

7 February 2023

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There has been enough improvement in the Gwydir regulated resource in January to allow for an increase in general security allocation of 2% of entitlement. The increment tops-up the total account volume to 702 gigalitres (GL), or an average of about 138% of entitlement.

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) is also topped-up to 88.46 GL, just short of its 90 GL maximum limit.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 January 2023. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security Allocation	General Security Average Account Balance
Gwydir Regulated River	273%	approx. 138%*

* Maximum allowable is 150%.

Dam levels (as of 7 February 2023)

Copeton Dam is about 88% full – falling - holding about 1,200 GL. This time last year, Copeton Dam was about 96% full.

Key information

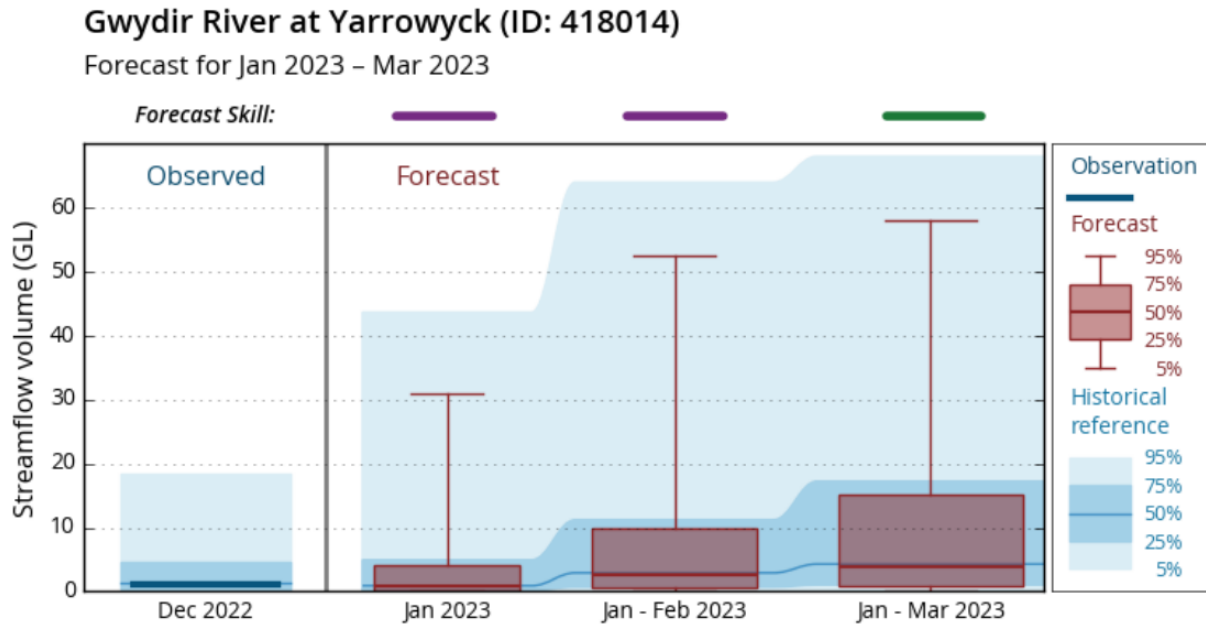
- Rainfall in January 2023 was average to below average across the Gwydir catchment.
- Inflow volume into Copeton Dam in January 2023 was about 12 GL, and the downstream tributary inflow volume was about 8 GL.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in January.
- Supplementary access diversion to the end of January has been about 15 GL, which is about 8% of the total volume allocated to supplementary entitlements in 2022/23.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April shows no clear indication of either wetter than median or drier than median conditions in terms of rainfall for the Gwydir catchment. Maximum temperatures also show no clear indication of either warmer than median or cooler than median temperatures in the catchment during the next three months. Minimum temperatures show generally slightly warmer than median temperatures in the catchment 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. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from January to March are slightly lower than the historical quantile references, indicating a likely shift to lower inflows. The graph to March 2023 is shown below and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014



