

7 July 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There has been sufficient resource improvement in June to again top-up general security water accounts to their maximum limit of 150% of entitlement.

The resource assessment shows that this can be achieved with just 6.2 gigalitres (GL), but requires an allocation of 1.03 megalitres per unit share (ML/unit share). Note: once an account is full it does not benefit from additional allocation.

The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) has also received an allocation, topping the account balance to its maximum limit of 90 GL.

Rainfall in June 2022 was average to below average across the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received about 30 mm in June and corresponding inflows totalled about 35.7 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 June 2022. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the August allocation statement.

Supplementary entitlement holders received a reduced opening allocation of 0.21 ML/unit share (21% of entitlement) for the 2022/23 water year. The reduced allocation was triggered by the required growth-in-use strategy outlined in the water sharing plan. Access to supplementary water is only available in periods of announced supplementary flow.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security	Average Account Balance
Gwydir Regulated River	103%	150%*

*Maximum allowable

Dam levels (as of 5 July 2022)

Copeton Dam is 99.6% full and holding 1,357 GL. This time last year, it was about 52% full.

Key information

- Inflow into Copeton Dam in June 2022 was about 35.7 GL and downstream tributary inflow was about 9.7 GL.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 12.6 GL in June. Total essential supply demand was 2.8 GL, and general security usage was 9.1 GL.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in June.

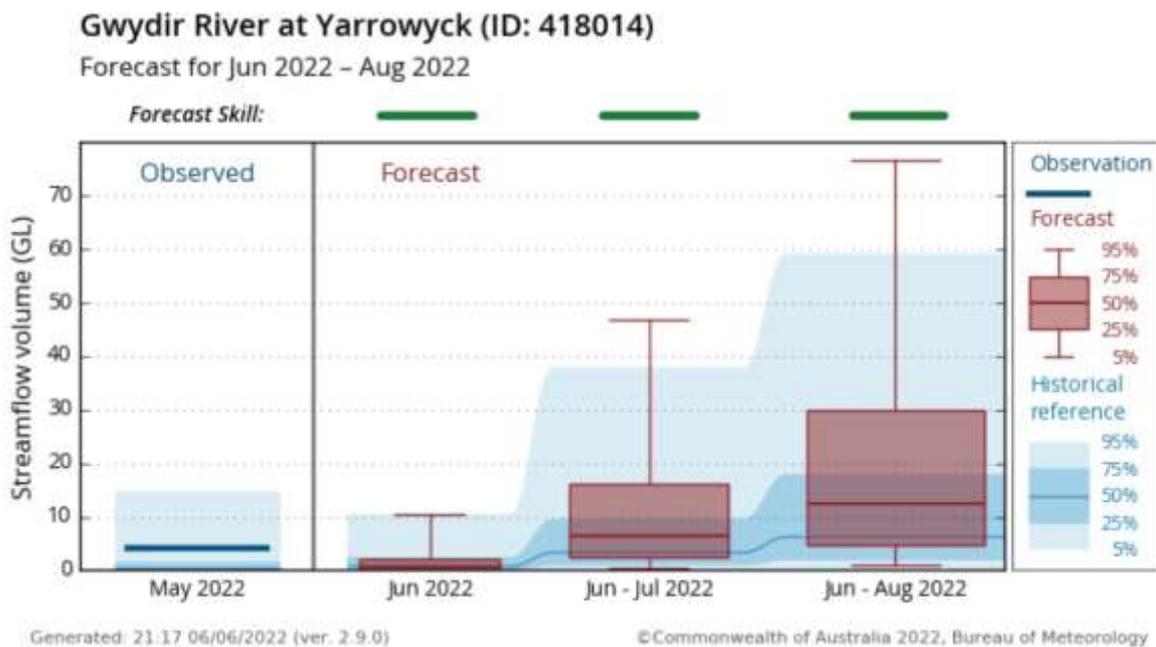
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for July to September indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median for the Gwydir catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be below median and minimum temperatures are likely to be above median in this period.

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 inflows into the dam in coming months. The forecast total median flow volume from June to August is higher than historical flows indicating more flow than usual is likely.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014



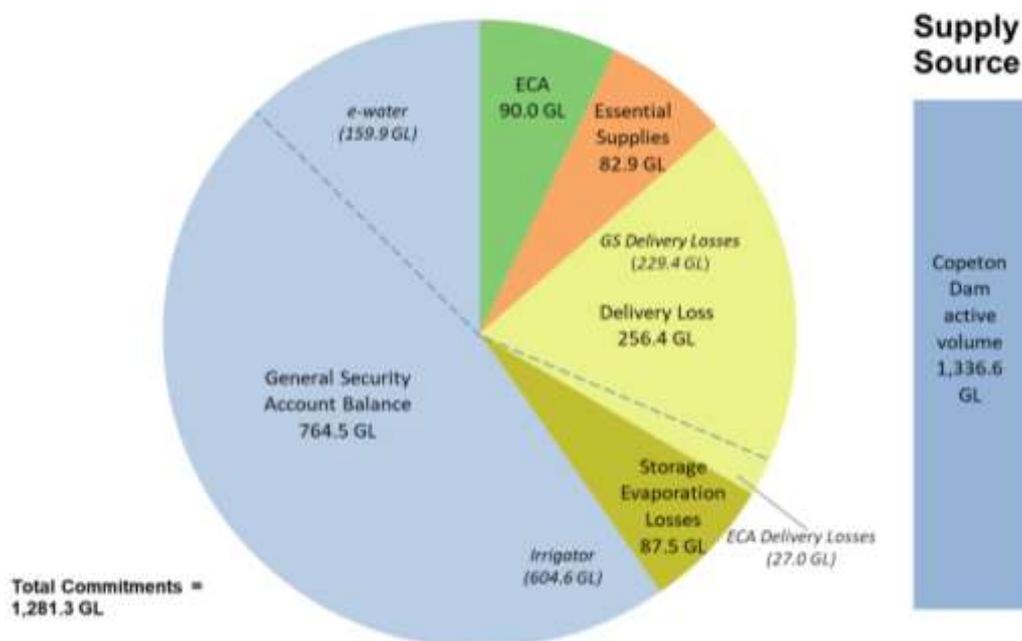
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 30 June 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,336.6
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	87.5
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	229.4
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	604.6
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	55.3

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Storage evaporation losses 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 local water utility, stock and 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 into the 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 5.76 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⁾ The available water resource has been fully allocated, with a surplus of 55.3 GL. The system is secure for the next 24 months and beyond.

Resource Distribution as at 30 June 2022 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 30 June 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	87.52	87.04	0.49	87.52
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	80.10	2.80	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	229.35	229.22	0.12	229.35
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.00	26.99	0.01	27.00
ECA (90 GL max)		89.43	0.57	90.00
General Security (764.5 GL max)		755.43	9.07 ⁽¹⁾	764.50
Additional Resource for Sharing		68.40	-13.06	55.35
Total		1,336.62	0.00	1,336.62

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	6.20	GL
Available Water Determination	1.03	ML per unit share

⁽¹⁾ 9.07 GL is available to allocate to general security, but only 6.2 GL is required to fill all accounts to their maximum limit.

Allocations in 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Average Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.21 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share	
7-Jul	General Security	1.03 ML/unit share	1.03 ML/unit share	150%*

*Maximum allowable

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Gwydir regulated system is available at the following link:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Friday 5 August 2022**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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