

6 November 2020

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Allocations


Despite average to above average rainfall in October, there has not been enough runoff captured and resource improvement to provide an allocation increase for general security water users. The general security allocation so far this year remains **unchanged at 5.07% of entitlement**.

Copeton Dam received around 105 mm of rainfall. Net inflow into the storage during October was about 3 gegalitres (GL) and downstream tributary flow was about 12 GL. The storage inflow was above the July to October 4-month historical minimum inflow of 1.02 GL. Copeton Dam storage volume increased by just 1 GL in October.

Despite the rainfall and inflows into the Gwydir catchment, the end of October assessment indicates a slight deficit in essential supplies - about 4 GL. This is not a concern given the forecast further rainfall and likely recovery in coming weeks. The delivery loss account is full.

As stored resources in Copeton Dam are still low at 240 GL or about 16.6% full as at 4 November 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 4 November 2020)

Copeton Dam is 16.6% full – falling slightly – currently holding about 240 GL. This time last year the storage was at 7.6% 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 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 the recovery to date stalls and dry conditions return.

Further information on drought stages can be found at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Key information

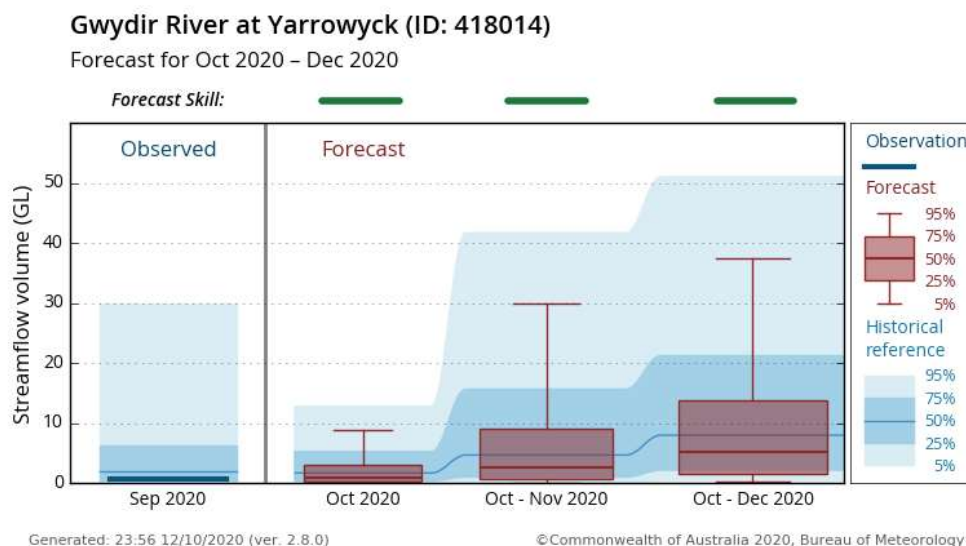
- Total net inflows into Copeton Dam were about 3 GL in October 2020.
- Downstream tributary flows contributed about 12 GL in October 2020.
- Block releases will be utilised in 2020-21 to prudently manage deliveries of account water.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for November 2020 to January 2021 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 states that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook is at La Niña. Australian and international climate models suggest it is likely to continue at least into February 2021. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral and models suggest it will remain at neutral for the remainder of 2020. Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is positive and La Niña tends to favour a positive SAM during spring and summer, further supporting the likelihood of above average rainfall in the east.

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 October to December is slightly lower than the historical median flow.



For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary & <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014>

Further information

The next water allocation statement will be on Monday 7 December 2020.

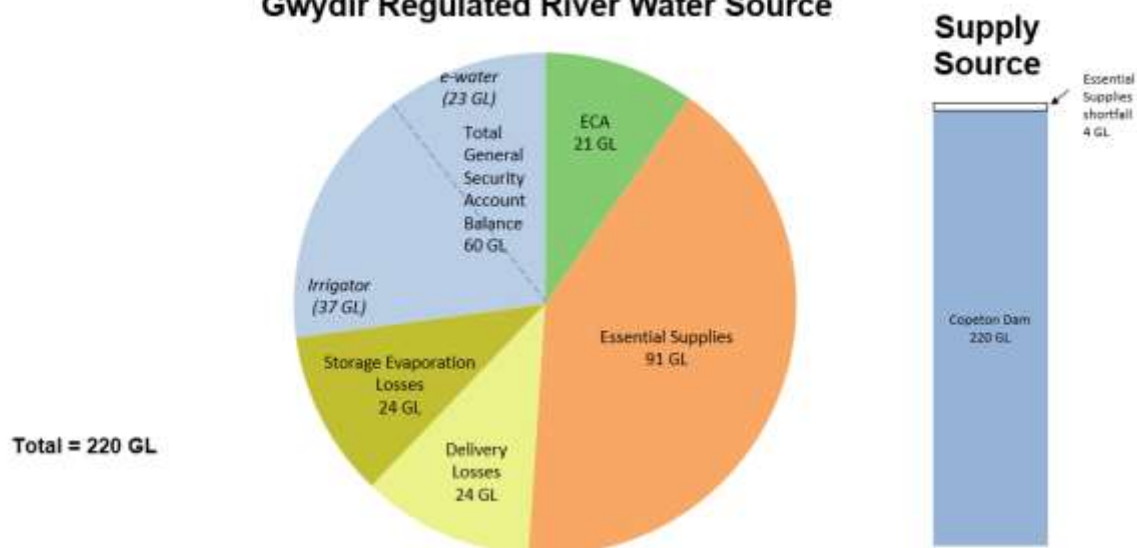
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 October 2020)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	219.9
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	23.6
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	90.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	21.4
Delivery Losses ⁽³⁾	24.3
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	22.5
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	37.2

See notes below.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 October 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 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 31 October 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss for next 24 months	23.60	23.52	0.07	23.60
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	86.88	4.06	90.94
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	24.32	24.61	-0.29	24.32
ECA (90 GL max)	-	21.37	0.00	21.37
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	59.69	0.00	59.69
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	3.85	-3.85	0.00
Total	-	219.92	0.00	219.92

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

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