

7 July 2021

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security allocation has increased by 11.1% of entitlement in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source on the back of resource improvements since the last assessment. This brings the total general security allocation to 11.1% of entitlement for the 2021-22 water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) also increases by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Rainfall in June was above average in the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received 138.6 mm of rainfall. Inflow into the storage in June was about 90.5 gigalitres (GL) and downstream tributary flow was about 28.4 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 June 2021. Any Copeton Dam volume increases since that date will be captured in the next assessment and August allocation statement.

Current allocations

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Regulated River	100%	11.1%

Drought recovery year 2020-21

A major improvement in water resources across the state has been observed since January 2021. Significant rainfall in the catchment resulted the river system returning to normal operations by mid-January. Copeton Dam volume increased from approximately 200 GL to 665 GL. General security allocation commenced in August 2020 at just 1.7% of entitlement. The closing general security allocation was 58% for the year. General security users extracted about 45.1 GL over the year.

The year experienced a good number of supplementary flow events. The supplementary water users extracted about 143.7 GL, nearly 80% of the total 181.4 GL of entitlement.

Dam levels (as at 7 July 2021)

Copeton Dam is 52% full – steady – holding about 718 GL.

At this time last year the storage was just 15% full.

Key information

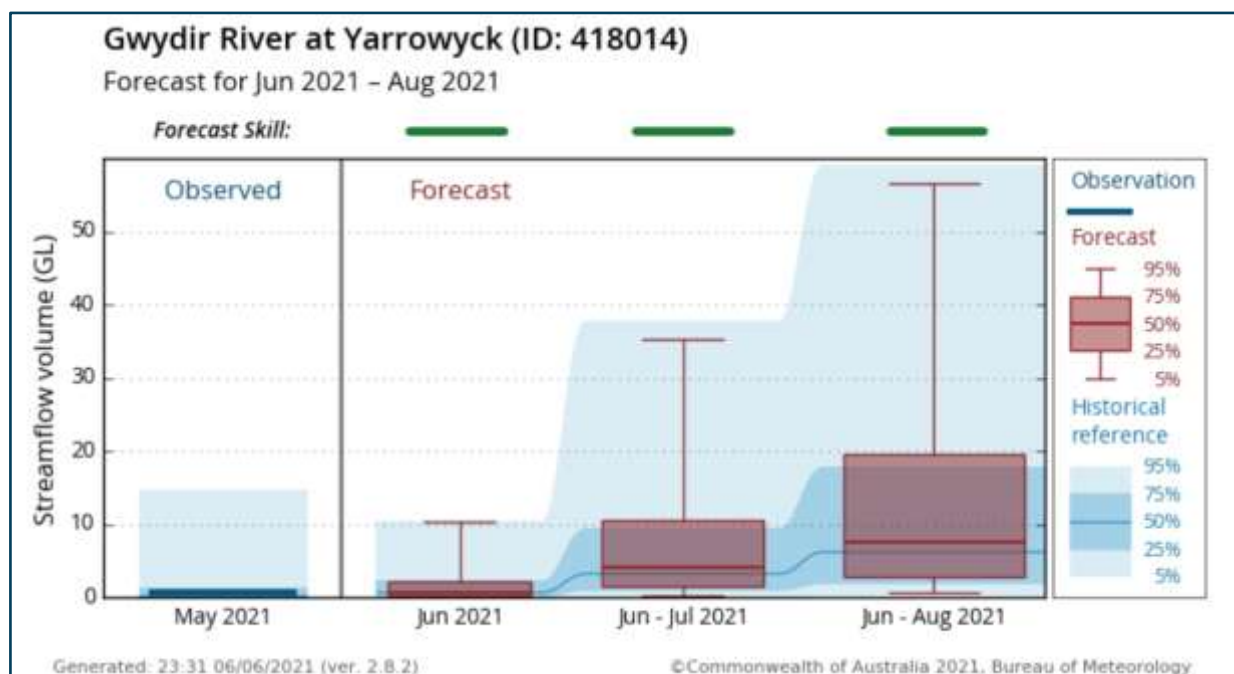
- Inflow into the storage was about 90.5 GL in June. Any improvement in July will be included in the next assessment.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were low in June, at about 0.8 GL. Total essential supply demand was about 1.0 GL, with little general security water demand and no ECA release in June.
- There was 2.2 GL transferred from high security to general security accounts.

