

7 May 2025

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

General Security (GS) licences in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source have received an allocation increment of 2% of their entitlement. Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) is to be credited by the same ratio. The increment takes the GS account balance is 342 gegalitres (GL), or an average 67% of entitlement, and the EWA account balance is about 82 GL or an average 182% of entitlement.

The allocation increment is possible due to significant inflow volumes along with lower losses in April. This resource assessment is based on information to 30 April 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

## Current allocation and EWA credit

7 May 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General Security	2%	67%
EWA	2%	182%

## Resource outlook for 2025/26

The outlook for likely 1 July 2025 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 water year water management decisions. Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting that water can forfeit from some accounts after 30 June 2025.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including basic landholder rights and town water, is secure for the 2025/26 water year.
- Higher priority water access license holders including local water utility, stock and domestic and high security entitlements can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward in full 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 2025. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessment will continue, commencing in early July 2025, and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2025/26.
- Floodplain Harvesting water access licence holders can expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can also expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July. However, access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow.

## Storage volume (as of 7 May 2025)

- Copeton Dam is about 53% full – holding about 724 GL.

## Key information

- In April, inflows to Copeton Dam were 22 GL, and downstream tributary inflows added about another 145 GL to the system.
- During April, total essential supply usage was about 2 GL and GS usage was approximately 8 GL. Most of the demand met by significant inflows downstream of Copeton Dam.
- In April, no EWA was delivered.

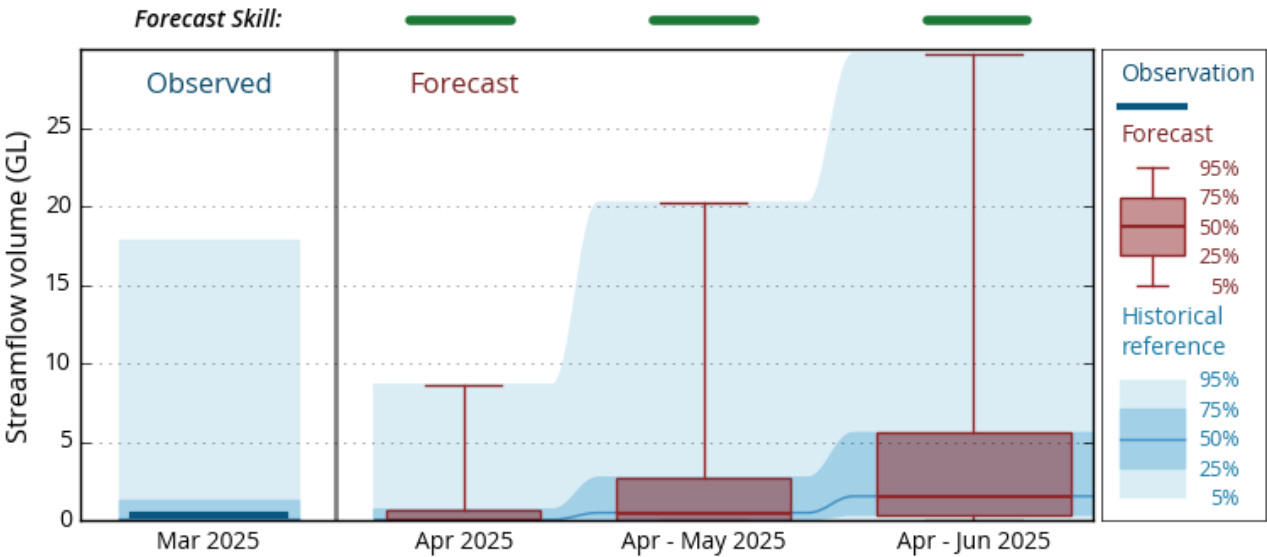
## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The latest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) monthly outlook for June 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be below median across the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be above median over this period. For further details: [Overview — Summary - 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 the forecast quantiles are the same as the historical flows from April to June 2025, which is indicating that there no deviation from historical flows is predicted. The graph for April to June 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](#)

Gwydir River at Yarrowyck (ID: 418014)

