

5 November 2021

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is a 4.8% increase to general security water allocations in the Gwydir regulated river water source. This brings the total cumulative allocation to general security licences in the valley to 78.4% 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 October was about average across the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received about 50 mm of rainfall in October and corresponding inflows totalled about 41 gigalitres (GL).

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 October 2021. Any further resource improvement since that date will be captured in the next assessment.

Current allocations

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Regulated River	100%	78.4%

Dam levels (as of 3 November 2021)

Copeton Dam is now 86% full – falling – holding about 1,174 GL. This time last year, the storage was about 16% full.

Key information

- Inflow into storage in October was about 41 gigalitres (GL) and downstream tributary flow contributed about 12 GL to the available resource.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were low in October, at about 1.2 GL. Total essential supply demand was about 2.5 GL. There was 0.25 GL of general security usage and no ECA demand in October.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in October.
- Supplementary water usage has been about 33.3 GL so far this water year, which is about 37% of the total 90.7 GL of supplementary allocation (50% of entitlement).

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November 2021 to January 2022 indicates that maximum temperatures are likely to be above median. In addition, the three months to February is likely to produce wetter than median rainfall conditions across most of NSW.

For 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

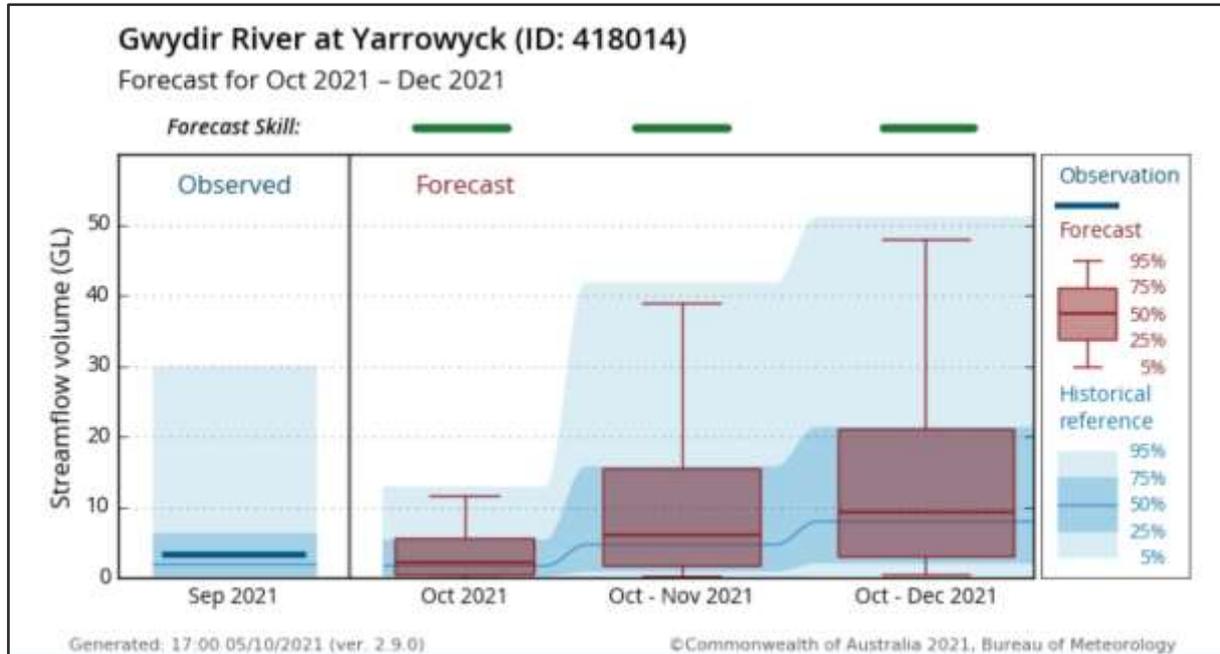
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inflows into the dam. The forecast total median flow volume from October to December is slightly higher than the historical median flow, suggesting a bit more inflow than usual is likely.

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



Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 October 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,154.6
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	82.6
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	72.6
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	206.5
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	21.8
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	155.1
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	533.1
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.

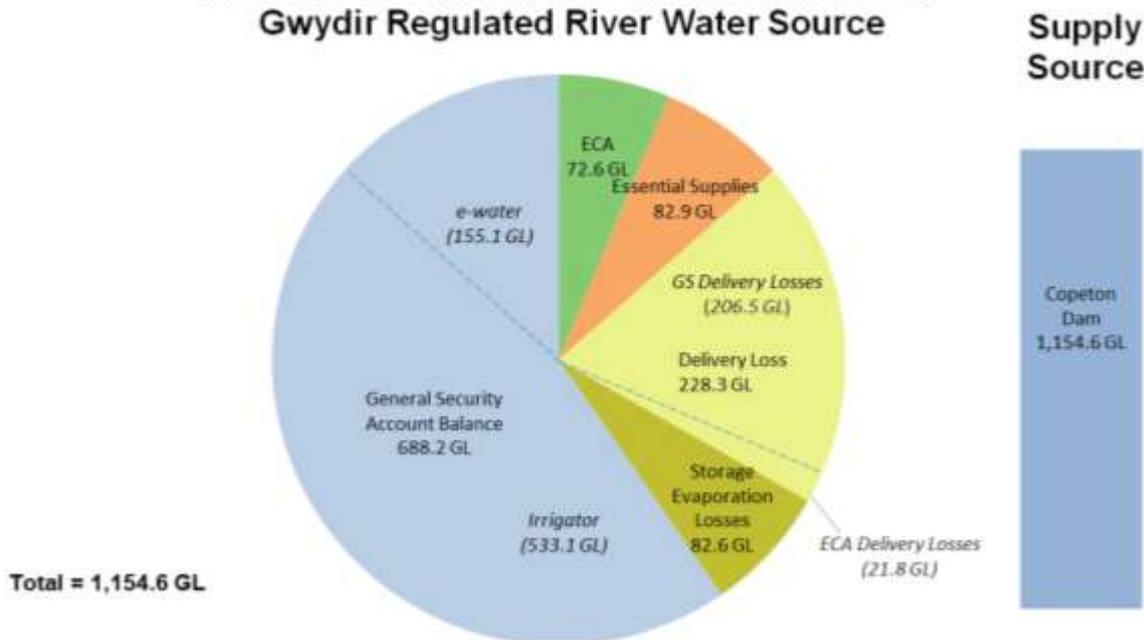
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- (3) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security and ECA water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – The reporting of held environmental water is indicative only. General Security HEW account balance estimated to be 155.1 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 (no surplus/deficit). The system is secure for next 24 months and beyond.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 October 2021
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source**



Resource assessment as at 31 October 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	82.63	81.47	1.16	82.63
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	80.45	2.45	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229 GL max)	206.47	199.18	7.28	206.46
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	21.77	21.12	0.65	21.77
ECA (90 GL max)		70.41	2.16	72.57
General Security (764.5 GL max)		663.73	24.50	688.23
Additional Resource for Sharing		38.20	-38.20	0.00
Total		1,154.56	0.00	1,154.56

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	24.50	GL

General Security	Value	Unit
Available Water Determination	0.0480	ML per unit share

New aquifer access licences

The department is making new water access licences available for several groundwater sources across NSW. The opportunity to purchase new shares of these groundwater sources will be through a tender process, with a limited number of shares available in each groundwater source.

Further details at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/controlled

New water allocation guide

The department is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation process for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Gwydir regulated river water source is now available.

Further details at: 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 **Tuesday 7 December 2021**.

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

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