- The delivery loss account is now being monitored separately for ECA and general security water users from this water year. There is currently a full loss budget (30% of allocation) set aside to deliver orders going forward. As usual, replenishment of the loss budget will be a priority from resource improvements in each assessment before more water is allocated.
- There are minor changes in essential supplies and storage evaporation loss budgets due to improved hydrological computations. This has minimal impact on allocations.

Seasonal climate and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for July to September indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Both maximum and minimum temperatures are also likely to be above average for July to September.

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. All forecast quartiles of total flow volume from June to August are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating wetter than the historical conditions.



Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statements for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be on **Friday 6 August 2021**.

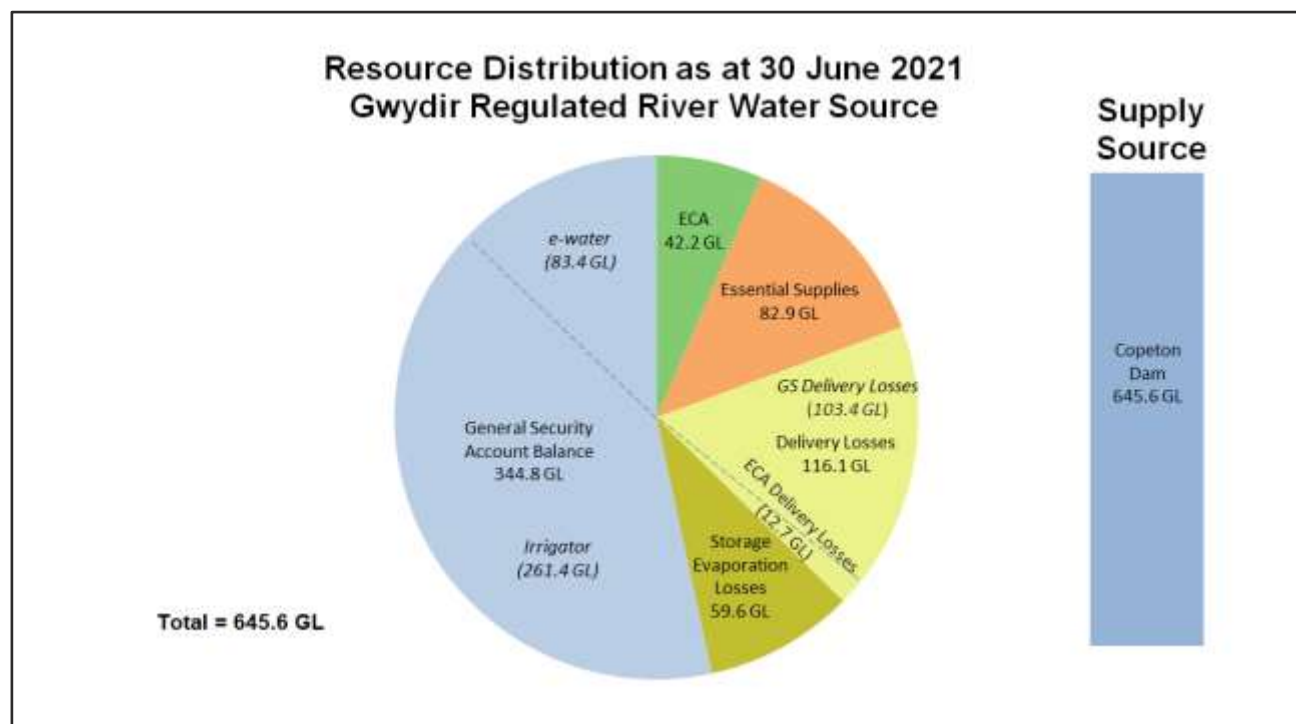
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as at 30 June 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	645.56
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	59.56
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.90
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	42.23
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	103.42
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	12.67
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	83.4
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	261.4

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 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 83.4 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 0 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).



Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource assessment as at 30 June 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	59.56	42.02	17.54	59.56
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	90.21	-7.31	82.90
Delivery Loss ECA+GS (256 GL max)	116.10	97.62	18.48	116.10
Delivery Loss GS (229 GL max)	103.43	86.44	16.98	103.42
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	12.67	11.17	1.50	12.67
ECA (90 GL max)	-	37.23	5.00	42.23
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	288.14	56.62	344.77
Additional Resource for Sharing	-	90.34	-90.34	0.00
Total	-	645.56	-0.01	645.55

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	56.62	GL
Available Water Determination	0.111	ML per unit share

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