Forecast for Apr 2025 – Jun 2025



Resource assessment data sheet

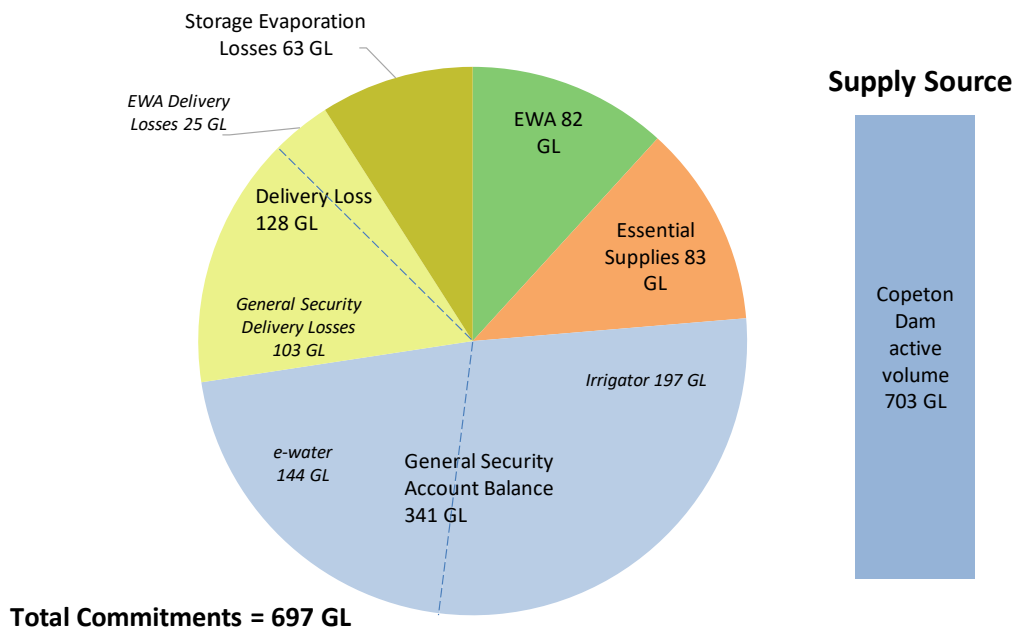
Resource distribution (as of 30 April 2025)		Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume		703
less		
Environmental Water Allowance		82
Essential Supplies <sup>(1)</sup>		83
General Security Irrigator Account Balance		197
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance <sup>(2)</sup>		144
Delivery Loss General Security <sup>(3)</sup>		103
Delivery Loss EWA <sup>(3)</sup>		25
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(4)</sup>		63
equals		
Surplus (or Deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>		6

Notes:

- (1) This is a reserve to provide for local water utility, stock and domestic, high security and riverine environments for the next 24 months. It also includes stock and domestic replenishments, associated delivery loss, and end-of-system flow requirements. This is offset by the minimum inflow into Copeton recorded over February 1918 to January 1920.
- (2) General security held environmental water (HEW) account balance. 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).

- (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) Storage evaporation loss is based on projected storage depletion over the next 24 months and experiencing high evaporation of February 1918 to January 1920.
- (5) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small surplus remaining after this allocation, which will be rolled over to the next resource assessment.

### Resource Distribution as at 30 April 2025 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



### Resource assessment as of 30 April 2025

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	62.9	61.8	1.0	62.9
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	76.2	6.7	82.9
Delivery Loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	127.2	123.9	3.4	127.2
<i>Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)</i>	102.5	101.5	1.0	102.5
<i>Delivery Loss EWA (27 GL max)</i>	24.8	22.4	2.3	24.8
EWA (90 GL max)		81.6	0.9	82.5
General Security (764.5 GL max)		331.4	10.2	341.5
Uncommitted resources		28.4	-22.2	6.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>703.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>703.3</b>

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	10.17	GL
Available Water Determination	0.02	ML/unit share

## Water allocation and EWA credits in 2024/25

Date	Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	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%*
5-Jul	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.01 ML/unit share	92%
5-Jul	EWA	1%	1%	199%
7-Aug	General Security	0.09 ML/unit share	0.10 ML/unit share	100%
7-Aug	EWA	9%	10%	200%*
6-Sep	General Security	0.11 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share	108%
6-Sep	EWA	11%	21%	200%*
8-Oct	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.24 ML/unit share	110%
8-Oct	EWA	3%	24%	186%
7-Nov	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.27 ML/unit share	106%
7-Nov	EWA	3%	27%	188%
6-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.28 ML/unit share	101%
6-Dec	EWA	1%	28%	189%
9-Jan	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.31 ML/unit share	91%
9-Jan	EWA	3%	31%	192%
7-Feb	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.32 ML/unit share	74%
7-Feb	EWA	1%	32%	193%
7-May	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.34 ML/unit share	67%
7-May	EWA	2%	34%	182%

\* Maximum allowable.

