

7 May 2024

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

**General security (GS)** licenses in the Gwydir regulated river water source have received a further **allocation of 4%** of entitlement. The Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) has similarly increased in accordance with the water sharing plan rule. Cumulative general security allocation for 2023/24 has now reached 15% of entitlement.

Since the last assessment, rainfall has continued to elevate inflows above the minimums while losses remain below budget providing new resources for the allocation increment announced today. The inflow to Copeton Dam in April was 13.6 gigalitre (GL) and downstream tributary inflows added another 49 GL to the system. Total essential supply demand was about 1 GL, and general security usage was approximately 9.5 GL. The EWA order for the month was about 2.7 GL.

Water currently available to GS water users totals 447.1 GL, or an average 88% of entitlement. The Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) account balance is 87.6 GL or 195% full. The EWA was known as the Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) before the plan amendment of July 2022.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 April 2024. Any change in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in June 2024.

## Current allocation

7 May 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	4%	88%
E W A	4%	195%

## Resource outlook for 2024/25

The outlook for likely 1 July 2024 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that forecast allocations are not certain, may change 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 that water can be forfeit from some accounts after 30 June 2024.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including basic landholder rights and town water, is secure for the 2024/25 water year.
- High priority water access license holders including local water utility, stock and domestic and high security entitlements can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July 2024.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward into the 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 water 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 2024/25.
- Floodplain Harvesting water access licence holders can expect a 100% allocation 1 July 2024.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can also expect a 100% allocation 1 July 2024. However, access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow.

### Storage levels (as of 7 May 2024)

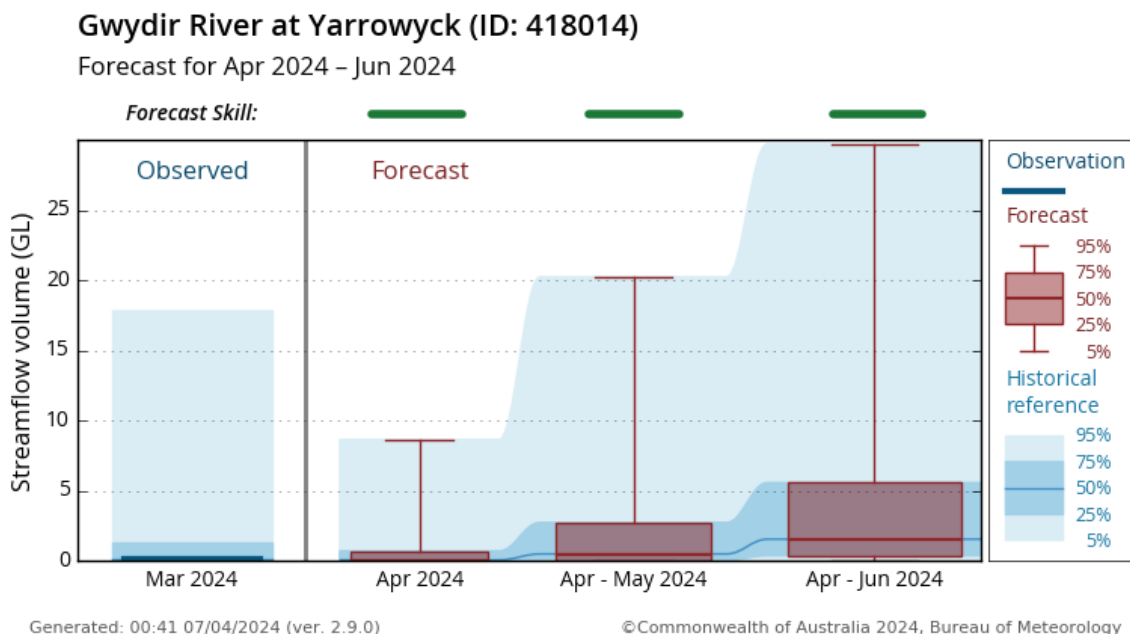
- Copeton Dam is about 64% full – holding 878 gigalitres (GL).

### Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

The latest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for April to June 2024 indicates rainfall in the Gwydir valley is likely to be below median. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be hotter than median over this period. For further details: [Climate outlooks](#)

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 Jun 2024 are about the same as the historical flows indicating no clear trend away from historical conditions over this period. The graph for April to Jun 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014>



### Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource distribution (as of 30 April 2024)

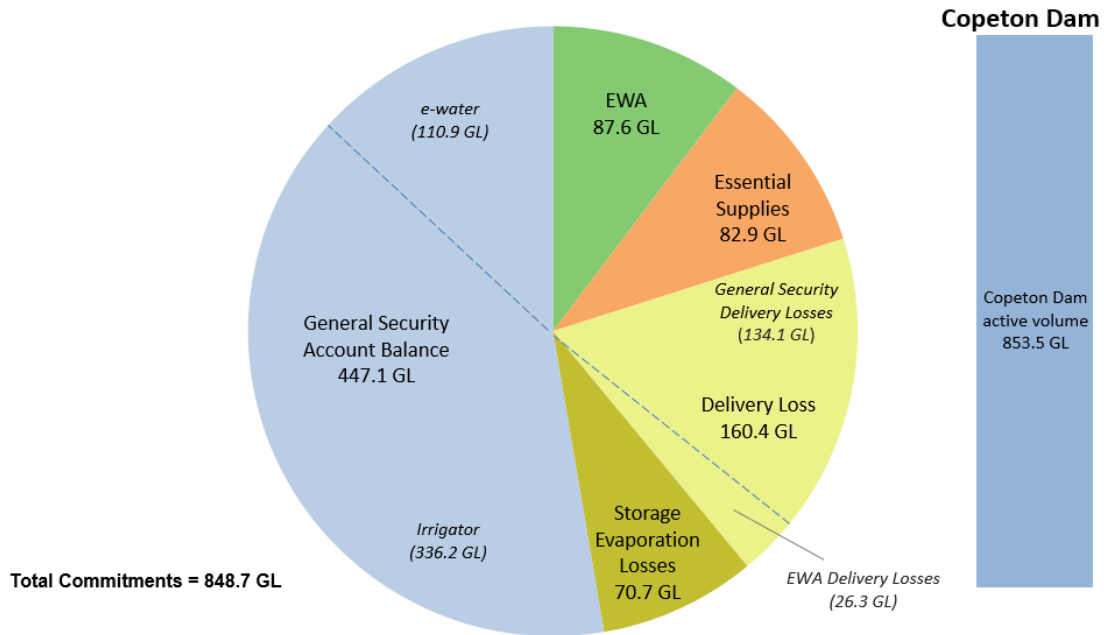
Volume  
(GL)

Copeton Dam active volume	853.5
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	70.7
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	82.9
Environmental Water Allowance (EWA)	87.6
Delivery Loss General Security <sup>(3)</sup>	134.1
Delivery Loss EWA <sup>(3)</sup>	26.3
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	110.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	336.2
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (Deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	4.8

**Notes:**

- (1) Storage evaporation loss is based on projected storage depletion over the next 24 month and experiencing high evaporation of February 1918 to January 1920.
- (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. This is offset by the minimum inflow into Copeton recorded over February 1918 to January 1920.
- (3) This volume reflects the water needed to deliver general security and EWA water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. See the table below on this statement 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 110.9 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 resource assessment returns a small surplus after allocation. This volume will be rolled over to next month's resource assessment.

