

9 April 2021

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security allocation has increased by 39.12% of entitlement in the regulated Gwydir system on the back of good resource improvements since the last assessment. This brings the total general security allocation to 54.8% of entitlement for the 2020-21 water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) account also increases by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Rainfall in March was above average in the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam itself received about 220 mm of rainfall. Inflow into the storage in March was about 300 gigalitres (GL) and downstream tributary flow was about 700 GL. Further small improvements are expected throughout April 2021.

Surplus flows have triggered supplementary access throughout the system and a total of 173 GL was made available to supplementary access licence holders during March 2021. Gwydir supplementary licence holders will need to be aware of their maximum take limit for 2020-21.

This resource assessment is based on the closing balance at 31 March 2021. Any Copeton Dam volume increases since that date will be captured in the May allocation statement.

Current allocations

2020/21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	54.8%	 Stage 1

Resource outlook for 2021-22

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including local utilities, are secure for the 2021-22 water year.
- High priority licence holders including Local Water Utilities, Domestic and Stock, and High Security water access licenses can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- Water remaining in general security accounts after 30 June 2021 will be fully available in the 2021-22 water year.

Dam levels (as at 8 April 2021)

Copeton Dam is about 40.3% full – steady – currently holding about 559 GL. This time last year the storage was 11% full.

Drought stage

The Drought Stage classification for the Gwydir regulated river remains at the minimum (Stage 1) level reflecting normal river operations.

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

Key information

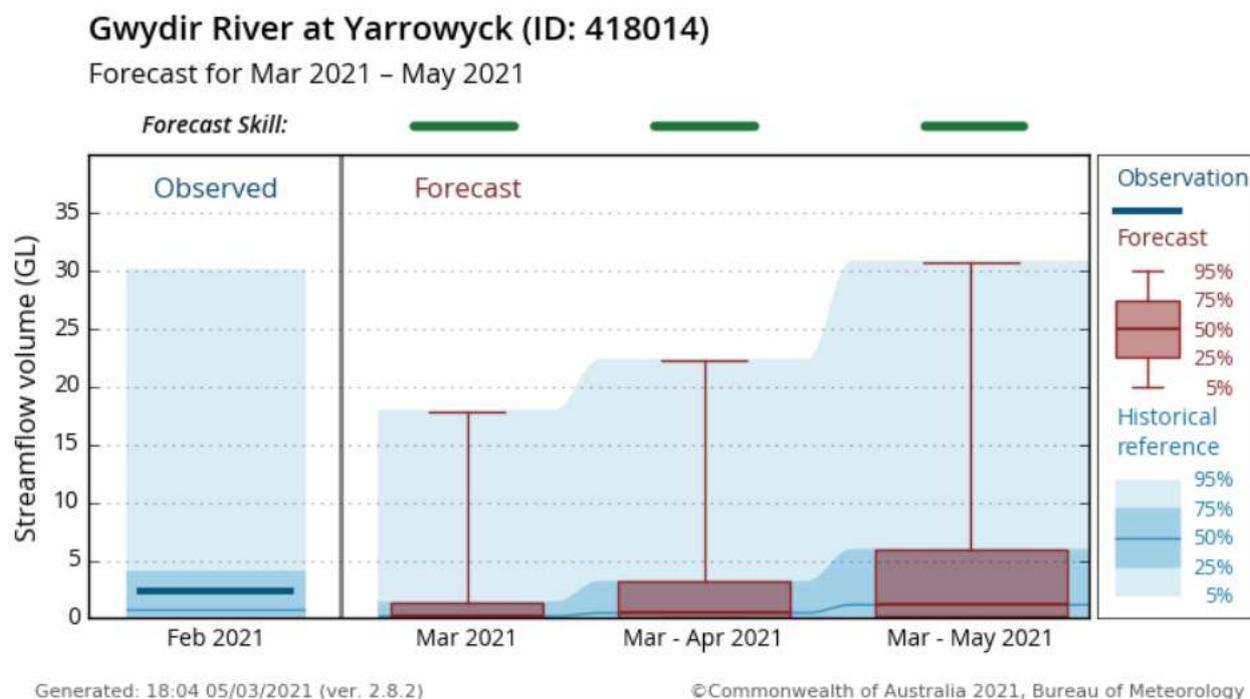
- Inflow into the storage was about 300 gigalitres (GL) in March. Any improvement since March will be included in the next assessment.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 0.9 GL. Total Essential Supply demand was about 2.6 GL in March, 3.7 GL demand for GS and 0.6 GL demand for ECA.
- There were no transfers from High Security accounts to General Security accounts.

