

7 December 2020

## Gwydir Regulated River Water Source


### Allocations

Rainfall in November was very much below average. As a result, there has been no resource improvement. The general security allocation so far this year remains unchanged at 5.07% of entitlement. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) also remains unchanged.

Copeton Dam received only 20 mm of rainfall in November. The net inflow into storage was about 4 gegalitres (GL) and downstream tributary inflow was about 3GL. This low rainfall and inflow produced small deficits in the Essential Supplies and the Delivery Loss accounts of 5GL and 4GL respectively. However, it is anticipated that these deficits will readily recover under the forecast likely wetter than average conditions in coming months.

As stored resources in Copeton Dam are still very low at 215GL or just under 15% full, orders are being delivered through a block release in December 2020.

### Current allocations

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

### Dam levels (as at 7 December 2020)

Copeton Dam is 14.7% full – falling – currently holding about 215GL. This time last year the storage was at 7.5% 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). Although there has been some recovery from drought, the storage volume in Copeton Dam remains low and block release deliveries remain necessary to conserve water.

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

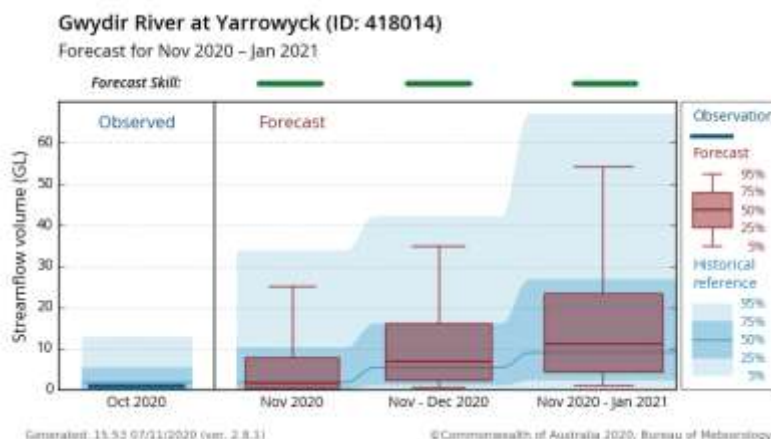
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 12GL and total Essential Supply demand was about 1.5GL in November.
- There was 3.3GL demand for general security and no ECA demand.
- There was a transfer of 0.2GL from high security accounts to general security accounts.
- Block releases will be utilised until the end of December at this stage to prudently manage deliveries of account water.

## Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for December 2020 to February 2021 indicates that the catchment is likely to experience wetter than average conditions. Daytime temperatures are likely to be above average and night-time temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau of Meteorology's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook continues to be at La Niña, which is likely to continue to the end of summer. Current La Niña conditions and a positive SAM are contributing to the increased chances of rainfall over Australia.

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Gwydir River upstream of Copeton Dam to provide an indication of potential inflows (see below chart). The forecast total median flow from November 2020 to January 2021 is slightly higher than the historical median flow.



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

## Further information

Due to the Christmas/New Year holiday period, the next water allocation statement will be published on **Friday 15 January 2021**.

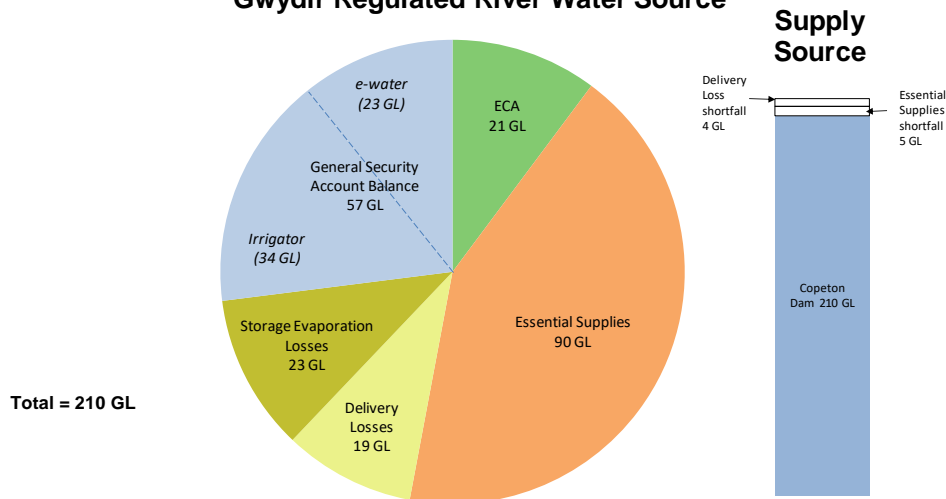
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 30 November 2020)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	209.5
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	22.8
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	89.5
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	21.4
Delivery Losses <sup>(3)</sup>	19.2
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	22.5
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	34.1

See notes below.

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



### 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) – 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 account balance estimated to be 22.5 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 1.25 GL. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups,

# Water Allocation Statement

## Water availability and allocation update



including the NSW environment water holder and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

## Resource assessment as at 30 November 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss for next 24 months	22.83	23.60	-0.77	22.83
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	86.80	2.78	89.58
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	23.38	19.16	0.00	19.16
ECA (90 GL max)	-	21.37	0.00	21.37
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	56.57	0.00	56.57
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	2.01	-2.01	0.00
Total	-	209.51	0.00	209.51

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.00	ML per unit share

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.