

10 October 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement in September to allow for a 29% increase to general security water entitlements in the Gwydir regulated river water source. This brings the total for general security accounts to 244% of entitlement for the 2022/23 water year.

This is top-up water only and the 29% corresponds to a small volume of water. There is such little account water usage, and none from most accounts, that this announced allocation can top-up all general security accounts to their maximum 150% of entitlement limit using less than 1 gigalitre (GL) of water, leaving most distributable water (over 40 GL) unassigned.

The environmental contingency allowance (ECA) is at its maximum 90 GL account balance.

Rainfall in September 2022 was very much above average across the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received 111 mm of rainfall in September and corresponding storage inflows totalled about 317 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 September 2022. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next allocation statement.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security	Average Account Balance
Gwydir Regulated River	244%	150%*

* Maximum allowable.

Dam levels (as of 7 October 2022)

Copeton Dam is 98.7% full and holds about 1,344GL. This time last year, Copeton Dam was about 85% full.

Key information

- Inflow volume into Copeton Dam in September 2022 was about 317 GL, and the downstream tributary inflow volume was 149 GL.
- Releases from Copeton Dam totalled about 327 GL in September, mainly for controlled spill operations. Total essential supply demand was 0.2 GL, and general security usage was 0.76 GL.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in September.
- Supplementary usage for the current water year to the end of September has been 13.16 GL, with 3.5 GL of this being used in September.

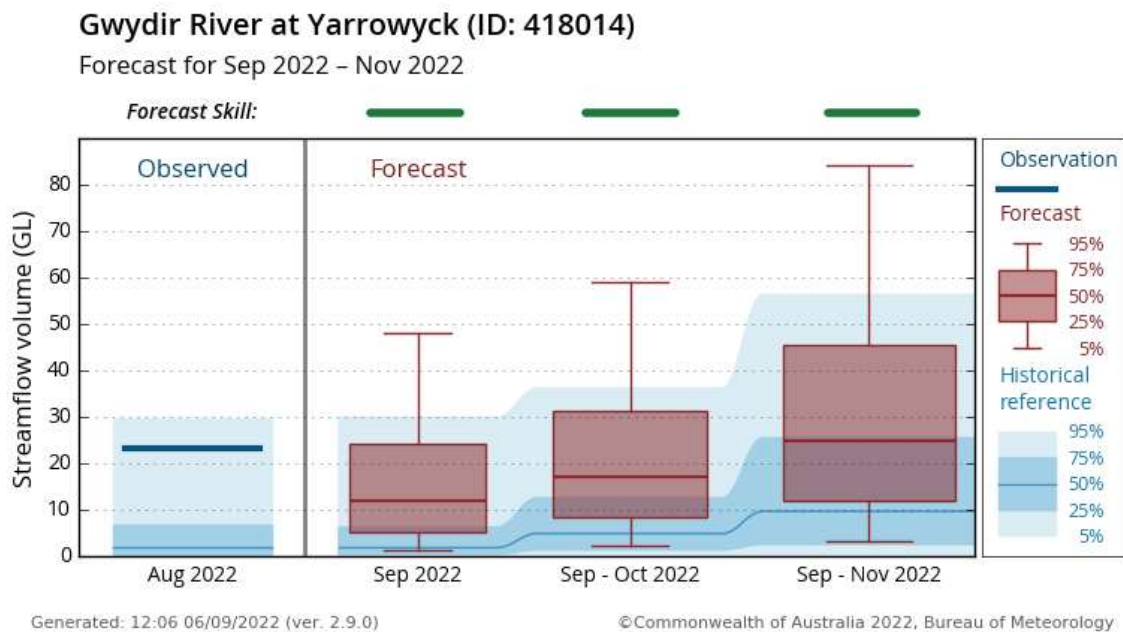
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for October to December shows 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 median or below median during the next three months.

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 September to November is higher than the historical median flow volume for the same period, indicating more than usual flow volume is likely.