## Storage volume simulation

Storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current commitments and an assumed repeat of historical minimum inflows or median inflows together with forecast demands, the volume in Copeton Dam will reduce to a minimum by the end of January 2027 then begin to recover by February 2027.

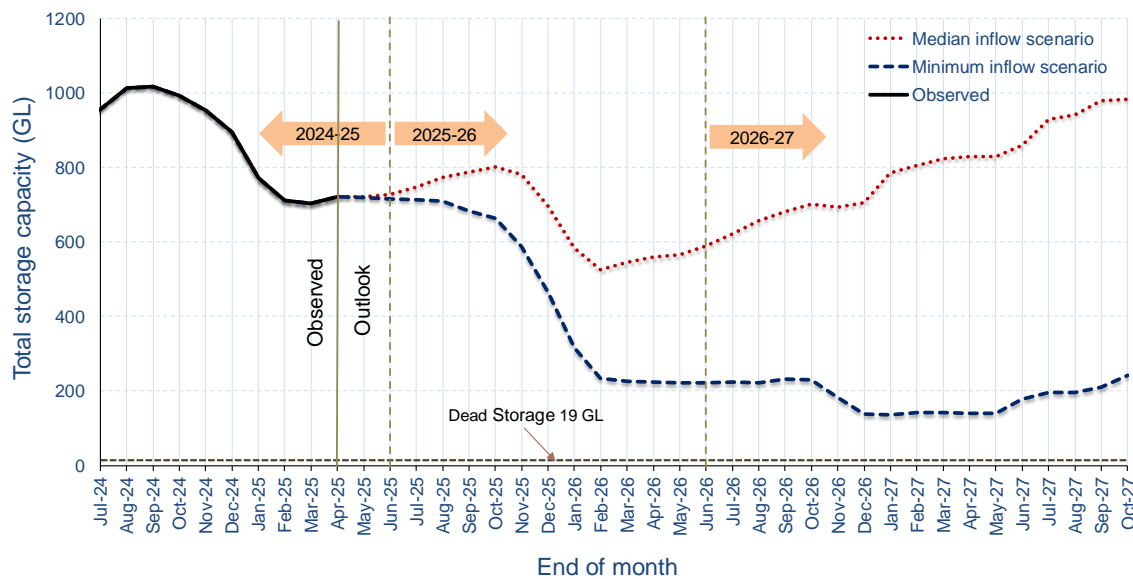


Figure: Simulated depletion of Copeton Dam storage volume

## Water Sharing Plan rules

- Domestic and Stock, Local Water Utility (LWU), and High Security licence categories are to receive an allocation of 1.00 ML per unit share at the start of the water year. These licence categories cannot hold more than 1.00 ML per unit share in their accounts and cannot carryover the closing balance into the next water year.
- General Security (GS) AWDs are made only after all higher priority requirements are met. Any unused water can be carried over to the next water year, but the total in the account — including carryover and new allocations — must not exceed 1.5 ML per unit share.
- The Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) is credited with the same ML per unit share increment as general security allocation. The amount of water in the EWA at any time must not exceed 90,000 ML.
- Supplementary Water Access licences receive 1.00 ML per unit share at the start of the water year, unless a lower volume is determined to ensure compliance with extraction limits. This licence cannot hold more than 1.00 ML per unit share in their accounts and cannot carryover the closing balance into the next water year.
- Floodplain Harvesting (Regulated River) licences receive 1.00 ML per unit share at the start of the water year, unless reduced for compliance purposes. Any unused water can be carried over to the next water year, but the total in the account — including carryover and new allocations — must not exceed 5.00 ML per unit share.

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## Useful links

- Water allocation guide – The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) 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 | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The NSW DCCEEW developed a dashboard to enhance the transparency and accessibility of up-to-date information on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources. The dashboard can be accessed at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)

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## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on Friday 6 June 2025.

*Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [NSW Government Water](#).*

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