

8 January 2024

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

General security (GS) licences in the Gwydir regulated river water source have received a further allocation of 4% of entitlement. Since the last assessment, intermittent rainfall has continued to elevate inflows above minimums and reduce losses, yielding additional resources to support the allocation improvements announced today. Cumulative general security allocation for 2023/24 has increased to 8% of entitlement.

Water currently assigned to GS accounts totals 572.5 gigalitres (GL), or an average 112% of entitlement. Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) receives the same increase up to its maximum 90 GL account limit.

The inflow to Copeton Dam in December was 25.4 GL and downstream tributary inflows added about 3.5 GL to the system. The forecast storage depletion for Copeton Dam for the assessment horizon is provided toward the end of this statement.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 December 2023. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in February 2024.

## Current allocation

8 January 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	4%	112% (572.5 GL)
E C A	4%	200% (90 GL)*

\* Maximum allowable

## Storage levels (as of 8 January 2024)

- Copeton Dam is about 74% full – holding about 1,011 gigalitres (GL).

## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The latest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for January to March shows that above average rainfall is likely (60 to 80% chance) for much of central and north-east NSW. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be hotter than median over this period.

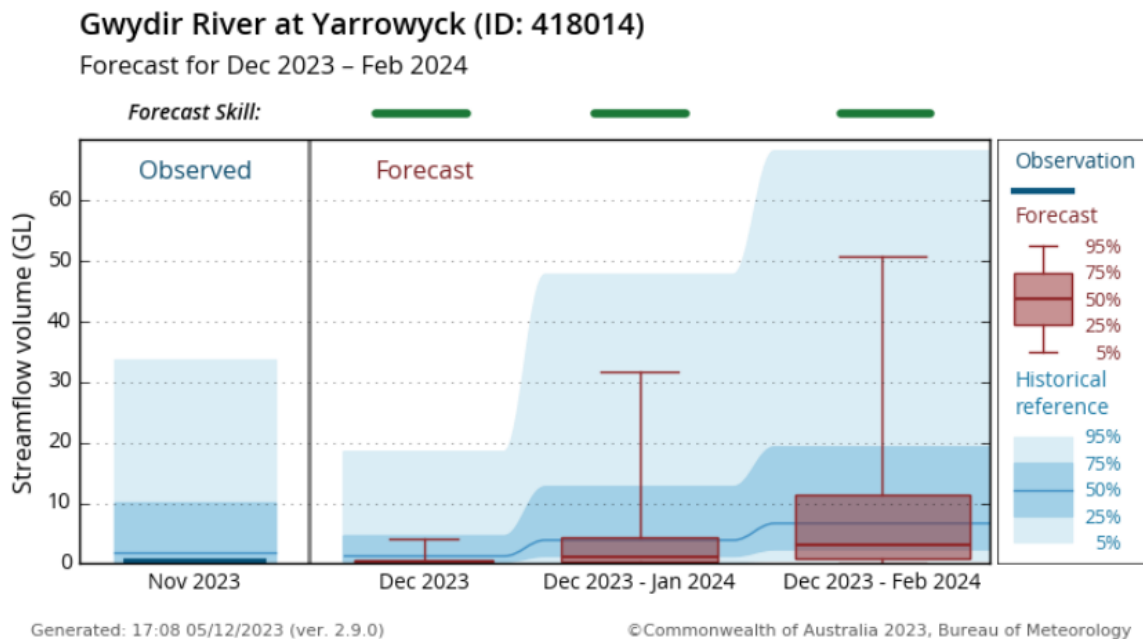
Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

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PUB24/7

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 December 2023 to February 2024 are lower than the historical flows indicating a likely drier outlook for inflows. The graph for December 2023 to February 2024 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)



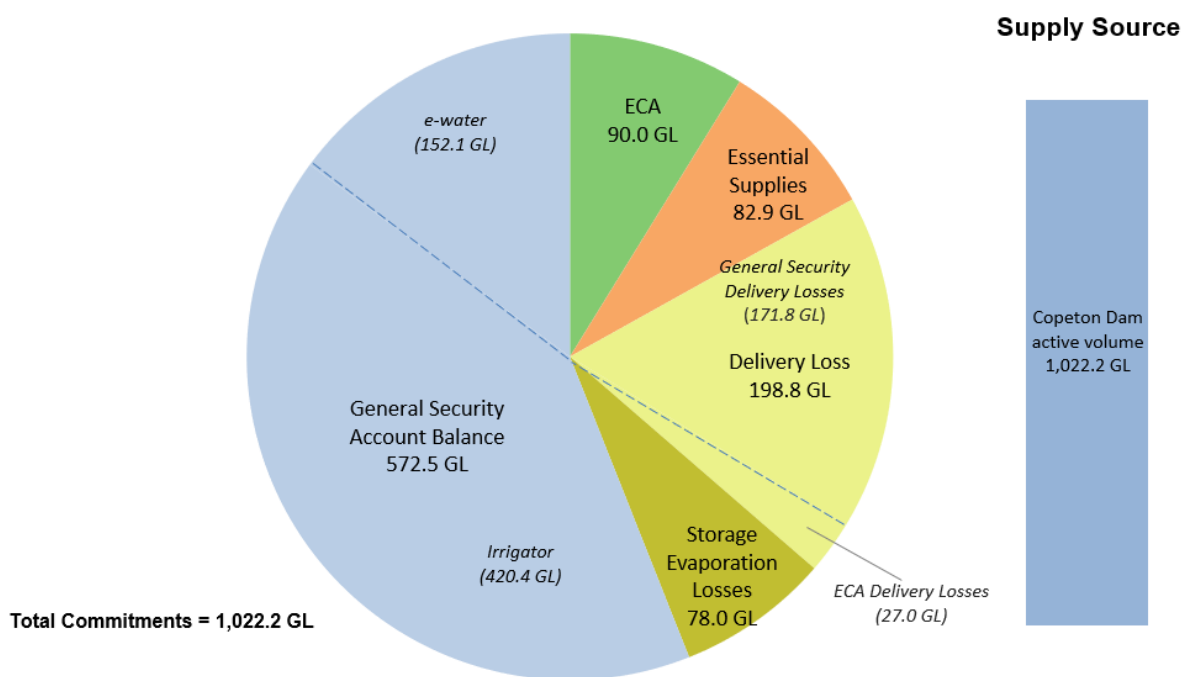
## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 December 2023)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,022.2
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	78.0
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss General Security <sup>(3)</sup>	171.8
Delivery Loss ECA <sup>(3)</sup>	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	152.1
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	420.4
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	0.0

