

6 May 2022

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

---

## Water allocation update

There was sufficient resource improvement in April to again top-up general security water accounts to their maximum limit of 150% of entitlement.

The resource assessment shows that this can be achieved with just 36.1 gigalitres (GL), but requires an allocation of 1.291 megalitres per unit share (ML/unit share). Note: once an account is full it does not benefit from additional allocation.

The environmental contingency allowance (ECA) is full at 90,000 megalitres (ML) of water with no increment possible this time.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 April 2022. Any changes in resources since this date will be captured in the next assessment.

## Resource outlook for 2022/23

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including local water utility, are secure for the 2022/23 water year.
- High priority water access licence holders including **local water utility, stock and domestic** and **high security** can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- The department is on track to implement the amendments to the water sharing plan for the Gwydir regulated water sharing plan that includes rules for the take of Floodplain Harvesting Water. This would result in an opening allocation for **supplementary** entitlement holders of 100%. However, if the amendment orders are delayed beyond 30 June, the department will again be required to implement a growth in use response. This would result in a reduced opening allocation for supplementary entitlement holders. The situation is being monitored and will be updated in the June water allocation statement. Supplementary access licence holders are reminded that use of this water is only available during announced supplementary access events.
- Water held in **general security** accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward in full into new water year. The maximum volume that may be held at any time is 1.5 ML/share (or 150% of entitlement).
- Water held in general security accounts is expected to be fully deliverable in 2022/23.

## Dam levels (as of 6 May 2022)

Copeton Dam is 95.5% full and holding 1,301 GL. This time last year, the dam was about 41% full.

## Key information

- Inflow into Copeton Dam in April 2022 was about 51.4 GL and downstream tributary flow contributed about 7.1 GL.

- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 28.7 GL in April. Total essential supply demand was 0.8 GL. General security usage was 23.0 GL and there was no ECA usage in April.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in April.
- Supplementary water usage has been about 53.0 GL this water year, out of 90.7 GL allocated to supplementary users this year.

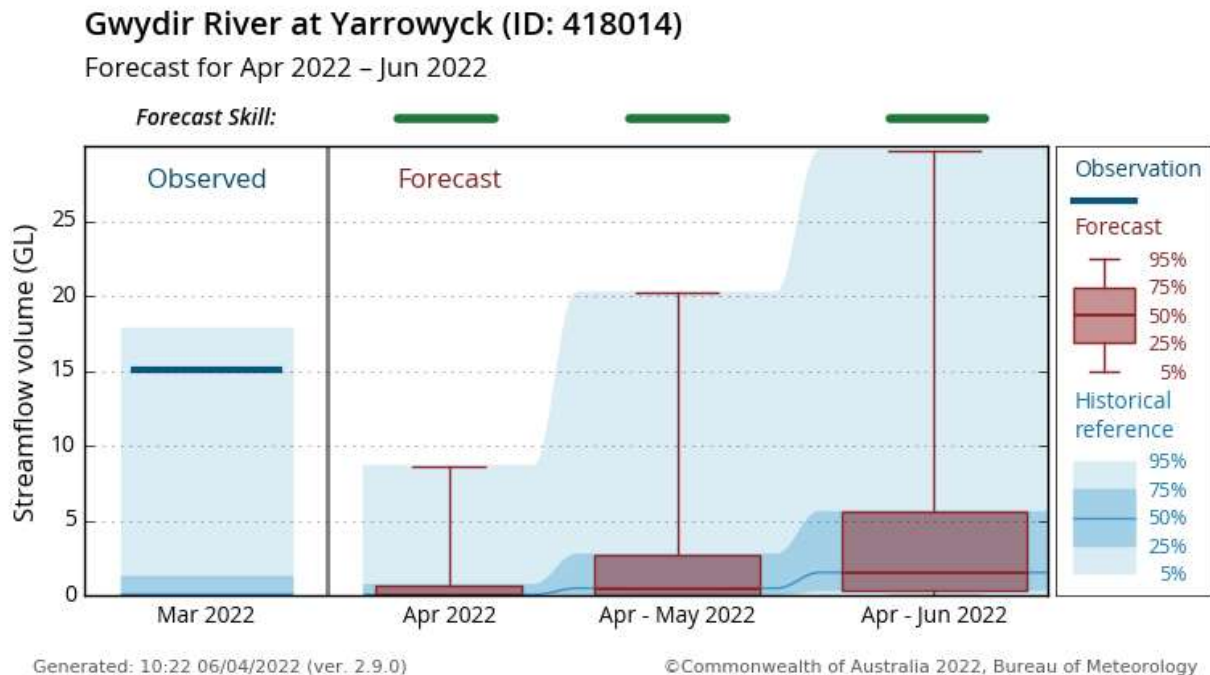
## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for May to July indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median for the Gwydir catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be lower than median and minimum temperatures are likely to be greater than median for the catchment.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://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. The forecast total median flow volume from April to June is about same as the historical flow distribution indicating no clear trend away from historical flow patterns.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014)

