary, this may suggest the potential inflows into the dam in the coming months.

For the January to March 2026 period, most forecast quantiles sit below their historical equivalents suggesting that lower than historical inflows are likely for this period.

The graph for January to March 2026 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/seasonal-forecast/)



Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (January 2026 to June 2028)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources ⁽¹⁾	1,266
<i>less</i>	
This water year (01/26 to 06/26)	
Planned environmental water balance ⁽²⁾	30
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance	25
High security balance	51
Conveyance balance	0
General security balance ⁽³⁾	429
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	37
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	106
Storage reserve for 2026–27 and 2027–28	
Planned environmental water ⁽²⁾	50
Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security ⁽⁶⁾	112
Conveyance	25
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	64
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	437
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	(100)

Notes:

- (1) End of December 2025 active storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster, plus the planned minimum storage inflows and useful tributary flows from January 2026 to May 2028. 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 96 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 all 3 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. The deficit is from reserving another year of higher priority water use (commenced in December 2025). This will be monitored closely.

Resource distribution as at 31 December 2025 Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



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%
9-Oct	General security	0.08 ML/unit share	0.20 ML/unit share	85%
10-Nov	General security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.22 ML/unit share	80%

*Maximum allowable

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.
- Wyangala environmental water allowance (EWA) and Brewster EWA are 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.
- 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.
- 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](#)
- Water allocation statement – The water allocation statement for all water sources is available at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources is available at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | 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 **9 February 2026**.

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