

8 October 2020

## Gwydir Regulated River Water Source


### Allocations

There is an **increase** in allocation of **0.3 per cent** for **general security** water users in the Gwydir regulated river water source, bringing the total for the 2020-21 year to 5.07 per cent of entitlement. The allocation reflects total resource improvements since the last assessment. The Environmental Contingency Allowance is similarly credited in accordance with the water sharing plan, producing a current account balance of 21.4 gigalitres (GL).

The Gwydir catchment experienced mostly average rainfall in September, with patches of below average rainfall. Copeton Dam received around 44 mm of rainfall. Net inflow into storage in September was minor, about 4 GL, with downstream tributary inflows adding about 2 GL.

The continued improvement in rainfall and runoff into the Gwydir catchment has been enough to maintain full essential supply and delivery loss accounts. However, the system is still recovering with stored resources just 238 GL or about 16% full as at 6 October 2020. Block releases will need to continue as an efficiency measure in delivering water orders.

### Current allocations

2020/21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	5.07%	 Stage 2

### Dam levels (as at 6 October 2020)

Copeton Dam is 16.4 per cent full – falling – currently holding about 238 GL. This time last year the storage was at 8.5 per cent 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 Gwydir regulated river water source is at Stage 2 (recovering) criticality. Although slowly improving, storage remains low and block release deliveries are necessary. The situation is being closely monitored. Water users are advised to exercise caution in case dry conditions return.

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

- Total net inflows into Copeton Dam were about 4 GL in September 2020.
- Downstream tributary flows contributed about 2 GL in September 2020.

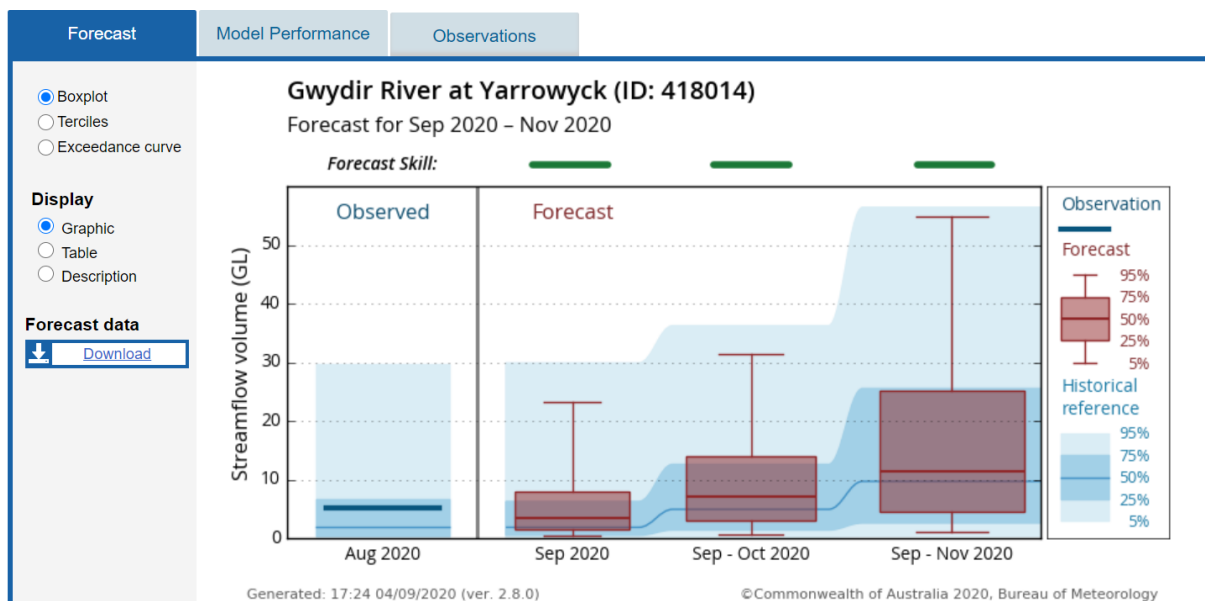
- Delivery budgets – the Delivery Loss and Essential Supply accounts, have fully recovered.
- Block releases will be utilised in 2020-21 to prudently manage deliveries of account water.
- High priority commitments are secure for 2021-22 under the block release strategy.

## Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for October to December indicates that the region is very likely to experience wetter than average conditions. Day-time temperatures over this period are unlikely to exceed average but night temperatures are very likely to exceed average.

The Bureau of Meteorology states that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook is at La Niña. The outlook is for a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). This combination typically increases the chance of above average rainfall across much of Australia during spring and summer.

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Gwydir River at Yarrowyck that drains into Copeton Dam. This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam. The forecast total median flow from September to November is slightly higher than the historical median flow (see the figure below). This indicates a welcoming shift to wetter than normal inflow conditions for the next few months.



## Further information

The next water allocation statement will be on Friday 6 November 2020.

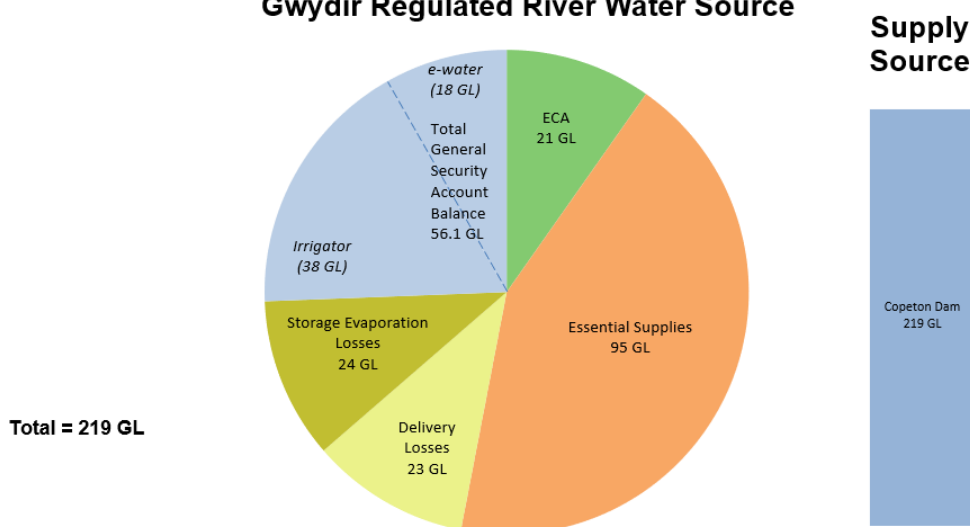
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 30 September 2020)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	218.9
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	23.5
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	94.7
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	21.4
Delivery Losses <sup>(3)</sup>	23.2
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	18.0
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	38.1

See notes below.

**Resource Distribution as at 30 September 2020  
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source**



### Notes:

- (1) Storage Losses – evaporation based on forecast storage behaviour over 2 years at maximum historical rates.
- (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. 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 estimated to be 17.97 GL and High Security HEW is estimated to be 5.757 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 30 September 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	23.52	23.34	0.18	23.52
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	92.96	1.76	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	23.23	22.70	0.53	23.23
ECA (90 GL max)	-	21.23	0.14	21.37
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	54.44	1.62	56.06
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	4.23	-4.23	0.00
Total	-	218.91	0.00	218.91

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	1.62	GL
Available Water Determination	0.003	ML per unit share

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