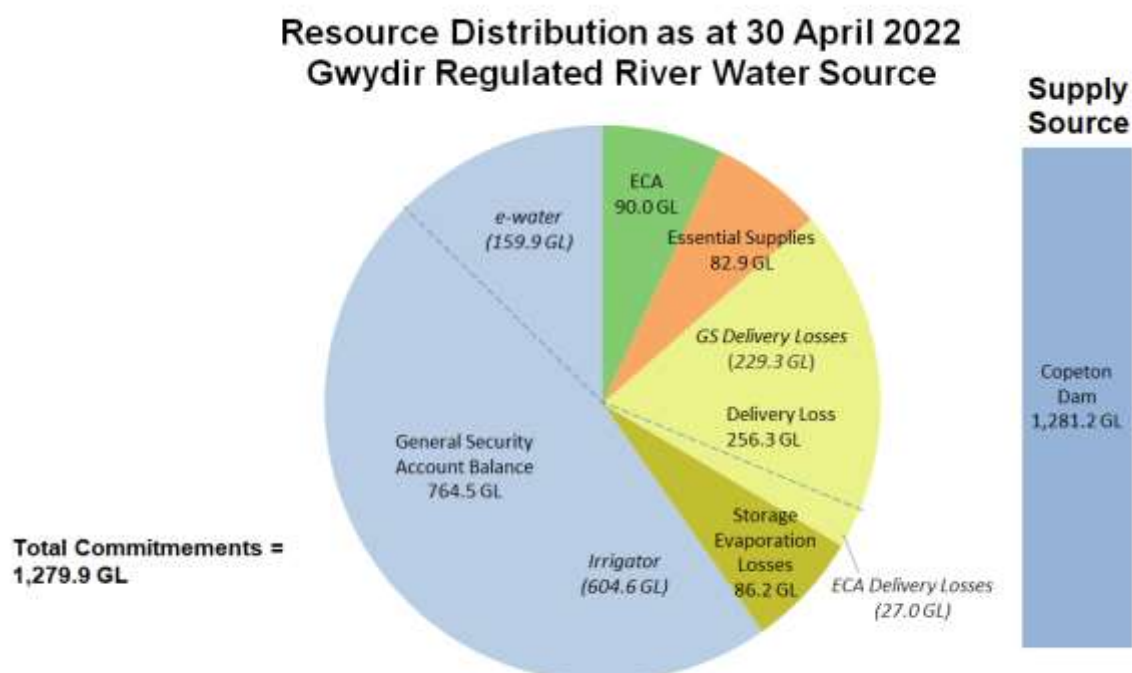


## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 30 April 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,281.2
less	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	86.2
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS <sup>(3)</sup>	229.3
Delivery Loss ECA <sup>(3)</sup>	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	604.6
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	1.3

**Notes:**

- <sup>(1)</sup> Storage evaporation losses is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- <sup>(2)</sup> 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.
- <sup>(3)</sup> 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.
- <sup>(4)</sup> 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 5.8 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).
- <sup>(5)</sup> The available water resource has been fully allocated, with a surplus of 1.3 GL. The system is secure for the next 24 months and beyond.



## Resource assessment as at 30 April 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	86.22	85.72	0.50	86.22
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	81.95	0.95	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	229.35	220.49	8.86	229.35
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.00	27.00	0.00	27.00
ECA (90 GL max)		90.00	0.00	90.00
General Security (764.5 GL max)		727.70	36.80	764.50
Additional Resource for Sharing		48.31	-47.11	1.30
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,281.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,281.17</b>

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	36.10	GL
Available Water Determination	1.291	ML per unit share

## Allocations in 2021/22

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2021/22	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/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.50	0.50	
7-Jul	General Security	0.111	0.111	67.6%
6-Aug		0.295	0.406	97.2%
7-Sep		0.287	0.693	125.9%
8-Oct		0.043	0.736	130.3%
5-Nov		0.048	0.784	135%
7-Dec		0.400	1.184	150%*
13-Jan		0.420	1.604	150%*
7-Feb		1.030	2.634	150%*
7-Mar		0.086	2.720	145.4%
7-Apr		0.122	2.842	147.3%
6-May		1.291	4.133	150%*

\*maximum possible

## Water allocation guide

The department is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Gwydir regulated river water source is available at the below link.

Further details at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

## Further information

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

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