

6 August 2021

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security allocation has increased by 29.5% of entitlement in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source. This comes from significant inflows and improvement in headwater storage. It brings the total general security allocation to 40.6% of entitlement for this 2021-22 water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) also increases by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Rainfall in July was above average in the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received about 126 mm of rainfall. Inflow into the storage in July was about 227 gigalitres (GL). Monthly dam inflows of greater magnitude in July have only been recorded on six occasions in the last century.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 July 2021. Any Copeton Dam volume increases since that date will be captured in the next assessment.

Current allocations

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Regulated River	100%	40.6%

Dam levels (as at 6 August 2021)

Copeton Dam is 70% full – rising – holding about 960 GL. This time last year, the storage was about 14% full.

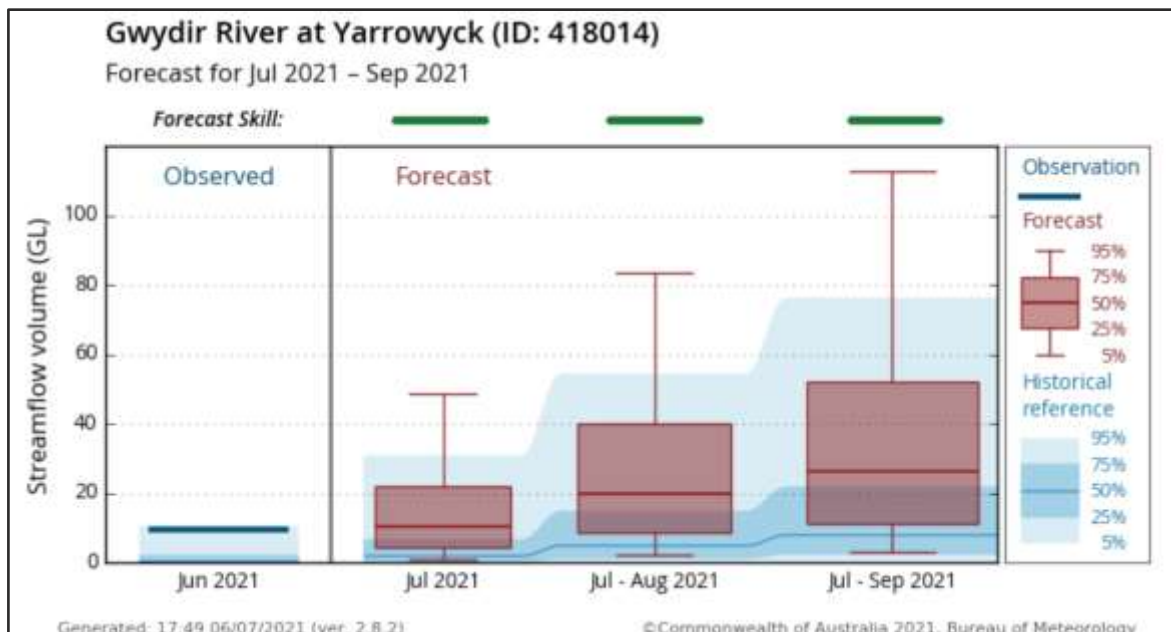
Key information

- Inflow into storage in July was 227 GL and downstream tributary flow was 75 GL.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were low in July, at about 0.8 GL. Total essential supply demand was about 1.0 GL, little general security water demand (0.6 ML) and no ECA release in July.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in July.
- Supplementary water users diverted about 18.9 GL in July, about 10% of the total 181.4 GL of supplementary entitlement.

Seasonal climate and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be about average or less while minimum temperatures are very likely to be above average for August to October.

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 July to September are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating potentially wetter than the historical conditions.



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

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Tuesday 7 September 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 July 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	870.5
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	71.5
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	55.5
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	148.6
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	16.7
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	114.8
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	380.5
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	0.0

Notes:

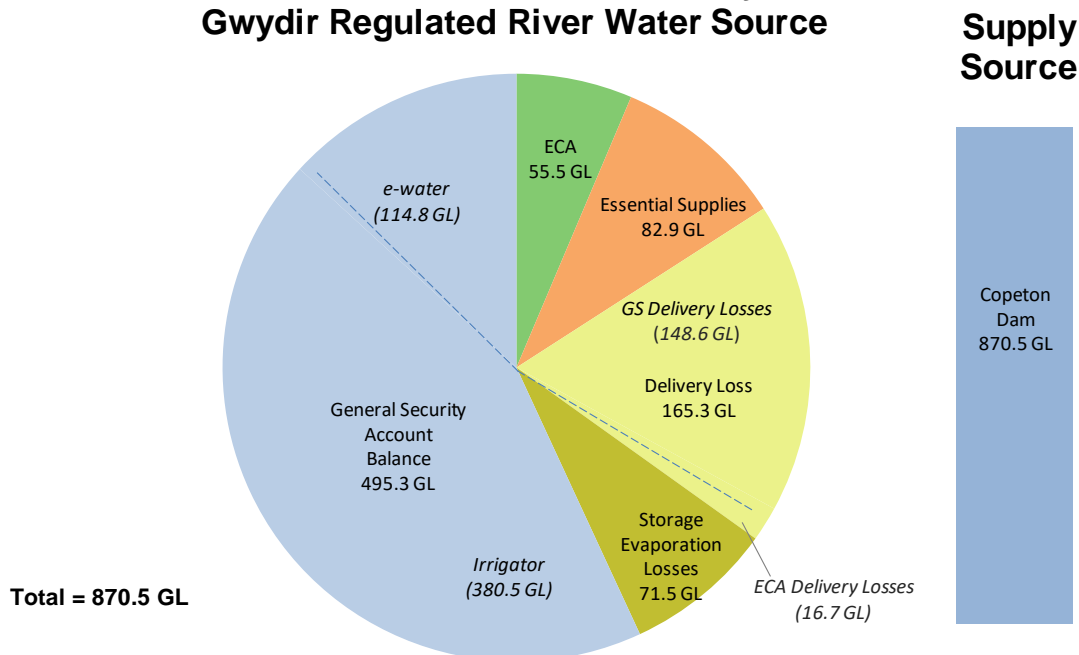
- ⁽¹⁾ Storage Losses – evaporation is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- ⁽²⁾ Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for Towns, Stock, Domestic, High Security and riverine environments for the next 24 months. It includes stock 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 114.8 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 with no surplus left. The system is secure for next 24 months and beyond with no deficit.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



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



Resource assessment as at 31 July 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	71.46	59.56	11.90	71.46
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	81.23	1.67	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229 GL max)	148.60	103.42	45.17	148.59
Delivery Loss ECA(27 GL max)	16.66	12.67	3.99	16.66
ECA (90 GL max)	-	42.23	13.29	55.52
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	344.77	150.56	495.33
Additional Resource for Sharing	-	226.59	-226.59	0.00
Total	-	870.46	-0.01	870.46

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	150.56	GL
Available Water Determination	0.295	ML per unit share

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