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



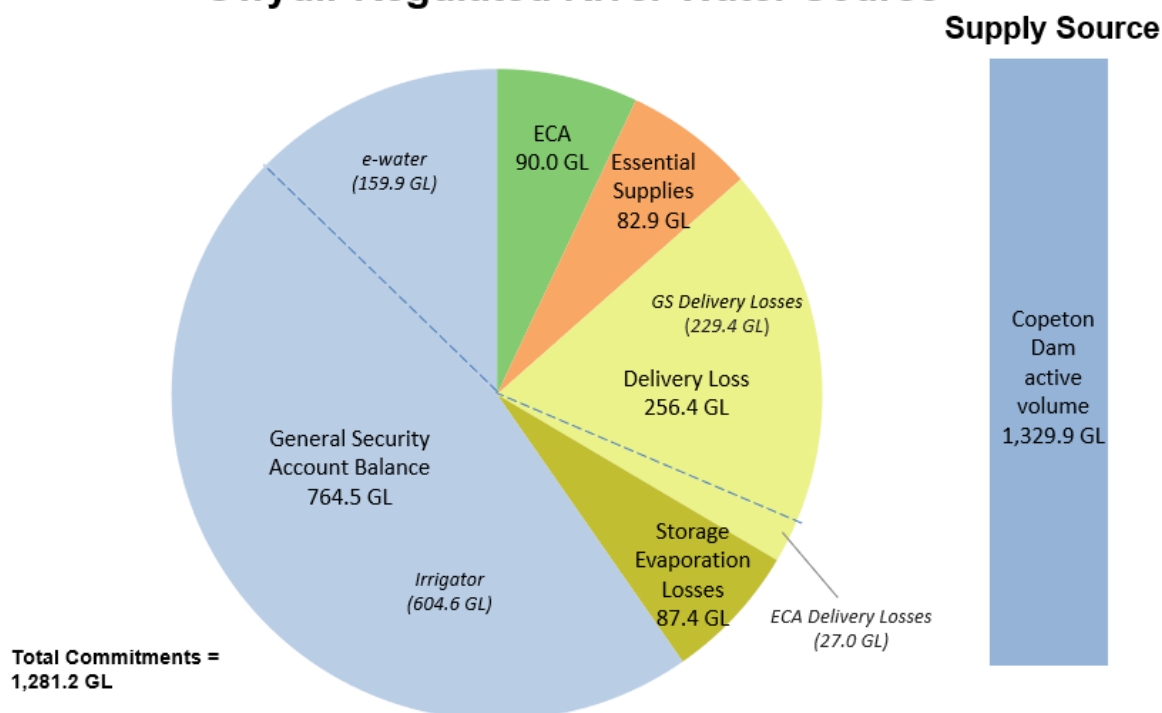
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 30 September 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,329.9
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	87.4
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⁾	48.7

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 is 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 48.7 GL. The system is secure for the next 24 months and beyond. Note that the resource assessment shows a surplus of 42.6 GL rather than 48.7 GL. This is due to GS delivery losses being higher than the maximum 30% accounted delivery loss budget. During September 2022, a very large volume of water (of around 327 GL) was released from Copeton Dam for spill operations, implying higher delivery losses than what was experienced. This large release (controlled spill) of water has not material impact on regulated river resources.

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



Resource assessment as at 30 September 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	87.38	87.65	-0.28	87.38
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	19.50	63.40	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	229.35	-33.20	262.55	229.35
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)		763.74	0.76 ⁽¹⁾	764.50
Additional Resource for Sharing		375.25	-332.63	42.61 ⁽²⁾
Total		1,329.94	-6.20	1,323.73

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.76	GL
Available Water Determination	0.29	ML per unit share

(1) 0.76 GL is required to top-up general security accounts from the 48.7 GL of distributable resource.

(2) Refer to Note (5) above.

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%*
5-Aug	General Security	0.58 ML/unit share	1.61 ML/unit share	~150%*
15-Aug	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	100%*
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	150%*
10-Oct	General Security	0.29 ML/unit share	2.44 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 link below:

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 **Monday 7 November 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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