

5 February 2021

## Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

### Allocations

Rainfall in January was mostly around average in the Gwydir catchment. This has produced a small improvement in resources allowing an **increase in General Security (GS) allocations of 3.5% of entitlement**. This brings the total General Security allocation to 15.68% of entitlement for the 2020-21 water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) account also increases by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Copeton Dam received 78 mm of rainfall in January. Inflow into the storage was about 35 gigalitres (GL) and downstream tributary inflow has been about 6.57 GL since the last assessment.

Gwydir river operations are back to normal and the Drought Stage classification remains at the minimum level - Stage 1 (normal operations).

### Current allocations

2020/21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	15.68%	 Stage 1

### Dam levels (as at 4 February 2021)

Copeton Dam is about 19% full – falling – currently holding about 272 GL. This time last year the storage was about 7.06% 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 being operated under normal conditions. The drought stage criticality levels for the Gwydir catchment 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

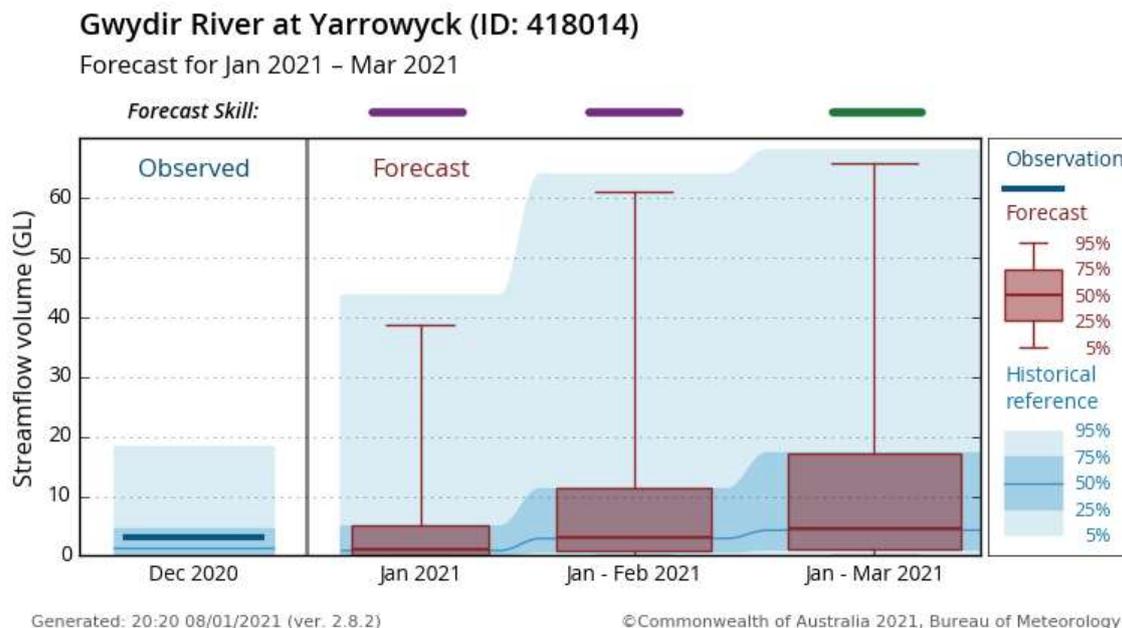
- Inflow into the storage was about 35 gigalitres (GL) since the last assessment. Any improvement since January will be included in the next assessment.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 15 GL. Total Essential Supply demand was about 0.77 GL in January, 4.28 GL demand for GS and 3.5 GL demand for ECA.
- There were no transfers from High Security accounts to General Security accounts.

### Seasonal climate and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that the catchment is equally likely to experience drier or 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 into early autumn.

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 months.



For further details: [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 March 2021**.

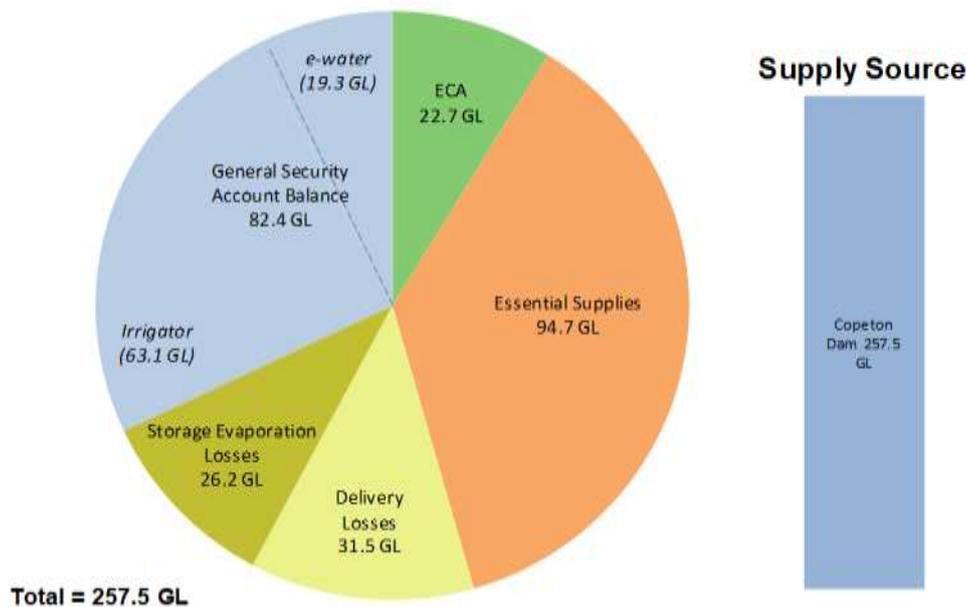
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Resource assessment data sheet

<b>Resource Distribution (as at 31 January 2021)</b>	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	257.5
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	26.2
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	94.7
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	22.7
Delivery Losses <sup>(3)</sup>	31.5
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	19.3
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	63.1

See notes below.

### Resource Distribution as at 31 January 2021 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



#### 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.

<sup>(4)</sup> 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 19.33 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, 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 January 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss for next 24 months	26.24	25.13	1.12	26.24
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	93.36	1.36	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	31.52	22.06	9.45	31.52
ECA (90 GL max)	-	21.07	1.58	22.65
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	64.56	17.85	82.41
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	31.36	-31.36	0.00
Total	-	257.54	0.00	257.54

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	17.85	GL
Available Water Determination	0.035	ML per unit share

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