

7 June 2023

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

There is no increase in allocation to general security (GS) licences in the regulated Gwydir water source. Water currently assigned to GS accounts totals 738 gegalitres (GL) or an average of 145% of entitlement. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) account balance is currently at 90 GL, its maximum limit.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 May 2023. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next routine monthly resource assessment in early July, after the 1 July opening allocations.

## Current allocation

2022/23	Cumulative General Security Allocation	General Security Average Account Balance
Gwydir Regulated River	321%	145%

## Resource outlook 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 their maximum (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 on 7 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 however access to this water is subject to plan rules.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can 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 6 June 2023)

Copeton Dam is about 92% full, holding about 1,260 GL.

This time last year, Copeton Dam was about 99% full.

## Key information

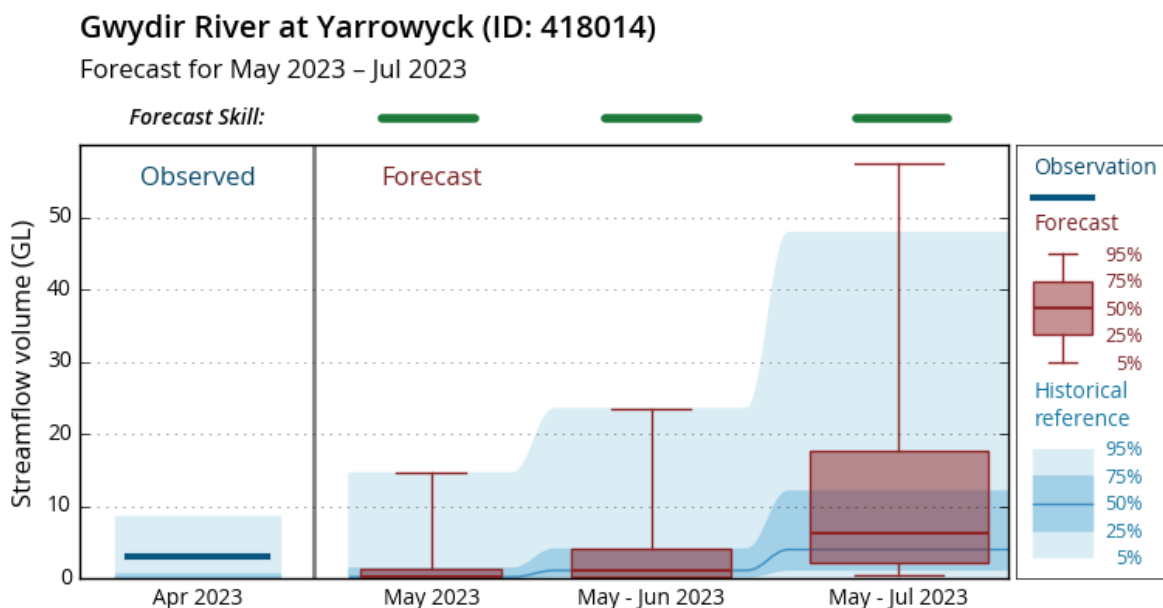
- Inflow volume into Copeton Dam in May was about 6 GL, and the downstream tributary inflow volume was about 4 GL.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in May.
- Supplementary usage so far this water year to the end of May is very low, about 29 GL, or about 16% of the total volume allocated to supplementary entitlements in 2022/23.

## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for June to August shows below median rainfall for the Gwydir catchment is likely. Maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the June to August period. Minimum temperatures for the same period show no clear indication of cooler than median or warmer 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 May to July are above the historical quantile references, indicating higher inflows than historical conditions. The graph to July 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)



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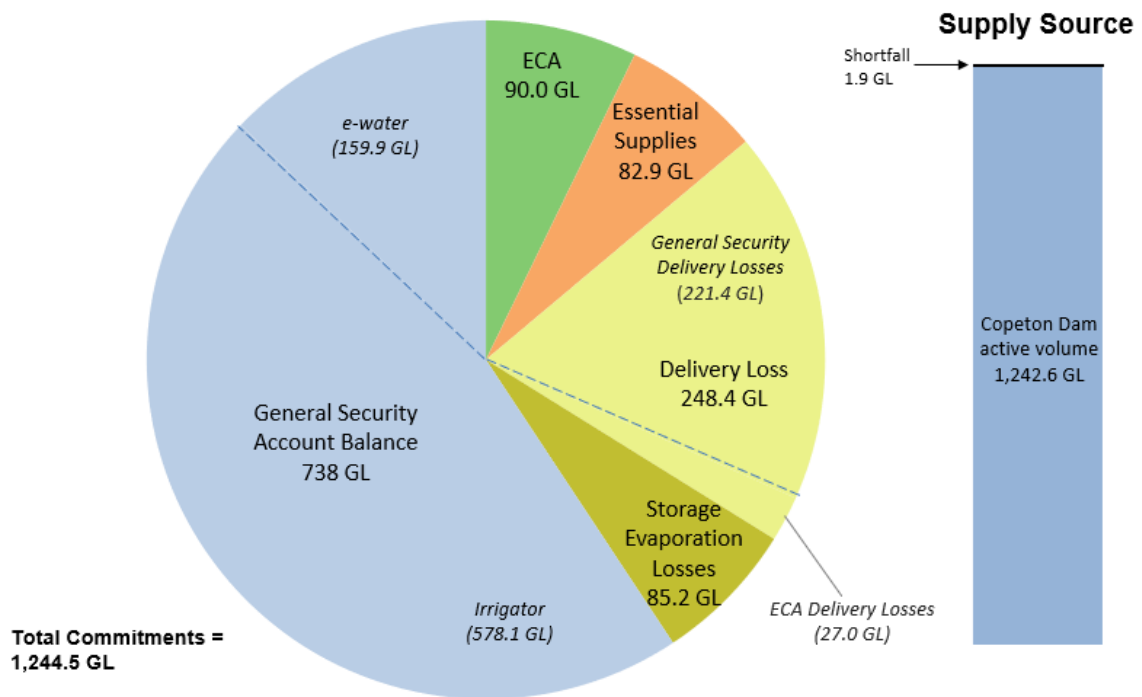
## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 May 2023)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,242.6
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	85.2
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss General Security <sup>(3)</sup>	221.4
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	578.1
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	(1.9)

### Notes:

- <sup>(1)</sup> Storage evaporation losses is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Essential Supplies budget of 82.9 GL. 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. This time the essential supply balance is 81.8 GL, meaning 1.1 GL has been used out of the budgeted reserve. The deficit is due to the delivery of environmental high security water to the Carole in May.
- <sup>(3)</sup> Delivery Losses for general security (budget of 221.4 GL) and ECA (budget of 27 GL). 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. This time the general security delivery loss account balance is 220.6 GL, meaning there is a small deficit of 0.8 GL.
- <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 1.25 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 a small resource deficit, but it is expected to be overcome in coming months.

### Resource Distribution as at 31 May 2023 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



### Resource assessment as at 31 May 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	85.22	85.61	-0.40	85.22
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	77.81	4.01	81.82
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	221.40	220.54	0.00	220.54
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)		737.99	0.00	737.99
Additional Resource for Sharing		3.61	-3.61	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,242.56</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,242.56</b>

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.00	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 water allocation information for this water source will be included in the state-wide opening allocation statements on 1 July 2023. The routine water allocation statements for 2023/24 for this water source will resume on **Friday, 7 July 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)

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