

5 August 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement in July to allow for a 58% increase to general security water entitlements in the Gwydir regulated river water source. This brings the total allocation for general security accounts to 161% of entitlement for this 2022-23 water year.

However, once an account is full (150% account limit), it can only benefit from new allocation when water is used, allowing room for top-up water. Therefore, this 58% allocation involves the small volume of water needed to top up some accounts.

The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) is at its maximum 90 gigalitres (GL) account balance.

Rainfall in July 2022 was average to below average across the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received about 50 mm in July and corresponding inflows totalled about 69 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 July 2022. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next allocation statement.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security	Average Account Balance
Gwydir Regulated River	161%	~150%*

*Maximum allowable

Dam levels (as of 4 August 2022)

Copeton Dam is 99.4% full and holding 1,353 GL. This time last year, it was about 68% full.

Floodplain harvesting and supplementary access licences

A new floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licence category has been created in accordance with the approved Water Sharing Plan for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source Amendment Order 2022. When the **floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences** in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source commence, they will receive an allocation of **1 ML/unit share** for the 2022/23 water year.

Furthermore, with the commencement of the above floodplain harvesting access licences, the allocation to supplementary access licences in the Gwydir regulated system can be increased to 1 megalitre per share (100% of entitlement) for 2022/23. Supplementary access licence holders are reminded that use of this water is only available during announced supplementary access events.

Key information

- Inflow into Copeton Dam in July 2022 was about 69 GL and downstream tributary inflow was 10.4 GL.
- Release from Copeton Dam was 71.4 GL in July. Total essential supply demand was about 0.2 GL and general security usage was 27.9 GL.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in July.

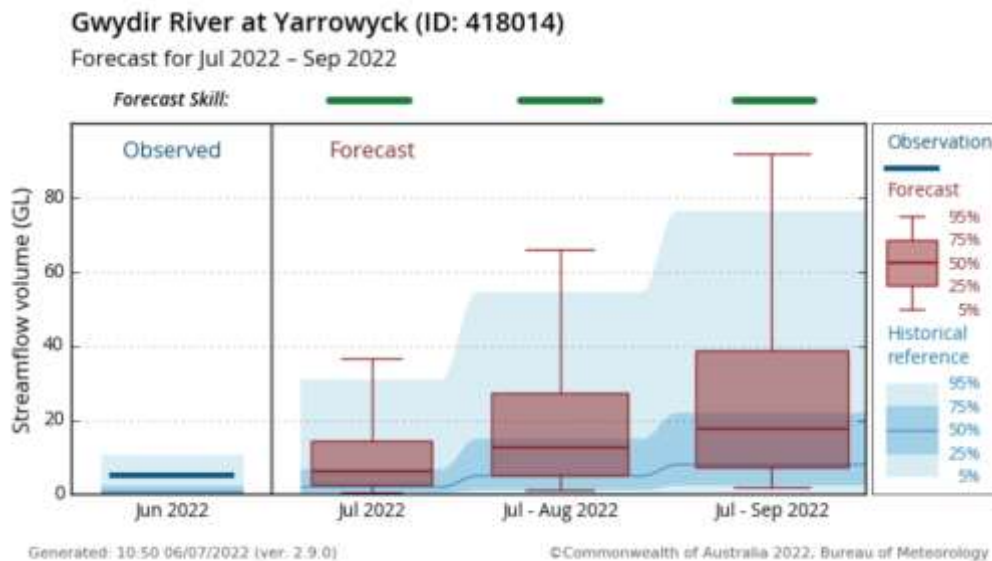
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median for the Gwydir catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be below median and minimum temperatures are likely to be above median in this period.

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 in coming months. The forecast total median flow volume from July to September is higher than historical median flows for the same period, indicating more flow than usual is likely.

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



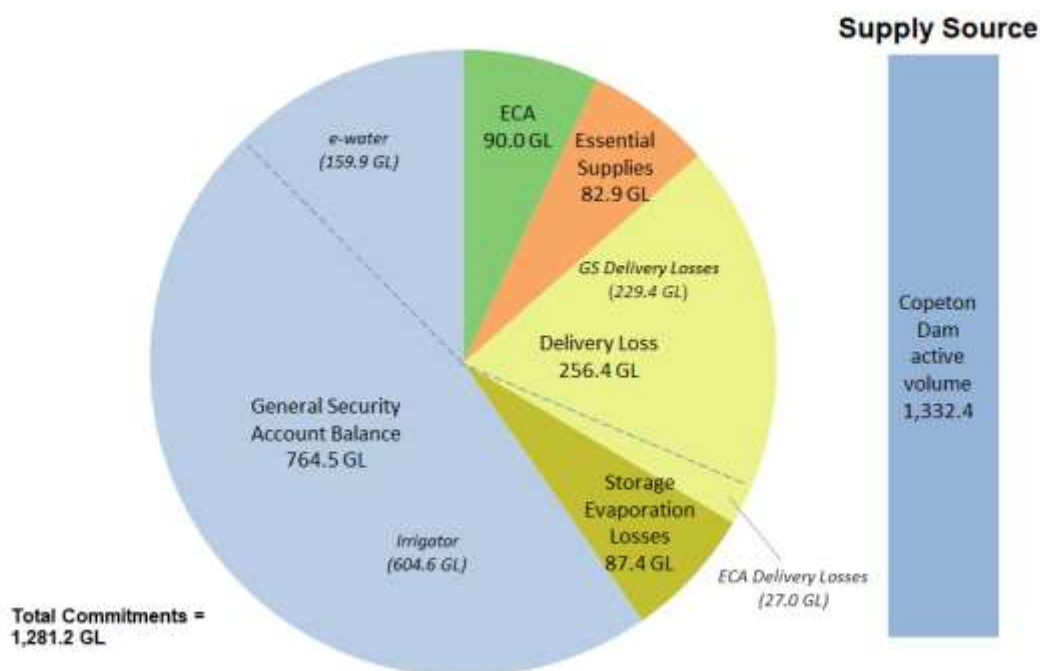
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 July 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,332.4
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	87.4
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	229.4
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	604.6
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	51.2

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 5.76 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⁾ The available water resource has been fully allocated, with a surplus of 51.2 GL. The system is secure for the next 24 months and beyond.

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



Resource assessment as at 31 July 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	87.43	87.52	-0.09	87.43
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	82.44	0.46	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	229.35	213.31	43.04	229.35
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.00	0.00	0.00	27.00
ECA (90 GL max)		90.00	0.00	90.00
General Security (764.5 GL max)		736.63	27.87	764.50
Additional Resource for Sharing		122.48	-71.28	51.20
Total		1,332.38	0.00	1,332.38

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	27.82	GL
Available Water Determination	0.58	ML per unit share

Allocations in 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Average Account 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/share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.21 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share	
7-Jul	General Security	1.03 ML/unit share	1.03 ML/unit share	150%*
5-Aug	General Security	0.58 ML/unit share	1.61 ML/unit share	~150%*

*Maximum allowable

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Gwydir regulated system is available at the following link:

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

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Wednesday 7 September 2022**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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