

7 September 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement in August to allow for a 54% increase to general security water entitlements in the Gwydir regulated river water source. This brings the total allocation for general security accounts to 215% of entitlement for the 2022-23 water year.

However, once an account is full (150% account limit), it can only benefit from new allocation when water is used, allowing room for top-up water. Therefore, this 54% allocation corresponds to the small volume of water needed to top up some accounts.

The environmental contingency allowance (ECA) is at its maximum 90 gigalitres (GL) account balance.

Rainfall in August 2022 was average to very much above average across the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received about 90 mm of rainfall in August and corresponding storage inflows totalled about 160 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 August 2022. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next allocation statement.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security	Average Account Balance
Gwydir Regulated River	215%	150%*

*Maximum allowable.

Dam levels (as of 6 September 2022)

Copeton Dam is 100.2% full and holding about 1,365 GL. This time last year, it was 82% full.

Key information

- Inflow into Copeton Dam in August 2022 was about 160 GL, and the downstream tributary inflow was 42.6 GL.
- Release from Copeton Dam was 147.5 GL in August. Total essential supply demand was about 0.2 GL, and general security water usage was about 16.5 GL.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in August.
- There were large volumes of supplementary access water announced available in August however little was taken as most on-farm storages were already full.

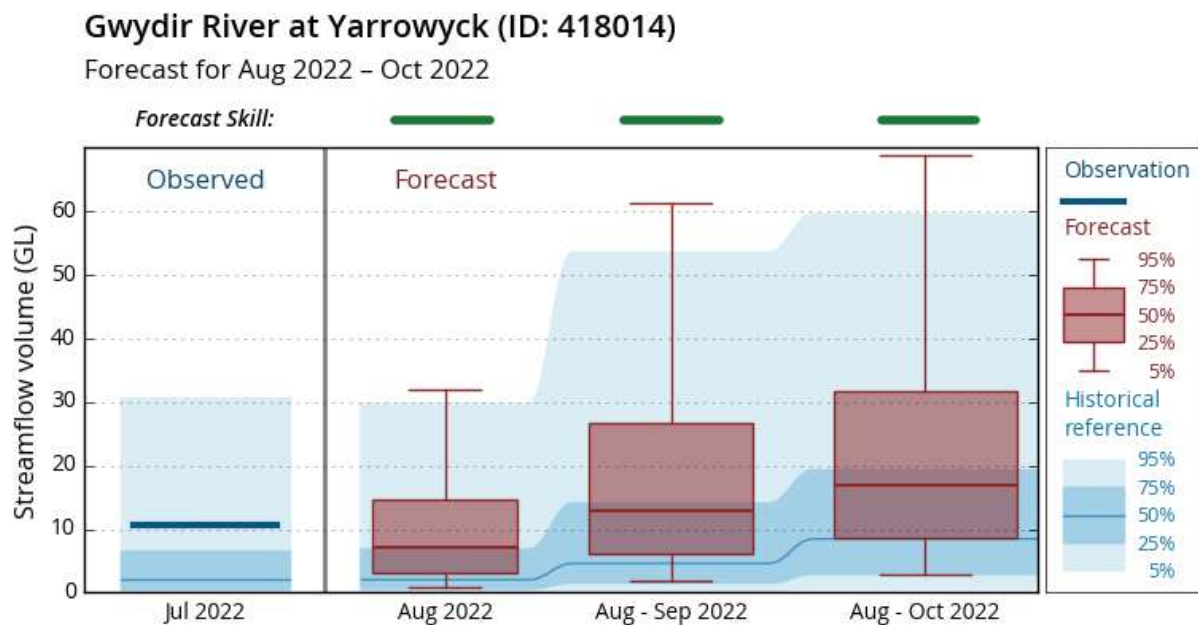
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for September to November shows rainfall is likely to be above median for the Gwydir catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be below median and minimum temperatures are likely to be above median in this period.

Further details at: 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 in coming months. The forecast total median flow volume from August to October is higher than historical median flows for the same period, indicating more flow than usual is likely.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014



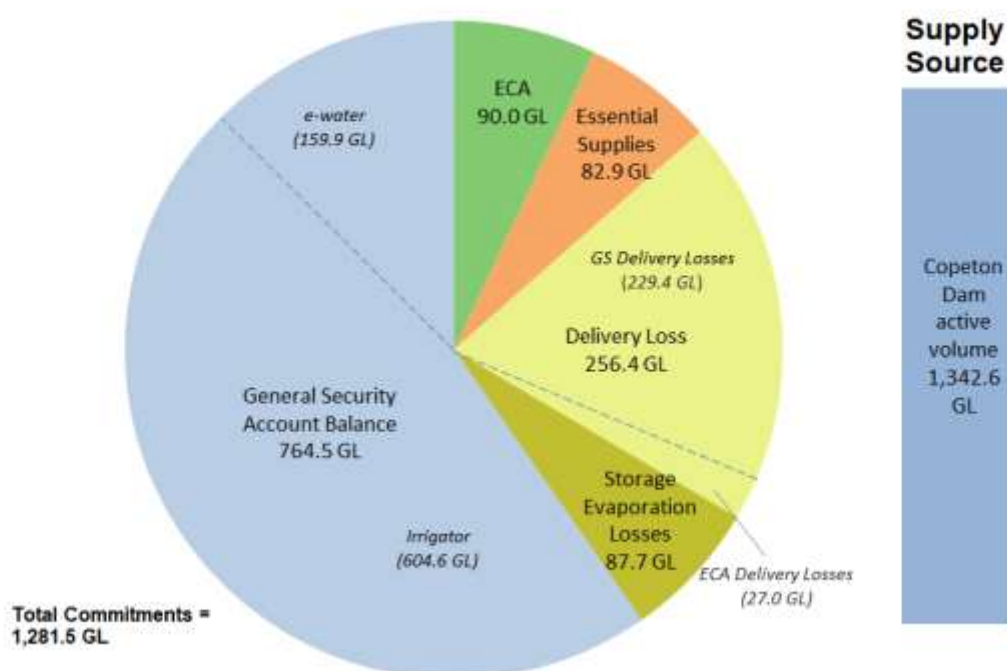
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 August 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,342.6
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	87.7
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	229.4
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	604.6
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	61.1

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Storage evaporation losses 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 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.
- ⁽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 159.9 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 5.76 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⁾ The available water resource has been fully allocated, with a surplus of 61.1 GL. The system is secure for the next 24 months and beyond.

Resource Distribution as at 31 August 2022 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 31 August 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	87.65	87.43	0.22	87.65
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	81.29	1.61	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	229.35	99.91	129.44	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)		748.03	16.47 ⁽¹⁾	764.50
Additional Resource for Sharing		208.93	- 147.75	61.18
Total		1,342.58	0.00	1,342.58

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	12.89	GL
Available Water Determination	0.54	ML per unit share

⁽¹⁾ 16.47 GL is available to allocate to general security, but only 12.89 GL is required to fill all accounts to their maximum limit.

Allocations in 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	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/share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.21 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share	
7-Jul	General Security	1.03 ML/unit share	1.03 ML/unit share	150%*
5-Aug	General Security	0.58 ML/unit share	1.61 ML/unit share	~150%*
15-Aug	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	100%*
15-Aug	Supplementary	0.79 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	
7-Sep	General Security	0.54 ML/unit share	2.15 ML/unit share	150%*

*Maximum allowable.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Gwydir regulated system is available at the following link:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Monday 10 October 2022**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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