### Resource Distribution as at 30 April 2024 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



### Resource assessment as at 30 April 2024

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	70.2	70.2	0.5	70.7
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	68.5	14.4	82.9
Delivery Loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	163.5	154.8	5.6	160.4
Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)	136.9	129.2	5.0	134.1
Delivery Loss EWA (27 GL max)	26.6	25.6	0.6	26.3
EWA (90 GL max)		85.8	1.8	87.6
General Security (764.5 GL max)		429.0	18.2	447.1
Uncommitted resources		<b>45.2</b>	<b>-40.4</b>	4.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>853.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>853.5</b>

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	18.2	GL
Available Water Determination	0.04	ML /unit share

## Allocations in 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	Account Balance
1-Jul	LWU, Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
7-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	142.5%
7-Jul	EWA	0%	0%	90GL*
7-Aug	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.03 ML/unit share	143%
7-Aug	EWA	3%	3%	90GL*
7-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.04 ML/unit share	119%
7-Dec	EWA	1%	4%	90GL*
8-Jan	General Security	0.04 ML/unit share	0.08 ML/unit share	112%
8-Jan	EWA	4%	8%	90GL*
7-Feb	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.11 ML/unit share	96%
7-Feb	EWA	3%	11%	90GL*
7-May	General Security	0.04 ML/unit share	0.15 ML/unit share	88%
7-May	EWA	4%	15%	88GL

\* 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 minimum by the end of March 2026 after which recovery would be expected.

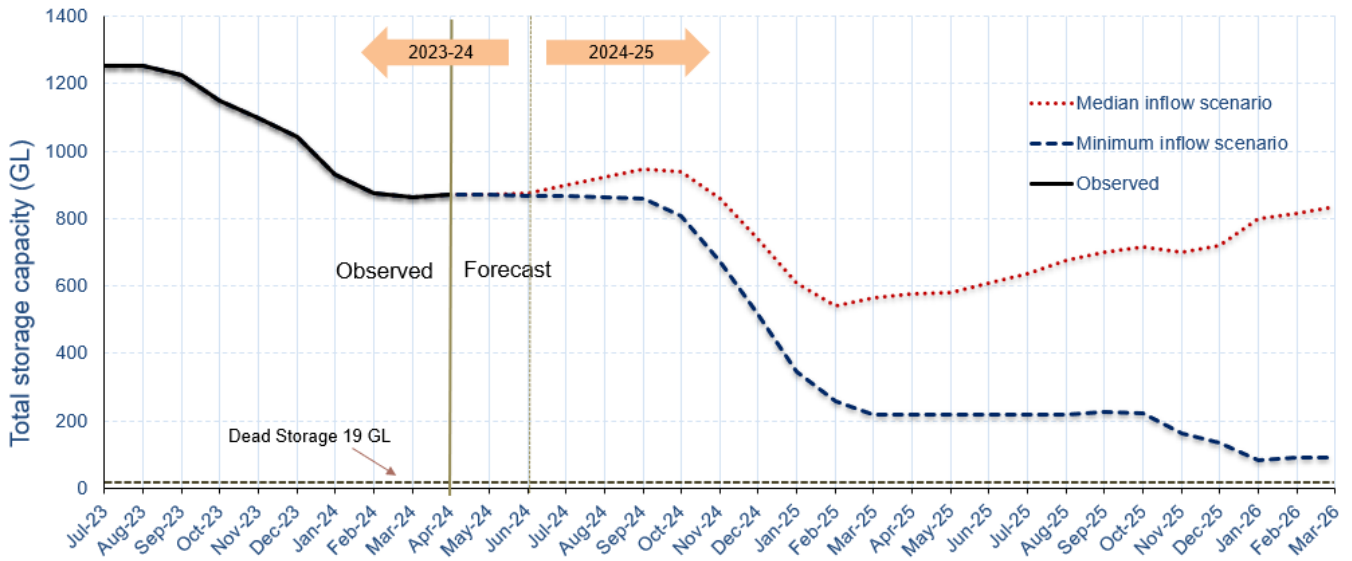


Figure: Simulated depletion of Copeton Dam storage volume

## 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 this water source is available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/resource-assessment-process-water).

## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Friday 7 June 2024**.

Further information about available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department’s website: [Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/water).

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