

15 January 2021

## Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

### Allocations

Rainfall in December 2020 was above average to very much above average. As a result, there has been a significant improvement in resources to allow for an **increase in general security allocations of 7.11% of entitlement**. This increase brings the total general security allocation to 12.18% of general security entitlement for the 2020-21 water year. Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) account also increases by the same percentage.

Copeton Dam received about 160 mm of rainfall in December 2020. Net inflow into the storage was about 75 gegalitres (GL) and downstream tributary inflow was about 82 GL since the last assessment.

Gwydir catchment is now being operated under normal conditions and the Drought Stage classification has been downgraded from Stage 2 (recovering) to Stage 1 (normal operations).

### Current allocations

2020/21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	12.18%	 Stage 1

### Dam levels (as at 14 January 2021)

Copeton Dam is 20% full – steady – currently holding about 287.5 GL. This time last year the storage was about 5.7% 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. Gwydir catchment is now being operated under normal conditions. With the resumption of normal river operations, the drought stage criticality levels for the Gwydir catchment has been downgraded from Stage 2 (recovering) to Stage 1 (normal operations).

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

- Gwydir catchment is now being operated under normal conditions.
- Copeton Dam storage volume increased by about 32 GL in December 2020 alone. Any late improvement will be included in the next assessment.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 41.2 GL. Total Essential Supply demand was about 3.4 GL in December, 24.7 GL demand for GS and no ECA demand.

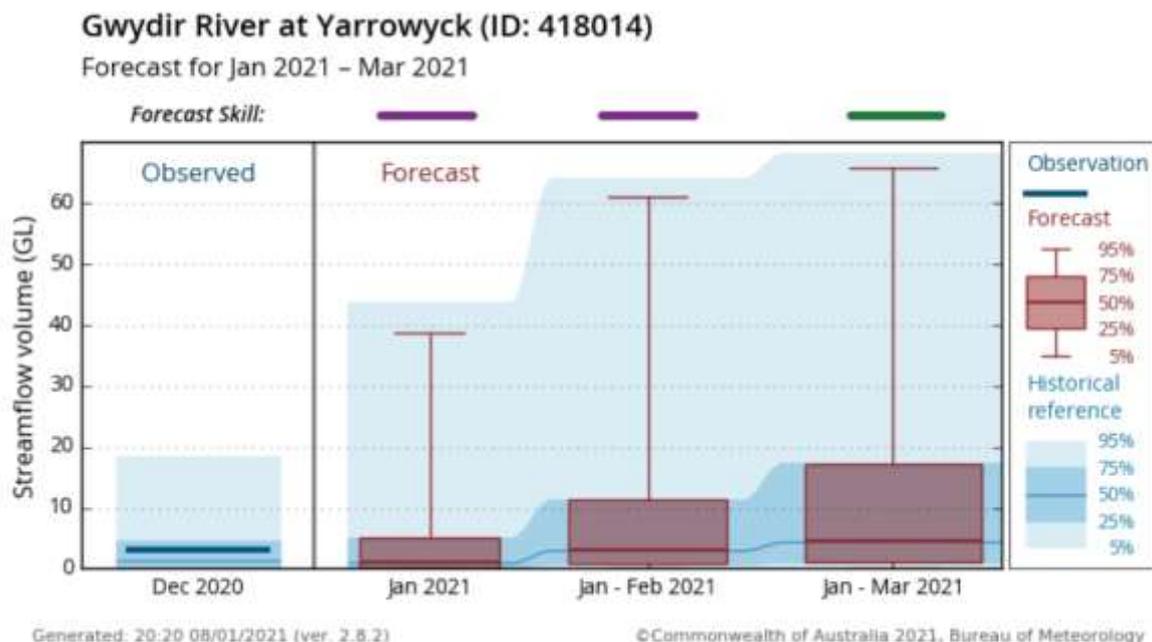
- There was a transfer of 0.742 GL from high security accounts to general security accounts.
- Drought stage criticality levels for the Gwydir catchment has been downgraded from Stage 2 (recovering) to Stage 1 (normal operations).

## Seasonal climate and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that the catchment is likely to experience wetter than average conditions. Daytime temperatures over this period are equally likely to be above or below average and night-time temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau of Meteorology's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook indicates an active La Niña, which has likely peaked. However, impacts associated with La Niña, such as above-average rainfall, are expected to persist across eastern and northern Australia through the summer months.

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 range of likely total flow from January to March is very similar to the historical flow distribution indicating a normal next few month.



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

## Further information

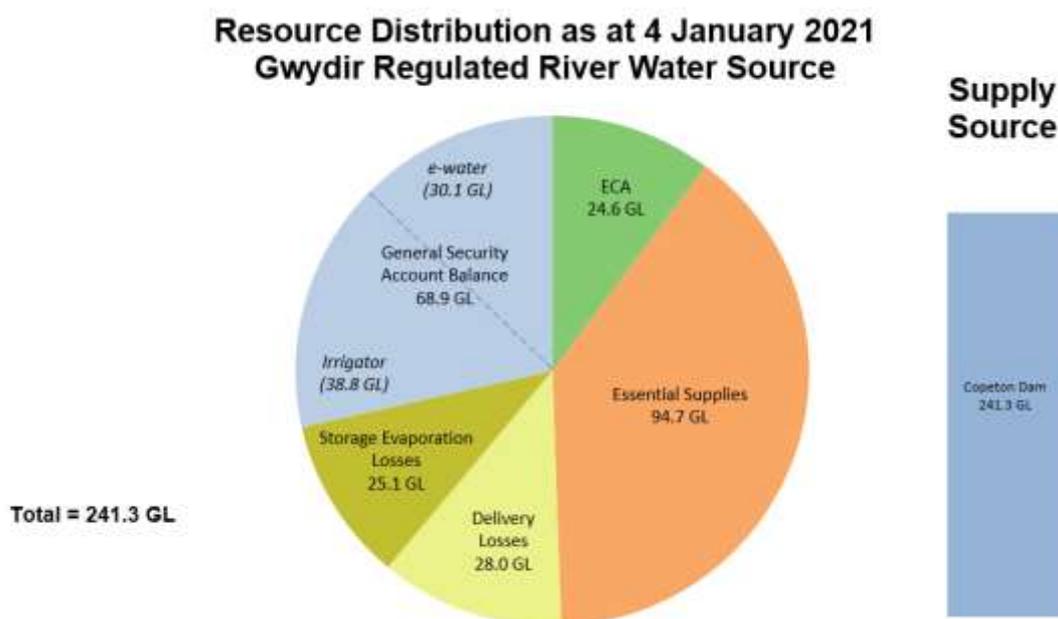
The next water allocation statement will be published on **Friday 5 February 2021**.

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 4 January 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	241.3
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	25.1
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	94.7
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	24.6
Delivery Losses <sup>(3)</sup>	28.0
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	30.1
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	38.8

See notes below.



### 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 30.06 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 4 January 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss for next 24 months	25.13	22.83	2.30	25.13
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	83.56	11.16	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	28.03	7.60	20.43	28.02
ECA (90 GL max)	-	21.37	3.20	24.57
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	32.63	36.22	68.85
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	73.30	-73.30	0.00
Total	-	241.29	0.00	241.29

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	36.218	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0711	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.