10 August 2026

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

General security allocation increased by 4%

Licence category	2026–27 allocation	Account balance
General security	4%	56% (331 GL)

Key information

- This resource assessment is based on information as at 31 July 2026.
- The allocation increment was possible due to good inflows into the catchment and some reduction in commitments. A total of 56 GL of inflows into the dam and from major tributaries were recorded in July.
- Conveyance licenses received its maximum (100%) allocation for the year by last assessment.
- There have been deliveries of 5 GL of Environmental water allowances (EWA) from Wyangala Dam and 10 GL from Lake Brewster.
- 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.

Next statement

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Tuesday, 8 September 2026.**

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Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (August 2026 to June 2028)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources [1]	1,017
less	
This water year (08/26 to 06/27)	
Planned environmental water balance [2]	25
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance	28
High security balance	34
Conveyance balance	18
General security balance [3]	331
Evaporation from storage [4]	50
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	229
Storage reserve for 2027–28	
Planned environmental water [2]	20
Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security [6]	56
Conveyance	5
Evaporation from storage [4]	27
Rights, transmission, and operational losses [5]	193
equals	
Surplus (or deficit) [7]	1

Notes:

(1) End of July 2026 active storage volume in Wyangala Dam, Lake Cargelligo, and Lake Brewster; plus the budgeted minimum inflows to Wyangala Dam (08/1979 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).

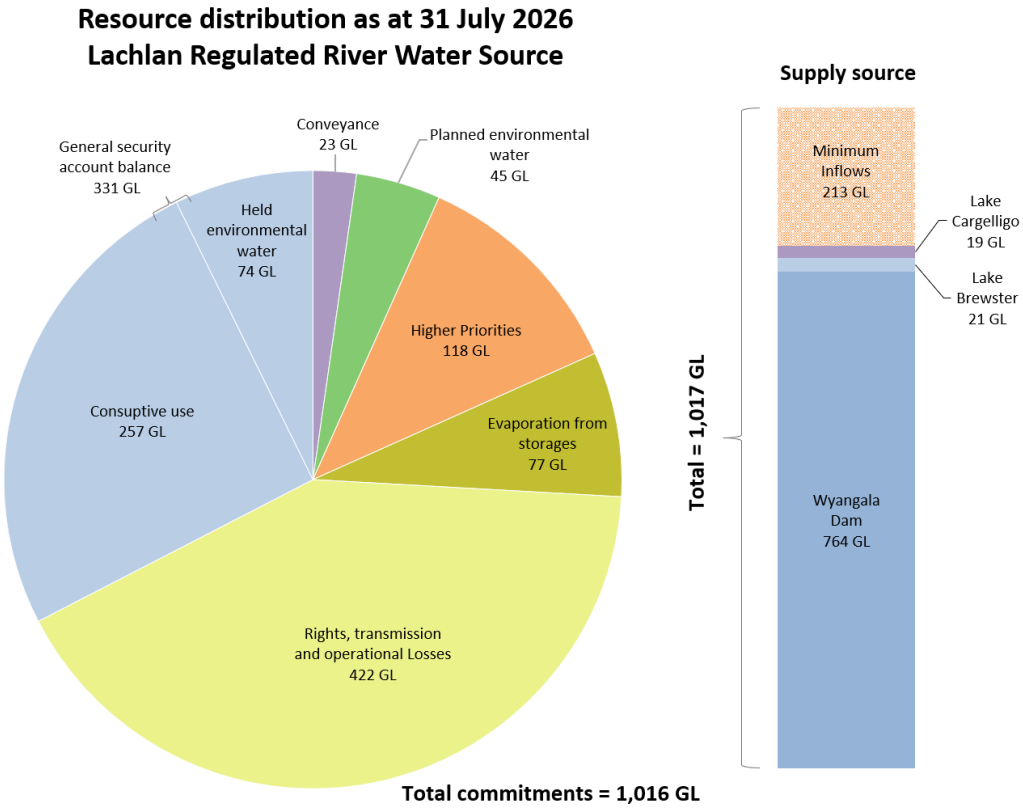
(3) The held environmental water (HEW) balance is estimated to be 74 GL of GS entitlements. These reported entitlements are managed by agencies holding environmental water accounts. They include the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).

(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. There is a small surplus, insufficient for a full percentage increment in allocation, which will be rolled over to the next resource assessment.


Resource distribution as at 31 July 2026
Lachlan Regulated River Water Source
Conveyance
23 GL
Planned environmental water
45 GL
General security account balance
331 GL
Held environmental water
74 GL
Higher Priorities
118 GL
Consuptive use
257 GL
Evaporation from storages
77 GL
Rights, transmission and operational Losses
422 GL
Total commitments = 1,016 GL
Supply source
Minimum Inflows
213 GL
Lake Cargelligo
19 GL
Lake Brewster
21 GL
Wyangala Dam
764 GL
Total = 1,017 GL

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

Contact

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

You can also follow the department on X: @NSWDCCEEW_Water

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

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%
10-Aug	General security	0.04 ML/share	0.04 ML/share	56%

*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 end of each quarter and applied to balances at the end of each water year.
- If Wyangala Dam, Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo are simultaneously 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.