9 June 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 350 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 59% of entitlement.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 May 2026. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

This is the final routine update for the 2025-26 water year for this water source. Any changes after this date will be reflected in the 2026-27 state-wide opening water allocation statements.

### Current allocation

| 9 June 2026 | Allocation increment | Average account balance |
|---|---|---|
| General security | - | 59% |

### Key information

- Lake Cargelligo will be maintained at 50-70% 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. This is communicated to provide clarity around the implementation of account reset rules.
- Combined inflows to the Lachlan catchment from July 2025 to May 2026 currently stands at 378 GL. This is now the lowest total inflows for the same period since the 2019–20 water year.
- WaterNSW is closing the temporary trade for the 2025-26 water year on 16 June 2026 at 11.59 pm. More information on the trade announcement can be found on WaterNSW website.
- Annual evaporation reductions will be applied to accounts by the end of this water year that had carried over water on 1 July 2025 as per the water sharing plan clause 45(2).

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PUB26/428

## Resource outlook for 2026-27

The outlook for likely 1 July 2026 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that the forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution.

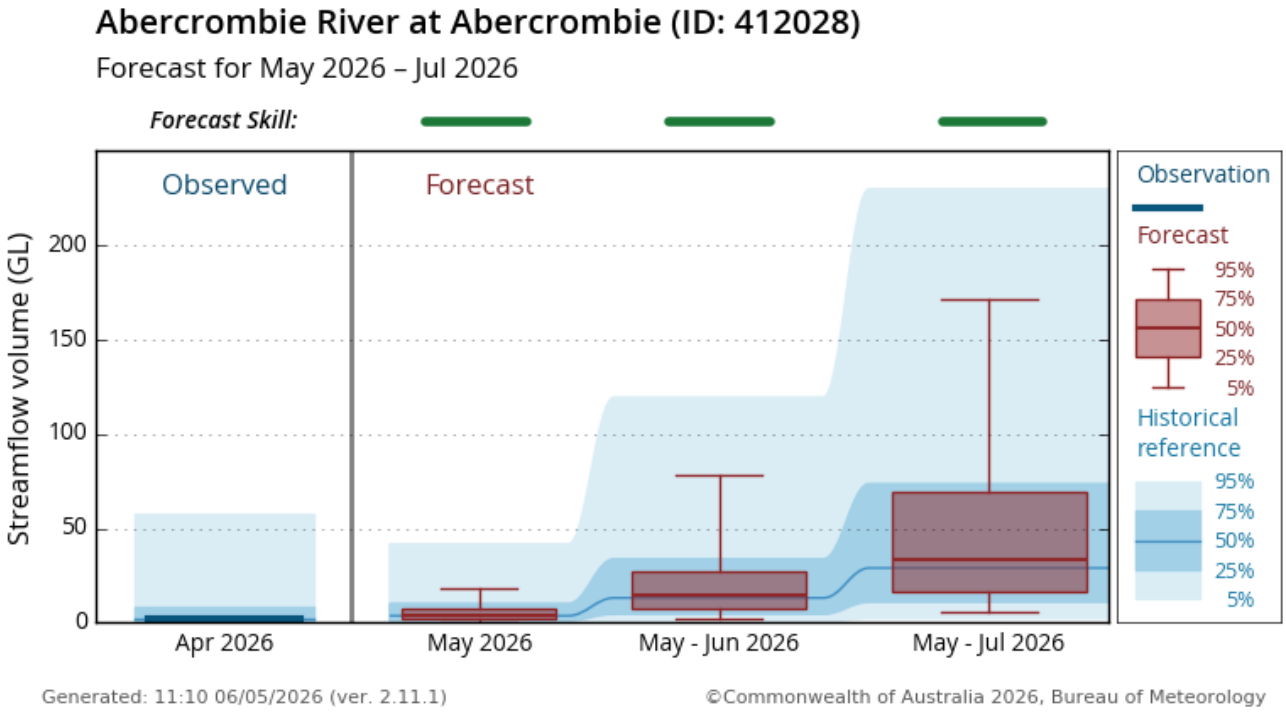
- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including for towns, is secure for the 2026-27 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including local water utility, stock and domestic, and high security can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July 2026.
- Conveyance accounts will be allocated in accordance with water sharing plan rules, commensurate with the opening balance in the relevant general security licences.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and will be carried forward into the new water year. The maximum volume that may be held in accounts at any time is 200% of their entitlement.
- General security users can expect full access to their carried over account water, but no new allocation will be announced on 1 July. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessment will continue, commencing in early July, and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2026-27.
- General security carryover volume may exceed 50% of their entitlement, if true then the Wyangala and Lake Brewster Environmental Water Allowances (EWA) will be credited 10 GL each. However, Lake Brewster EWA will not be available for release until the lake has sufficient volume. The Water Quality Allowance (WQA) will receive 20 GL in accordance with the water sharing plan.

## 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 May to July 2026 period, the forecast median sits slightly above the historical median, suggesting a likelihood of higher to near median flows for this period compared to historical conditions.

