

9 October 2023

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

There is no increase in allocation to general security licenses in the regulated Gwydir water source. Water currently assigned to general security accounts totals 713 gegalitres (GL), or an average of 140% of entitlement. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) account balance is currently at 90 GL, its maximum (100%) limit.

The inflow to Copeton Dam in September was 2.3 GL and downstream tributary inflows totalled about 1.1 GL. The storage forecast graph for the assessment horizon is provided at the end of this statement.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 September 2023. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in November.

## Current allocation

9 October 2023	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	140%
E C A		100%*

\* Maximum allowable

## Dam levels (as of 9 October 2023)

Copeton Dam is about 88% full, holding about 1,190 GL. This time last year it was 1,345 GL, 98.8% full.

## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November to January shows below median rainfall for the Gwydir catchment is likely. Also, maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be warmer than median for November to January.

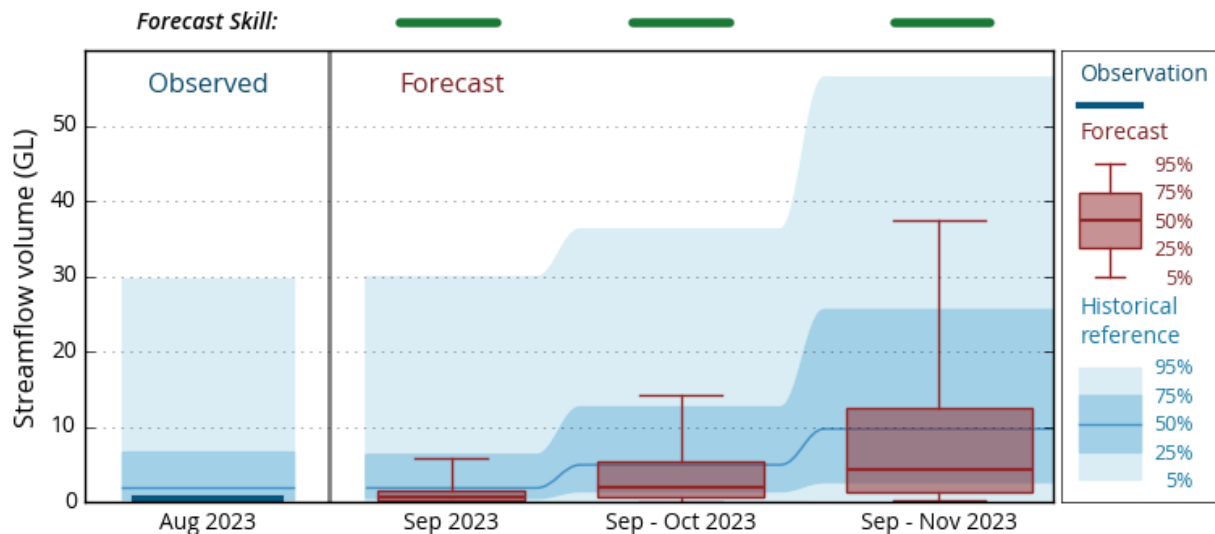
Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

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 September to November are below the historical quantile references, indicating likely lower inflows than historical conditions. The graph for September to November 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)

### Gwydir River at Yarrowyck (ID: 418014)

Forecast for Sep 2023 – Nov 2023



Generated: 21:27 05/09/2023 (ver. 2.9.0)

©Commonwealth of Australia 2023, Bureau of Meteorology

## Resource assessment data sheet

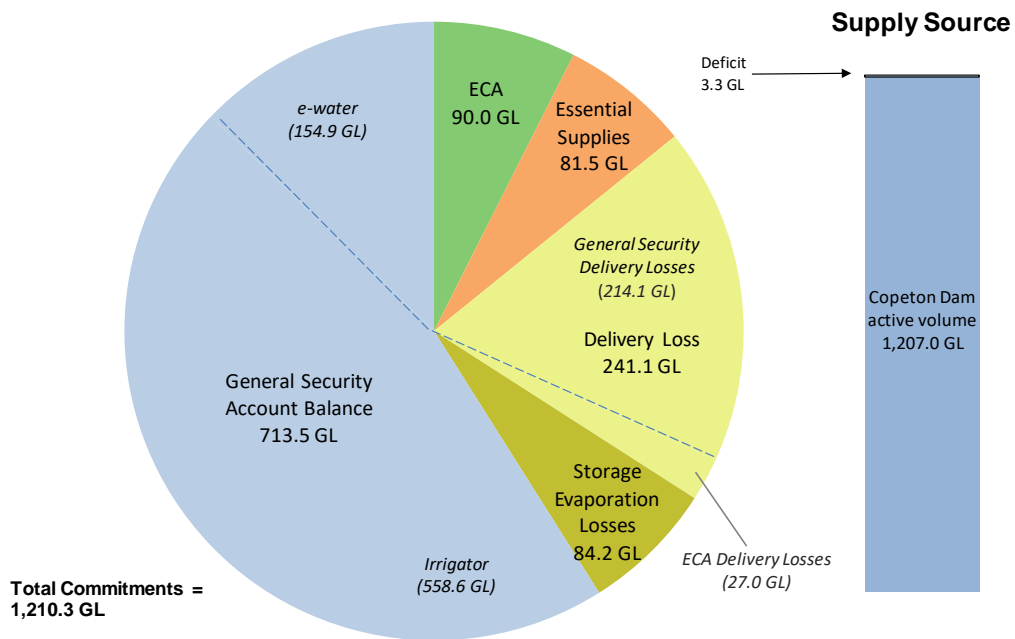
Resource distribution (as of 30 September 2023)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,207.0
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	84.2
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	81.5
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss General Security <sup>(3)</sup>	214.1
Delivery Loss ECA <sup>(3)</sup>	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	154.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	558.6
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	(3.3)

