

7 April 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource to increase allocations to general security licences by 0.122 megalitres per unit share (ML/unit share) or 12.2% of entitlement. As several general security users have reached their account limit and no longer can accrue water, only 25 gigalitres (GL) was required to allow this notable increment for the users with space in their account. This brings the total cumulative allocations for general security licences to 284.2% of entitlement for this water year.

The environmental contingency allowance (ECA) is full at 90,000 megalitres (ML) of water, with no increment possible this time.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 March 2022. Any changes in resources since this date will be captured in the next assessment.

Allocations in 2021-22

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 21/22	Balance
1-Jul	Domestic & 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	Supplementary	0.50	0.50	
7-Jul	General Security	0.111	0.111	67.6%
6-Aug		0.295	0.406	97.2%
7-Sep		0.287	0.693	125.9%
8-Oct		0.043	0.736	130.3%
5-Nov		0.048	0.784	135%
7-Dec		0.400	1.184	150%*
13-Jan		0.420	1.604	150%*
7-Feb		1.030	2.634	150%*
7-Mar		0.086	2.720	145.4%
7-Apr		0.122	2.842	147.3%

*maximum allowable

Resource outlook for 2022-23

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including local water utility, are secure for the 2022-23 water year.
- High priority water access licence holders, including local water utility, stock and domestic and high security can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July.

- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward in full into new water year. The maximum volume that may be held at any time is 1.5 ML/share.

Dam level (as of 6 April 2022)

Copeton Dam is 95.9% full and holding 1,307 GL.

This time last year, the dam was about 40% full.

Key information

- Inflow into Copeton Dam in March 2022 was about 44.6 GL and downstream tributary flow contributed about 6.7 GL.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 27.5 GL in March. Total essential supply demand was 1.7 GL. General security usage was 15.4 GL and no ECA usage in March.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in March.
- Supplementary water usage has been about 50.0 GL this water year, out of 90.7 GL allocated to supplementary users this year.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

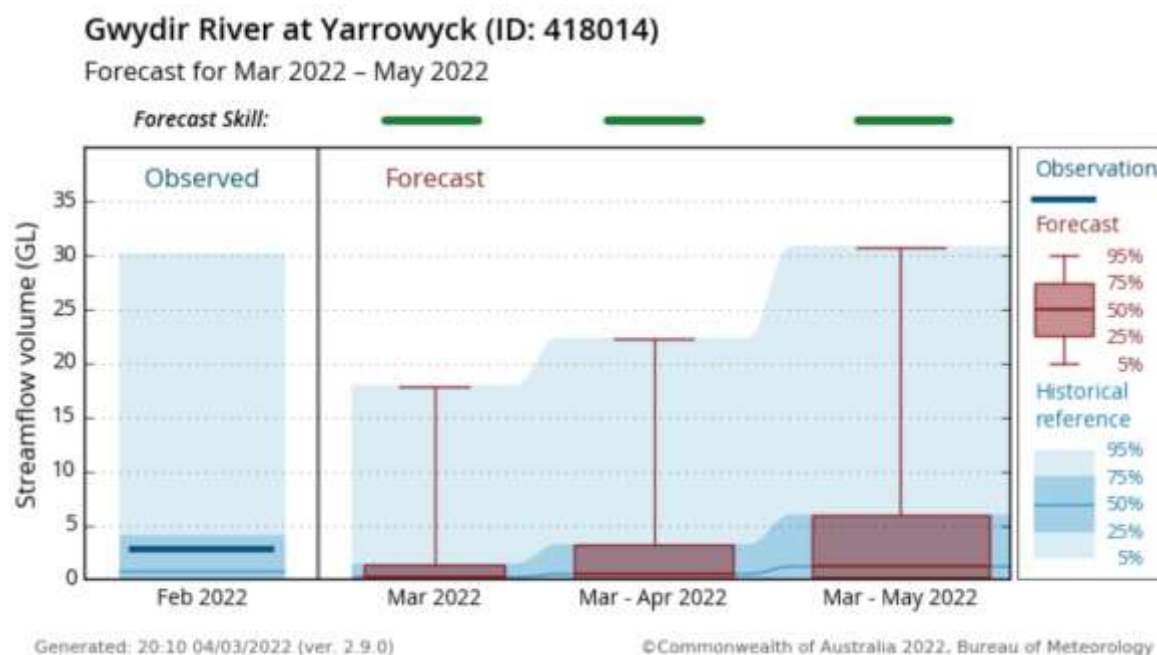
The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median for the upstream part of the Gwydir catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be lower than median and minimum temperatures are likely to be greater than median for the catchment.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Gwydir River at Yarrowyck, upstream of Copeton Dam (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam.