The graph for May to July 2026 is shown below, and updates can be found at: Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au)


Abercrombie River at Abercrombie (ID: 412028)
Forecast for May 2026 – Jul 2026
Forecast Skill:
Observed
Forecast
Streamflow volume (GL)
200
150
100
50
0
Apr 2026
May 2026
May - Jun 2026
May - Jul 2026
Observation
Forecast
95%
75%
50%
25%
5%
Historical reference
95%
75%
50%
25%
5%
Generated: 11:10 06/05/2026 (ver. 2.11.1)
©Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Bureau of Meteorology

## Resource assessment data sheet

| Resource distribution (June 2026 to June 2028) | Volume (GL) |
|---|---|
| Current and future resources [1] | 995 |
| ***less*** | |
| This water year (06/26 to 06/26) | |
| Planned environmental water balance [2] | 14 |
| Domestic and stock, local water utility balance | 19 |
| High security balance | 14 |
| Conveyance balance | 0 |
| General security balance [3] | 350 |
| Evaporation from storage [4] | 1 |
| Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5] | 11 |
| 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 | 19 |
| Evaporation from storage [4] | 59 |
| Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5] | 427 |
| ***equals*** | |
| Surplus (or deficit) [7] | (81) |

**Notes:**

(1) End of May 2026 active storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster; plus the budgeted minimum inflows to Wyangala Dam (06/1979 to 05/1981); plus useful tributary flows; minus 16 GL of inaccessible (dead) storage volume.

(2) Water reserved for the water quality allowance (WQA) and the environmental water allowances (EWA).

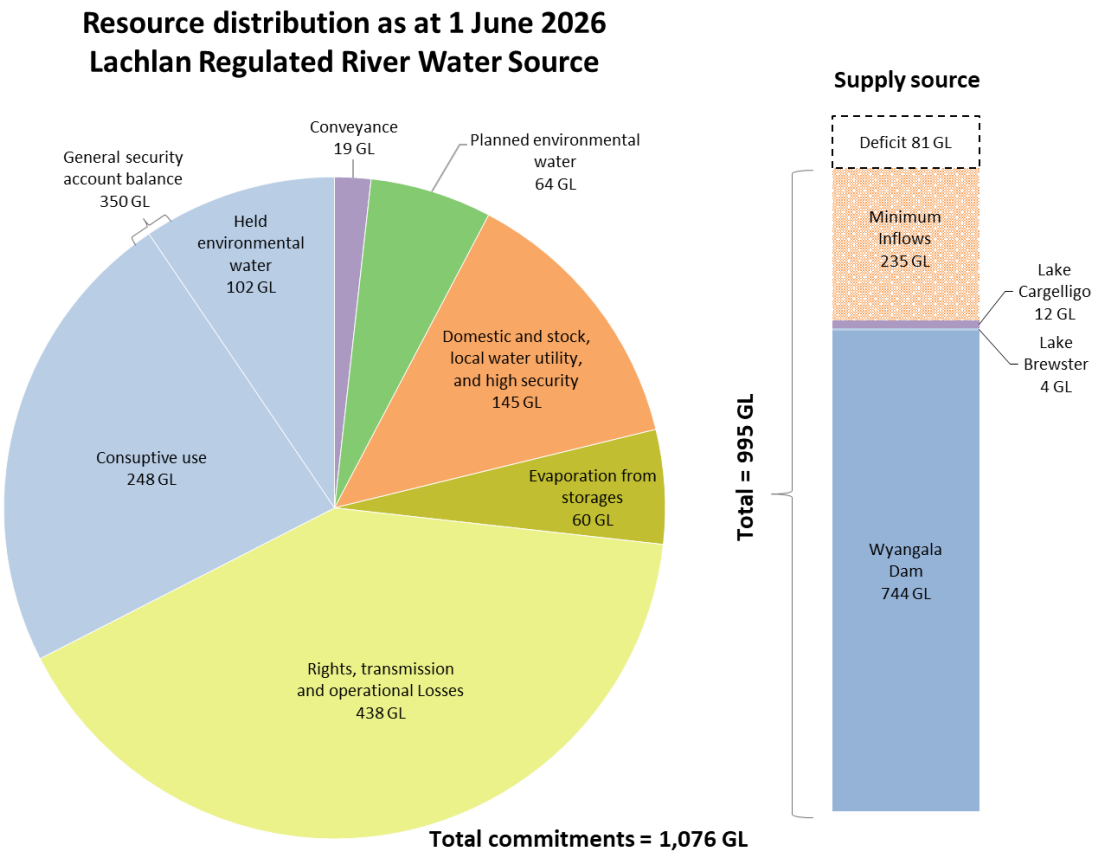
(3) The held environmental water (HEW) balance is estimated to be 102 GL of GS entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW environmental water holder and the Commonwealth environmental water holder (CEWH).

(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. We commenced to reserve higher priority needs of 2027–28 since December 2025. The deficit indicates the additional volume required to fully reserve the higher priority needs of 2027–28 water year.




## 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 from storages caused by these volumes. 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 water allocation statement for these water sources will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statements on **Wednesday, 6 am, 1 July 2026**.

Following the 1 July 2026 water allocation statement, the next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Wednesday 8 July 2026**.

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*Contact information for water enquiries and other water-related matters can be found on the department's website: Contact us - DCCEEW | Water*