

8 July 2026

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

No change to general security allocations

Category	2026-27 allocation	Account balance
General security	0%	60% (353 GL)

Key information

- This resource assessment is based on information as of 1 July 2026.
- All higher priority licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2026. The Wyangala and Brewster Environmental Water Allowances (EWA) are credited 10 gegalitre (GL) each, and Water Quality Allowance (WQA) is credited 20 GL.
- Conveyance licenses have received their additional 25% allocation reaching its maximum (100%) allocation for the year.
- 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.
- The accounts that carried over water on 1 July 2025 has been debited of their annual evaporation on 30 June 2026, aligning with the water sharing plan rules clause 45(2)(a). Please refer to [Page 2](#) for further information.

Next statement

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on Monday, 10 August 2026.

Summary of last water year (2025–26)

All higher-priority licences, including local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security entitlements received their maximum allocations at the start of the 2025–26 water year.

Conveyance licences also received its 100% allocation, commensurate with the high opening balance of the associated general security licences.

General security licence holders started the 2025–26 water year with an average account balance of 82% of their entitlement. During this water year, four allocation increments were made, resulting in a total additional allocation of 22% of entitlement. By early June 2026, general security account balances had decreased to an average of 59% of entitlement, reflecting overall usage of around 29%.

Lake Brewster, Lake Cargelligo and Wyangala Dam started the 2025–26 water year with combined storage levels at 80% of capacity. Storage volumes remained above 80% during the first half of the water year and peaked at 92% of capacity in September and October, following above-average rainfall of 200-400 mm during this period. However, conditions became drier in 2026, with total inflows of 420 GL recorded between July 2025 and June 2026, the lowest for the same period since the 2019–20 water year.

Environmental water usage during the 2025–26 water year comprised approximately 8 GL from the WQA and 19.6 GL from the Wyangala and Brewster EWA, representing almost full utilisation of EWA volume.

Evaporation reduction

- The reduction, applied on 30 June 2026, returned 14,070 ML to general resources.
- The evaporation reduction volumes varied among individuals with licences holding longer duration deducted with higher volume. This was as high as 3.6% of 1 July 2025 balance for some.
- The licensees who have carried over water on 1 July 2026 are advised to set aside sufficient volume to provide for next annual evaporation reduction due by 30 June 2027. The actual volume will be subject to the climate and duration of holdings. The deduction may reach 5% of the volume of 1 July 2026 in case of hot summer.
- The evaporation reduction liability remains with the licence holder who carried over the water on 1 July, regardless of any subsequent trades or transfers. The balance of carryover water of a licence holder only reduces by their usage and thus reduces their evaporation reduction liability.
- Please see more details on evaporation reduction here: [factsheet](#).

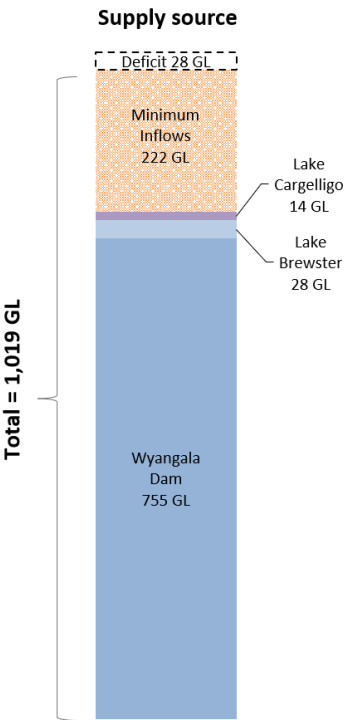
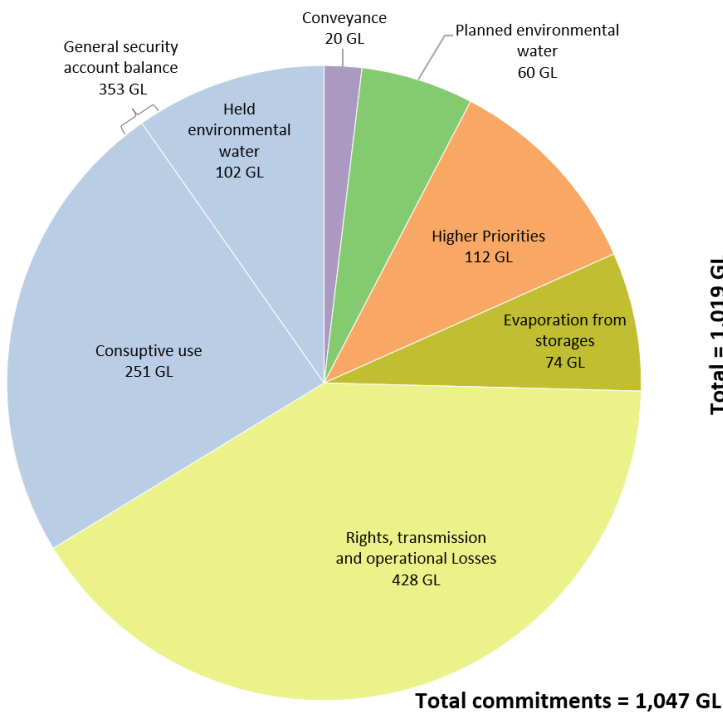
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (July 2026 to June 2028)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources ⁽¹⁾	1,019
<i>less</i>	
This water year (07/26 to 06/27)	
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⁾	353
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	49
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	240
Storage reserve for 2027–28	
Planned environmental water ⁽²⁾	20
Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security ⁽⁶⁾	56
Conveyance	2
Evaporation from storage ⁽⁴⁾	25
Rights, transmission, and operational losses ⁽⁵⁾	188
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾	(28)

Notes:

- (1) End of June 2026 active storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster; plus the budgeted minimum inflows to Wyangala Dam (05/1979 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 two 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 Government 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. A deficit in overall resources is identified in this assessment, which will be monitored closely.

Resource distribution as at 1 July 2026
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source



Useful links



Allocation statements for all water sources are available at: [Water allocation statements | Water](#)



A series of guides that describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems are available at: [Resource assessment process | Water](#)



The dashboard on water availability and allocations for all water sources is available at: [Allocations dashboard | Water](#)



The water sharing plan for this water source is available at: [Lachlan Regulated River Water Source 2016](#)

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Annexure

Allocations in 2026–27

Table 1: Lachlan water allocation history in 2026–27

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2026–27	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/share	1.00 ML/share*	100%
1-Jul	Conveyance	0.75 ML/share	0.75 ML/share	75%
8-Jul	Conveyance	0.25 ML/share	1.00 ML/share*	100%

*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 withdraw water allocations from applicable accounts and make new available water determinations. The withdrawal can happen no more than once every 6 months.