**Notes:**

- (1) Storage evaporation losses are based on forecast surface area and max 24 months historical evaporation.
- (2) This reserve of essential supplies reflects water required 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.
- (3) This volume reflects the water needed to deliver general security and ECA water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. See the table below for the actual volume remaining in the budget, which may be lower.
- (4) General security held environmental water (HEW) account balance is estimated to be 152.1 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) All available resource is allocated in this assessment producing no resource surplus or deficit.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 December 2023  
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source**



**Resource assessment as at 31 December 2023**

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	78.0	80.1	-2.1	78.0
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	81.6	1.3	82.9
Delivery Loss ECA+GS (256 GL max)	198.8	202.7	-3.9	198.8

Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)	171.8	175.7	-4.0	171.8
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.0	26.9	0.1	27.0
ECA (90 GL max)		89.6	0.4	90.0
General Security (764.5 GL max)		549.6	22.9	572.6
Additional Resource for Sharing		18.6	-18.6	0.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1022.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1022.2</b>

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	22.9	GL
Available Water Determination	0.04	ML per unit share

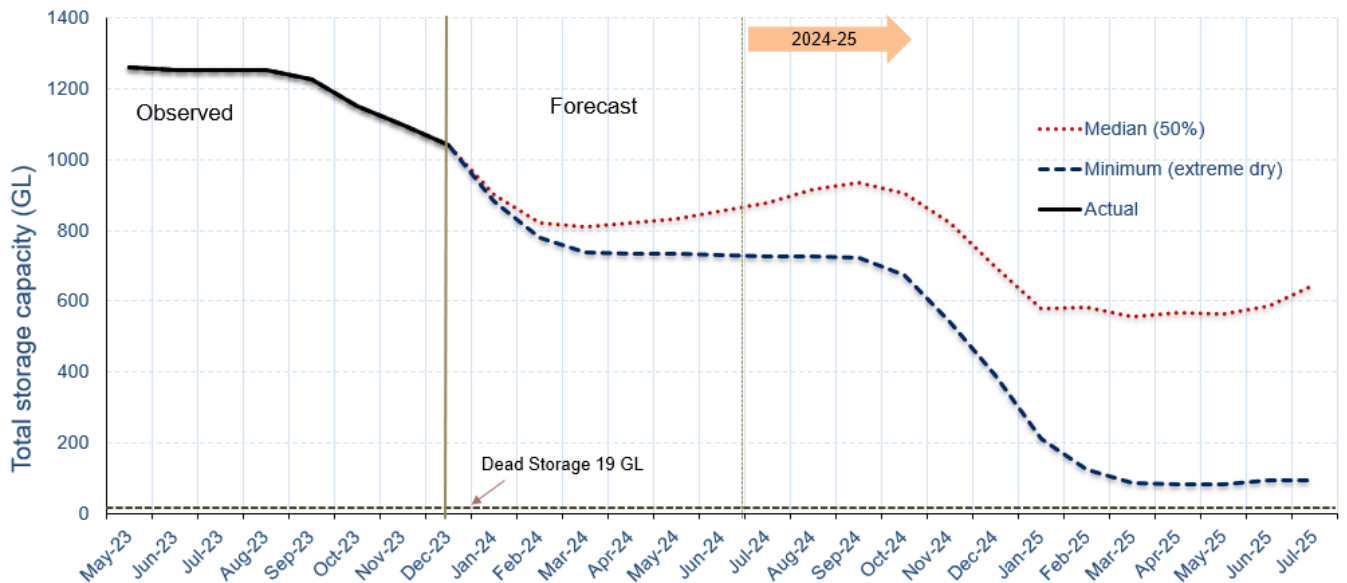
## Allocations in 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
1-Jul	LWU, Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
7-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share
7-Aug	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.03 ML/unit share
7-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.04 ML/unit share
8-Jan	General Security	0.04 ML/unit share	0.08 ML/unit share

\* Maximum allowable.

## Storage volume prediction

Storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current commitments and an assumed repeat of historical minimum inflows together with forecast demands, the volume in Copeton Dam will reduce to close to a minimum by the end of May 2025 then begin to recover.



## Next announcement

The next Gwydir water allocation statement will be published on **Wednesday 7 February 2024**. It will update current conditions and any improvements in water availability.

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

## Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 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: [water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

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