Seasonal climate and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that the catchment is likely to experience drier than average conditions. Daytime and night-time temperatures over this period are likely to be above average.

The Bureau of Meteorology's climate outlook indicates that the La Niña has faded, with the El Niño–Southern Oscillation now in a neutral phase.

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



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

Further information

The next water allocation statement will be published on **Friday 7 May 2021**.

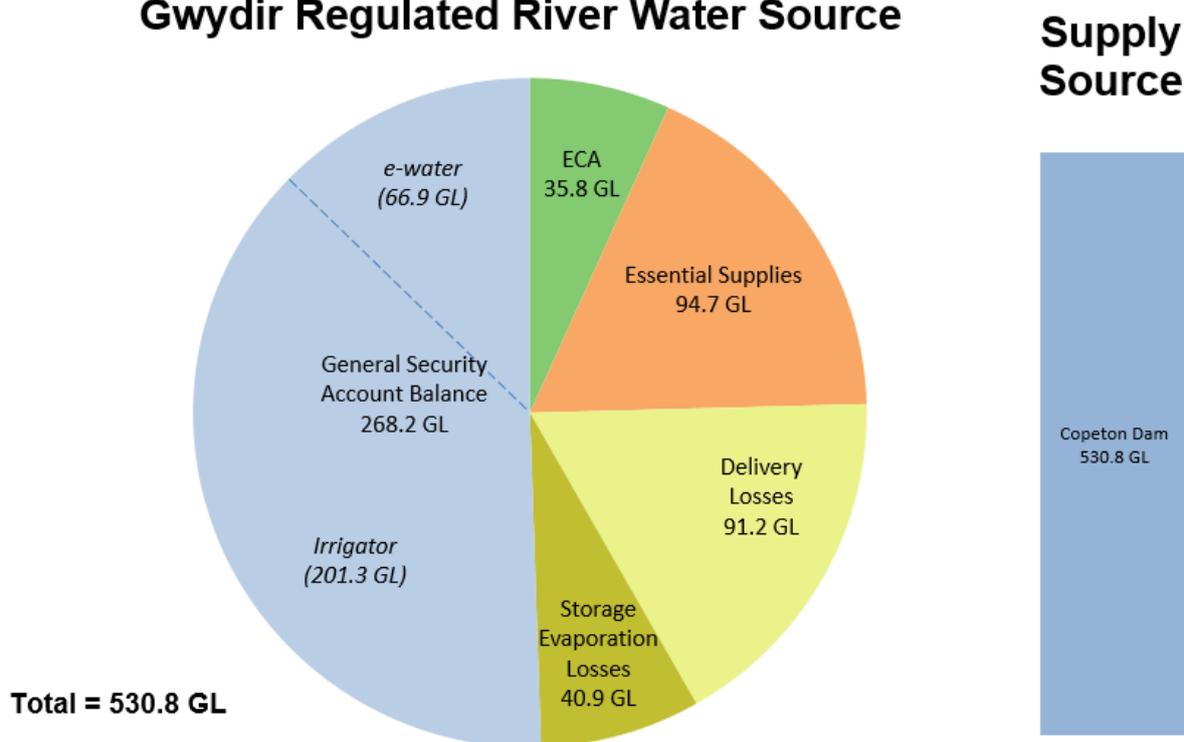
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 March 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	530.8
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	40.9
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	94.7
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	35.8
Delivery Losses ⁽³⁾	91.2
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	66.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	201.3

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 31 March 2021 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



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) – The reporting of held environmental water is indicative only. General Security HEW account balance estimated to be 66.9 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 1.3 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).

Resource Assessment as at 31 March 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss for next 24 months	40.89	24.49	16.40	40.89
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	92.09	2.63	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	91.19	21.90	69.29	91.19
ECA (90 GL max)	-	18.17	17.61	35.78
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	68.78	199.42	268.20
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	305.36	-305.36	0.00
Total	-	530.78	0.00	530.78

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	199.42	GL
Available Water Determination	0.391	ML per unit share

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