

5 March 2021

## Gwydir Regulated River Water Source


### Water allocation update

The allocation for **General Security access licence holders remains unchanged at 15.68%**. Rainfall in February was average to above average in the Gwydir catchment, but it did not generate enough resource improvement to allow for an increase in general security allocations.

Copeton Dam received 132 mm of rainfall in February. Inflow into the storage was about 5.6 gigalitres (GL) and downstream tributary inflow was about 14.3 GL. However, high transmission losses have impacted water availability, resulting in a small shortfall in the Delivery Loss account of about 5.5 GL. Recovery is likely in coming months based on seasonal outlooks.

This resource assessment is based on the closing balance at 28 February 2021. Any Copeton Dam volume increases since that date will be captured in the April allocation statement.

### Current allocations

2020/21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	15.68%	 Stage 1

### Dam levels (as at 4 March 2021)

Copeton Dam is about 18.1% full – rising – currently holding almost 261 GL. This time last year the storage was 10.8% full.

### Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Drought Stage classification for the Gwydir regulated river remains at the minimum (Stage 1) level reflecting normal rivers operations.

Further information on drought stages can be found at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events)

### Key information

- Inflow into the storage was about 5.6 gigalitres (GL) in February. Any improvement since the end of February will be included in the next assessment.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 28.8 GL. Total Essential Supply demand was about 1.4 GL in February, 10 GL demand for GS and 3.9 GL demand for ECA.
- There were no transfers from High Security accounts to General Security accounts.

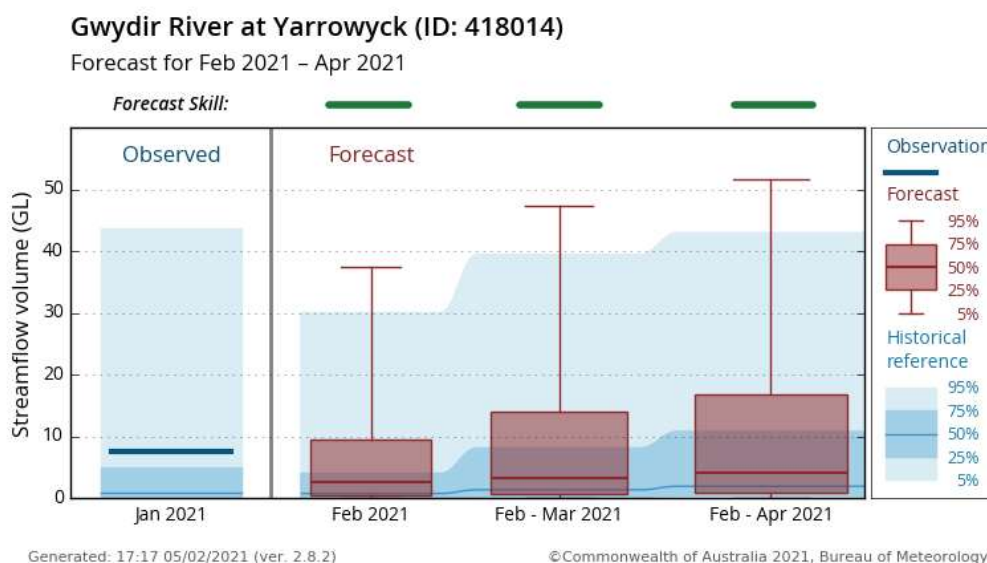
- High transmission losses have resulted in a small shortfall in the Delivery Loss account of about 5.5 GL.

## Seasonal climate and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for March to May indicates that the catchment is likely to experience wetter than average conditions. Daytime temperatures over this period are equally likely to be above or below average and night-time temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau of Meteorology's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook indicates that the La Niña event has passed its peak. However, impacts associated with La Niña, such as above-average rainfall, are expected to persist across eastern and northern Australia into autumn. However, climate model outlooks indicate that the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) will return to neutral during autumn.

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Gwydir River upstream of Copeton Dam to provide an indication of potential inflows (figure below). The forecast total median flow from February to April is greater than the historical median flow.



For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary)  
and [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014)

## Further information

The next water allocation statement will be published on **Friday 9 April 2021**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 28 February 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	232.3
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	24.5
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	94.7
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	18.7
Delivery Losses <sup>(3)</sup>	21.9
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	23.3
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	49.2

See notes below.



### Notes:

- (1) Storage Losses – evaporation 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 Towns, Stock, 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 to storage.
- (3) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portion of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart and table. The reporting of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. General Security HEW account balance estimated to be 23.31 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 1.249 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). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



## Resource Assessment as at 28 February 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss for next 24 months	24.49	26.24	-1.75	24.49
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	92.04	2.68	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	27.36	19.26	2.64	21.90
ECA (90 GL max)	-	18.74	0.00	18.74
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	72.46	0.00	72.46
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	3.57	-3.57	0.00
Total	-	232.31	0.00	232.31

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share

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