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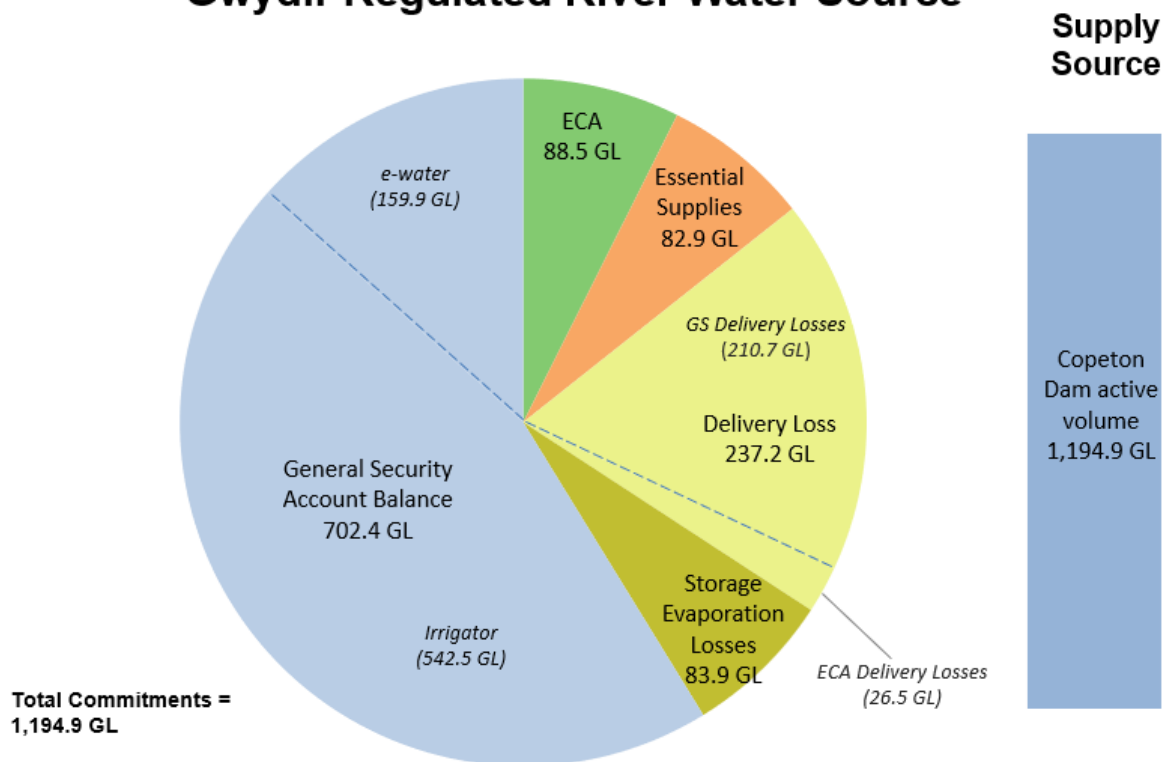
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 January 2023)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,194.9
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	83.9
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	88.5
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	210.7
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	26.5
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	542.5
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	0.0

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. Note: airspace releases for flood mitigation purposes are accounted as losses.
- ⁽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⁾ There is no resource deficit. The system is secure for the next 24 months.

Resource Distribution as at 31 January 2023 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 31 January 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	83.87	86.01	-2.14	83.87
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	80.34	2.56	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	210.72	213.06	-2.34	210.72
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	26.54	26.51	0.03	26.54
ECA (90 GL max)		87.89	0.57	88.46
General Security (764.5 GL max)		695.97	6.42	702.39
Additional Resource for Sharing		5.08	-5.08	0.00
Total		1,194.87	0.00	1,194.87

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	6.42	GL
Available Water Determination	0.02	ML per unit share

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	approx. 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%*
7-Dec	General Security	0.16 ML/unit share	2.60 ML/unit share	approx. 150%*
12-Jan	General Security	0.11 ML/unit share	2.71 ML/unit share	approx. 149%
7-Feb	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	2.73 ML/unit share	approx. 138%

* 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

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Tuesday 7 March 2023**.

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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