

13 January 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is a **42%** increase to **General Security (GS)** water allocations in the Gwydir regulated river water source. This brings the total cumulative allocation to general security licences in the valley to 160.4% of entitlement for the 2021-22 water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) also increases by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Rainfall in December 2021 was mostly average across the Gwydir catchment. The catchment received about 25-200 mm of rainfall in December.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 December 2021. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the next assessment.

Current allocations

2021/22	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Regulated River	100%	160.4%

Dam levels (as of 12 January 2022)

Copeton Dam is 96% full and holding about 1,311 GL. This time last year, the storage was 20% full.

Key information

- Inflow into Copeton Dam storage in December 2021 was about 215 gigalitres (GL) and downstream tributary flow contributed about 35 GL.
- Release from Copeton Dam was about 215 GL in December, mostly due to airspace management for flood risk mitigation. Total essential supply demand was 2.6 GL. There was 56.1 GL of GS usage and 5.2 ECA usage in December.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in December.
- Supplementary water usage has been about 49.4 GL so far this water year, which is about 54% of the total 90.7 GL of this year's supplementary allocation (being 50% of entitlement).

Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median across the catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be median or above median and minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update

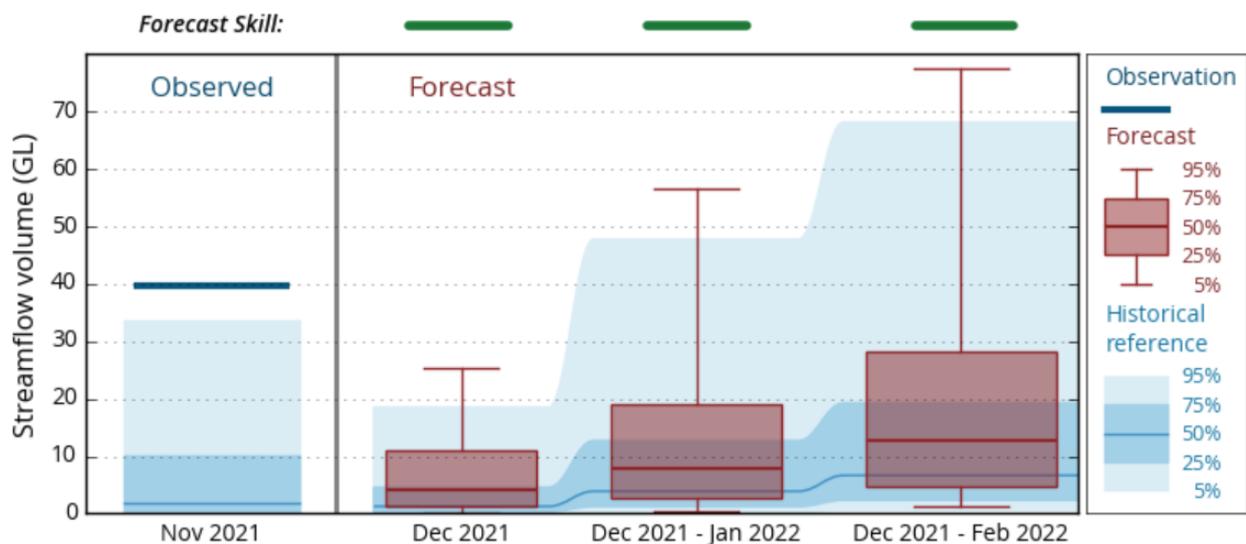


The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Gwydir River at Yarrowyck, upstream of Copeton Dam (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam. The forecast total median flow volume from December to February is higher than the historical median flow, suggesting a more inflow than usual is likely.

Details can be found in: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/>

Gwydir River at Yarrowyck (ID: 418014)

Forecast for Dec 2021 – Feb 2022



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Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 December 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,316.9
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	87.1
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	229.3
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	604.6
Surplus ⁽⁵⁾	36.1

Notes:

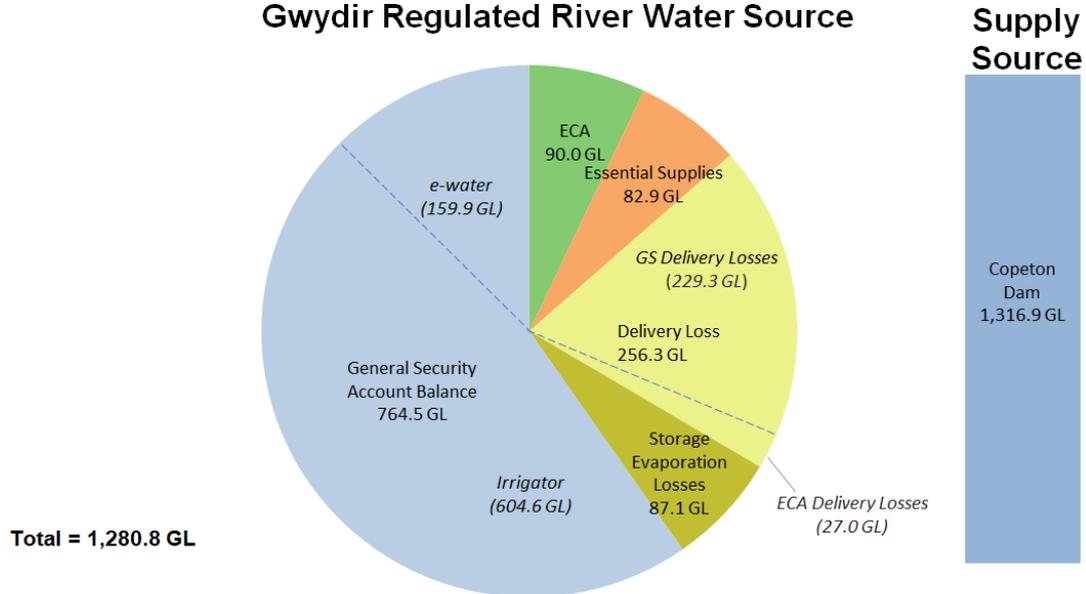
- ⁽¹⁾ Storage Losses – evaporation is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- ⁽²⁾ Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for Towns, Stock, Domestic, High Security and riverine environments for the next 24 months. It includes stock 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 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 5.8 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⁾ There is 36.1 GL of surplus. The system is secure for next 24 months and beyond.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution as at 31 December 2021 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 31 December 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	87.08	87.24	-0.16	87.08
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	74.15	8.75	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	229.30	96.30	133.05	229.35
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.00	14.67	12.33	27.00
ECA (90 GL max)		84.80	5.20	90.00
General Security (764.5 GL max)		708.39	56.11	764.50
Additional Resource for Sharing		251.33	-215.28	36.05
Total		1,316.88	0.00	1,316.88

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	34.17	GL
Available Water Determination	0.42	ML per unit share

New Water Allocation Guide

DPIE Water is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation process for most NSW regulated river systems. One for the Gwydir regulated river water source is now available.

For further details: <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process>

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Monday 7 February 2022**.

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

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.