

7 September 2021

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security allocation has increased by 28.7% of entitlement in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source. This comes from significant inflows and improvement in headwater storage. It brings the total general security allocation to 69.3% of entitlement for this 2021-22 water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) also increases by the same percentage, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Rainfall in August varied from average to above average across the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam catchment received about 50-100 mm of rainfall in August. Inflow into the storage in August was about 215 gigalitres (GL).

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 August 2021. Any further rise in Copeton Dam storage volume since that date will be captured in the next assessment.

Current allocations

2021/22	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Regulated River	100%	69.3%

Dam levels (as of 6 September 2021)

Copeton Dam is nearly 82% full – rising – holding about 1,115 GL. This time last year, the storage was about 16% full.

Key information

- Inflow into storage in August was about 215 gigalitres (GL) and downstream tributary flow contributed about 21 GL to the available resource.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were low in August, at about 0.8 GL. Total essential supply demand was about 1.0 GL, there was no general security water or ECA demand in August.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in August.
- Supplementary water usage has been about 21.1 GL so far this water year which is about 23% of the total 90.7 GL of supplementary allocation (50% of entitlement).

Seasonal climate and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for September to November indicates that rainfall is very likely to be above average across the catchment. Maximum temperatures are unlikely to be above average, but minimum temperatures are very likely to be above average in this spring period.

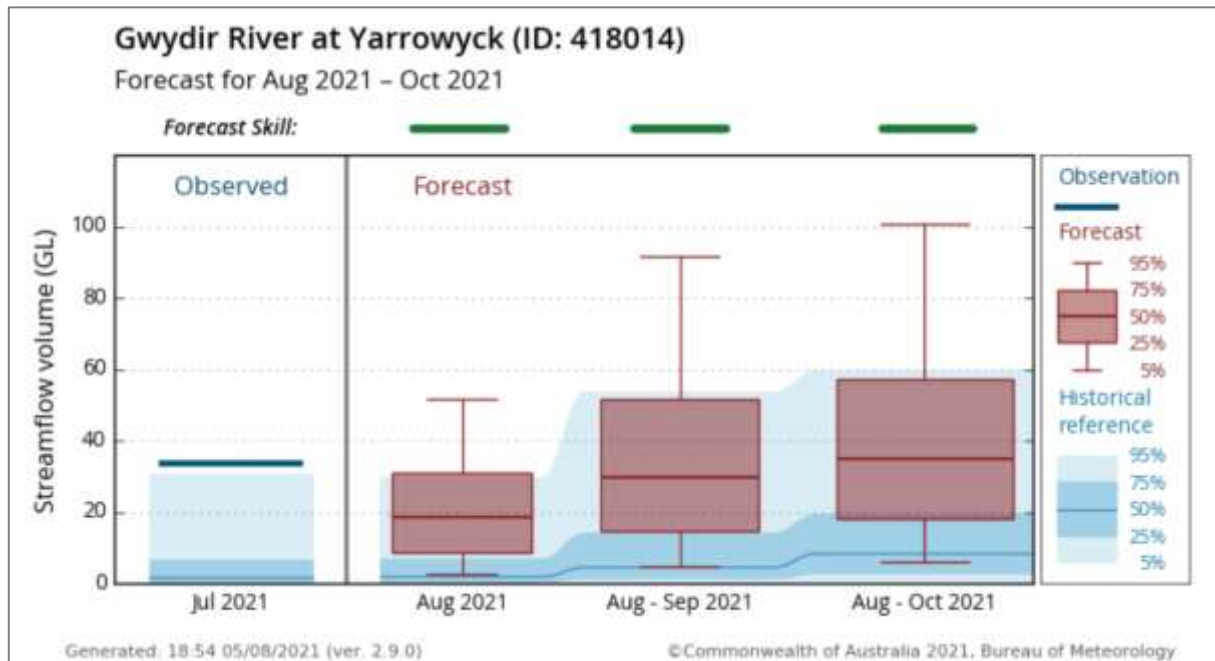
The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Gwydir River at Yarrowyck, upstream of Copeton Dam (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential

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inflows into the dam. All forecast quartiles of total flow volume from August to October are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating potentially wetter than the historical conditions for spring.



Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Friday 8 October 2021**.

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

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 August 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,086.6
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	80.4
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	68.5
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	192.5
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	20.5
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	145.4
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	496.4
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	0.0

Notes:

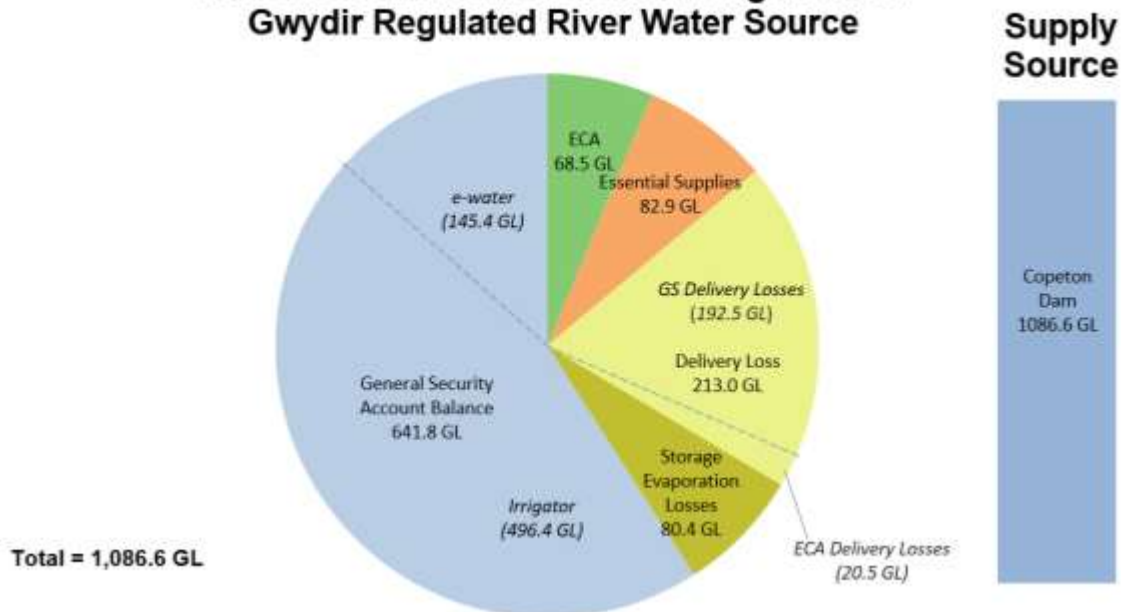
- ⁽¹⁾ Storage Losses – evaporation is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- ⁽²⁾ Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for Towns, Stock, Domestic, High Security and riverine environments for the next 24 months. It includes stock 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 145.4 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⁾ All available water resources have been fully allocated with no surplus left. The system is secure for next 24 months and beyond with no deficit.

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



Resource assessment as at 31 August 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	80.35	71.46	8.89	80.35
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	81.88	1.02	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229 GL max)	192.55	148.59	43.95	192.54
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	20.54	16.66	3.88	20.54
ECA (90 GL max)		55.52	12.93	68.46
General Security (764.5 GL max)		495.33	146.50	641.82
Additional Resource for Sharing		217.18	-217.18	0.00
Total		1,086.62	-0.01	1,086.61

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	146.50	GL
Available Water Determination	0.287	ML per unit share

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