

5 May 2023

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

Resource improvement in the Gwydir regulated system in April allows for an increase in general security (GS) allocation of 21% of entitlement. This increment contributes to the total general security account volume of 747 gigalitres (GL) or an average of 147% of entitlement.

The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) usually increases by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan. However, as the ECA account balance is full, holding 90 GL, there no scope of a further increase this time.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 April 2023. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

## Current allocation

2022/23	Cumulative General Security Allocation	General Security Average Account Balance
Gwydir Regulated River	321%	147%*

\* Maximum allowable is 150%.

## Resource outlook for opening allocations for 2023/24

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including local water utility, are secure for the 2023/24 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including local water utility, stock and domestic and high security can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward into new water year. The maximum volume that may be held in account at any time is 1.5 megalitres (ML)/unit share (or 150% of entitlement).
- General security users can expect full access to their carried over account water but no new allocation will be announced on 1 July. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessment will continue, commencing in early July, and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2023/24.
- Floodplain Harvesting water access licence holders can expect a 100% allocation 1 July.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can also expect a 100% allocation 1 July 2023, however; access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow.

Water users are advised that this allocation outlook is indicative only and should be used with caution. It aims to broadly guide water users with their end of year water management decisions. Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting any risk of forfeiture of water from accounts after 30 June 2023.

### Dam levels (as of 3 May 2023)

Copeton Dam is about 94% full, holding about 1,276 GL. This time last year, Copeton Dam was about 95% full.

### Key information

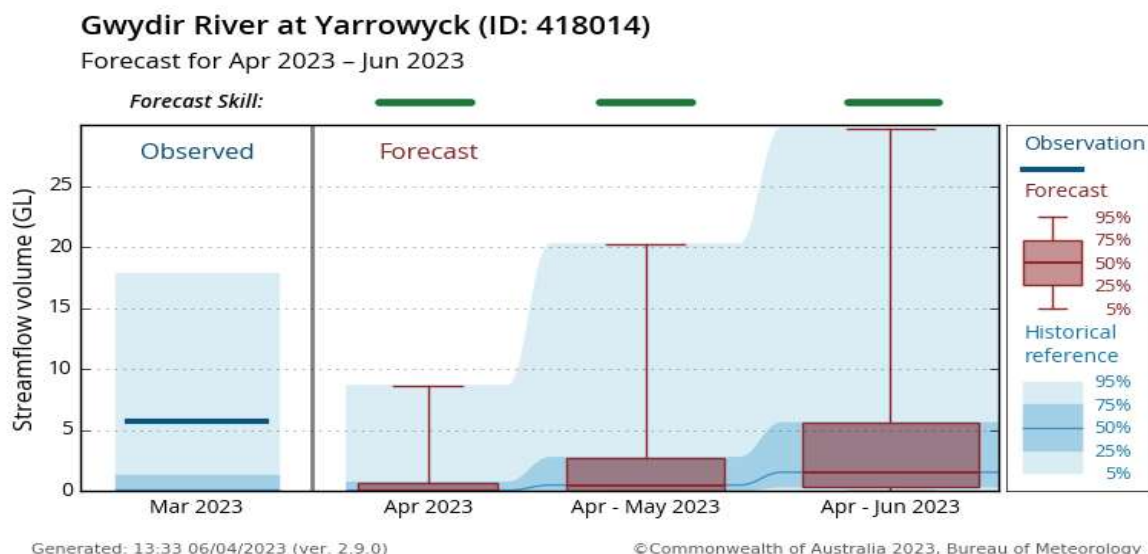
- Inflow volume into Copeton Dam in April was 55.5 GL, and the downstream tributary inflow volume was 9 GL.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in April.
- Supplementary usage so far this water year to the end of April is very low, about 29 GL, or about 16% of the total volume allocated to supplementary entitlements in 2022/23.

### Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for May to July shows below median rainfall for the Gwydir catchment is likely. Maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the May to July period. Minimum temperatures for the same period show mostly cooler than median conditions.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://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 the coming months. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from April to June are on par with the historical quantile references, indicating no clear change from historical conditions. The graph to June 2023 is shown below and updates can be found at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014)



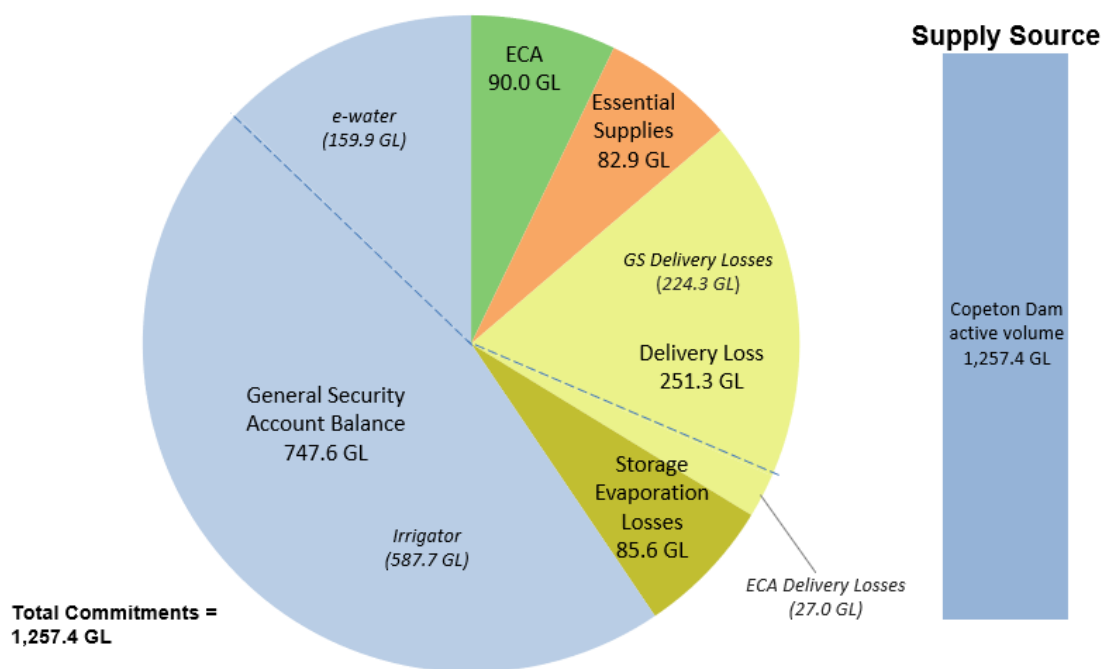
## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 30 April 2023)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,257.4
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	85.6
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS <sup>(3)</sup>	224.3
Delivery Loss ECA <sup>(3)</sup>	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	587.7
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	0.0

### Notes:

- <sup>(1)</sup> Storage evaporation losses is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- <sup>(2)</sup> 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.
- <sup>(3)</sup> 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.
- <sup>(4)</sup> Held environmental water (HEW): the reporting of held environmental water is indicative only. General security HEW account balance is estimated to be 159.9 GL, and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 4.3 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).
- <sup>(5)</sup> There is no resource deficit. The system is secure for the next 24 months.

### Resource Distribution as at 30 April 2023 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



### Resource assessment as at 30 April 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	85.61	84.30	1.31	85.61
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	79.32	3.58	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	224.30	213.60	10.70	224.30
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.00	27.00	0.00	27.00
ECA (90 GL max)		90.00	0.00	90.00
General Security (764.5 GL max)		707.04	40.62	747.66
Additional Resource for Sharing		56.21	-56.21	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,257.47</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,257.47</b>

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	40.62	GL
Available Water Determination	0.21	ML per unit share

## Allocations in 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
1-Jul	LWU, Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*
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
5-Aug	General Security	0.58 ML/unit share	1.61 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Supplementary	0.79 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
7-Sep	General Security	0.54 ML/unit share	2.15 ML/unit share
10-Oct	General Security	0.29 ML/unit share	2.44 ML/unit share
7-Dec	General Security	0.16 ML/unit share	2.60 ML/unit share
12-Jan	General Security	0.11 ML/unit share	2.71 ML/unit share
7-Feb	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	2.73 ML/unit share
7-Mar	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	2.75 ML/unit share
6-Apr	General Security	0.25 ML/unit share	3.00 ML/unit share
5-May	General Security	0.21 ML/unit share	3.21 ML/unit share

\* 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:

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://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 **Wednesday 7 June 2023**.

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

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

You can also follow the department on Twitter: @NSWDPIE\_Water

Feedback on this work or any aspect of the department's service can be provided using the widget at: [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/contact](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/contact).