The forecast total median flow volume from March to May is about same as the historical flow distribution, indicating no clear trend away from historical flow patterns.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014



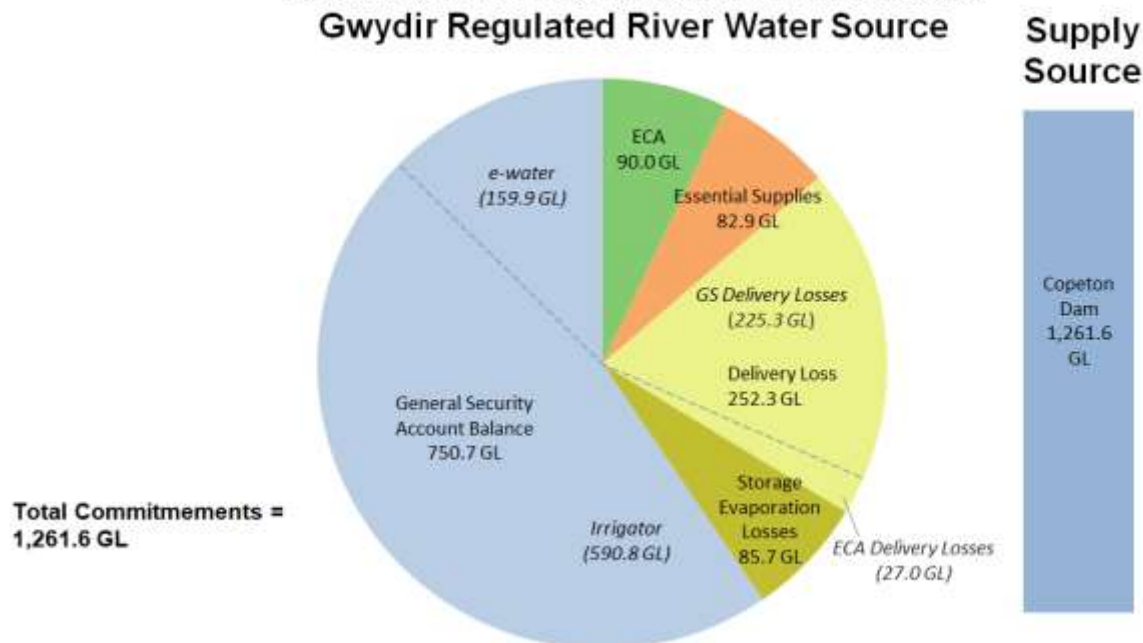
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 March 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,261.6
less	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	85.7
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	225.3
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	590.8
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	0.0

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Storage evaporation losses is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- ⁽²⁾ Essential Supplies: water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for local water utility, stock and domestic, high security and riverine environments for the next 24 months. It includes stock and domestic replenishments, delivery loss allowance and end-of-system flow requirements. This is offset by minimum forecast inflows into the storage.
- ⁽³⁾ Delivery Losses: this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security and ECA water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Held environmental water (HEW): the reporting of held environmental water is indicative only. General security HEW account balance estimated to be 159.9 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 5.8 GL. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW environment water holder and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- ⁽⁵⁾ All available water resources have been fully allocated (no surplus/deficit). The system is secure for the next 24 months and beyond.

Resource Distribution as at 31 March 2022 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 31 March 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	85.72	85.38	0.34	85.72
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	80.13	2.77	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	225.22	212.94	12.28	225.22
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.00	27.00	0.00	27.00
ECA (90 GL max)		90.00	0.00	90.00
General Security (764.5 GL max)		725.66	25.08	750.74
Additional Resource for Sharing		40.47	-40.47	0.00
Total		1,261.58	0.00	1,261.58

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	25.03	GL
Available Water Determination	0.122	ML per unit share

Water allocation guide

The department is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. One for the Gwydir regulated river water source is now available.

Further details at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Friday 6 May 2022**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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