**Notes:**

- <sup>(1)</sup> Storage evaporation losses are based on forecast surface area and max 24 month historical evaporation.
- <sup>(2)</sup> 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. The full reserve is 82.9 GL, of which 1.4 GL is used. This will be topped up first at the next opportunity.

- (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 154.9 GL, and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 4.51 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) There is a small resource deficit in is General Security delivery loss budget. This will be closely monitored.

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



### Resource assessment as at 30 September 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	84.2	85.0	-0.8	84.2
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	81.5	0.0	81.5
Delivery Loss ECA+GS (256 GL max)	241.1	239.0	-1.2	237.8
Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)	214.1	212.0	-1.2	210.8
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.0	27.0	0.0	27.0
ECA (90 GL max)		90.0	0.0	90.0
General Security (764.5 GL max)		713.5	0.0	713.5
Additional Resource for Sharing		-2.0	2.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1207.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1207.1</b>

General Security	Value	Unit
------------------	-------	------

Incremental Increase CREDITED	0	GL
Available Water Determination	0	ML per unit share

### Allocations in 2023/24

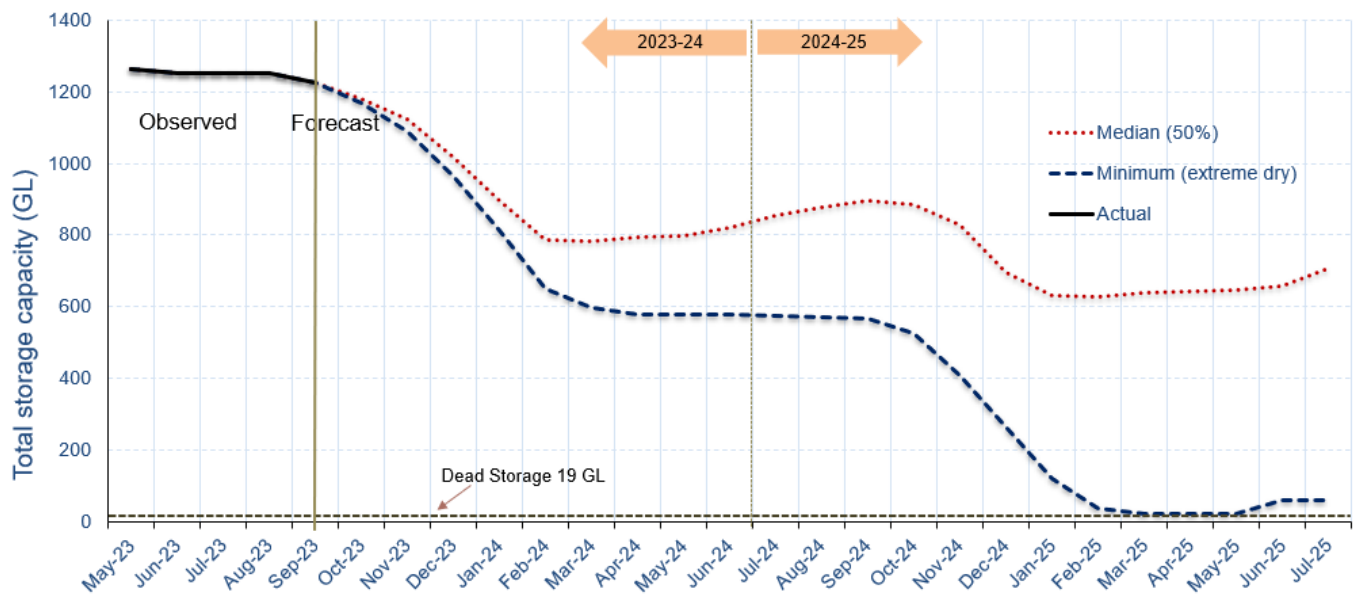
Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
1-Jul	LWU, Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share
1-Jul	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share
7-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share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

\* 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 a minimum by the end of May 2025 then begin to recover.

Figure: Forecast depletion of Copeton Dam storage volume



## Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – 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 the following link:

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process>

## Further information

The next water allocation information for this water source will be published on **Tuesday, 7 November 2023**.

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