

7 May 2021

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source


Water allocation update

General security allocation has **increased by 2.3%** of entitlement in the regulated Gwydir river system on the back of minor resource improvements since the last assessment. This brings the total general security allocation to 57.1% of entitlement for the 2020-21 water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) also increases by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Rainfall in April was about average in the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received about 30 mm of rainfall. Inflow into the storage in April was about 20 gigalitres (GL) and downstream tributary flow was about 29 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 April 2021. Any Copeton Dam volume increases since that date will be captured in the June allocation statement.

Current allocations

2020/21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	57.1%	 Stage 1

Resource outlook for 2021/22

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including local water utilities, environmental and basic landholder rights are secure for the 2021/22 water year.
- High priority licence holders including Local Water Utilities, Domestic and Stock, and High Security water access licenses can expect full (100 per cent) allocations on 1 July.
- Delivery of water held in general security accounts will be fully deliverable next water year.
- Where growth in use in a water source exceeds long term extraction limits, it may be addressed by implementing provisions as identified in the Water Sharing Plan. Details of any Gwydir growth in use actions for 2021/22 will be provided in the June water allocation statement.

Dam levels (as at 6th May 2021)

Copeton Dam is about 41% full – steady – currently holding about 567 GL. This time last year the storage was 13% full.

Key information

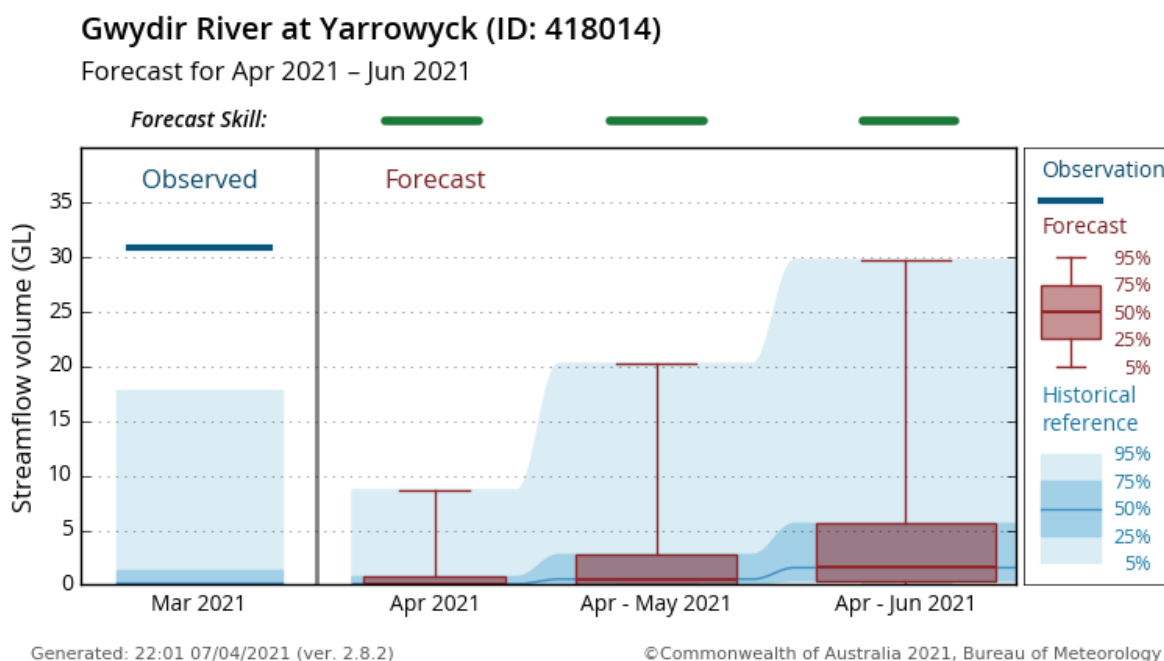
- Inflow into the storage was about 20 gigalitres (GL) in April. Any improvement since April will be included in the next assessment.
- Releases from Copeton dam were about 0.9 GL. Total essential supply demand was about 1.2 GL. There was no General Security or ECA demand in April.

- There were no transfers from High Security accounts to General Security accounts.

Seasonal climate and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for May to July indicates that rainfall is likely to be around or above average across the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

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. The forecast total flow distribution from April to June is about same as the historical flow distribution indicating no clear trend away from historical flow patterns.



Further information

The next water allocation statement will be published on **Monday 7 June 2021**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

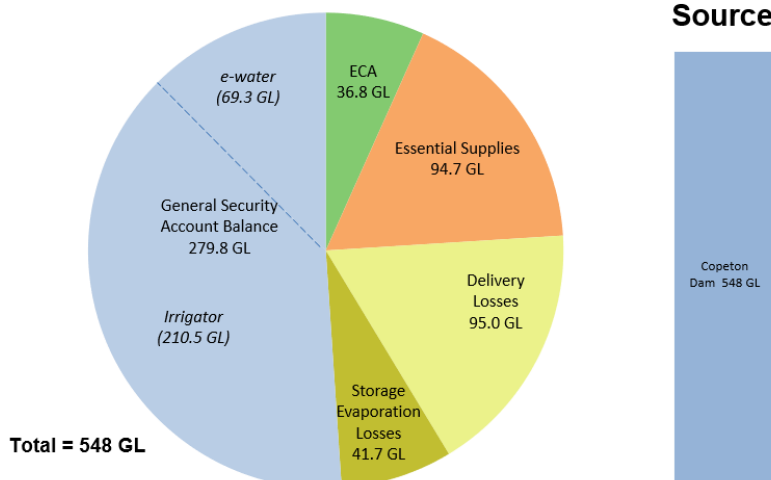
Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 30 th April 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	548.0
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	41.7
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	94.7
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	36.8
Delivery Losses ⁽³⁾	95.0
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	69.3
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	210.5

Notes:

- (1) Storage Losses – evaporation 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 Towns, Stock, 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 to storage.
- (3) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – The reporting of held environmental water is indicative only. General Security HEW account balance estimated to be 69.3 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 1.3 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).

**Resource Distribution as at 30 April 2021
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source**



Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Assessment as at 30 April 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss for next 24 months	41.64	40.89	0.75	41.64
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	92.86	1.86	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	95.00	91.19	3.81	95.00
ECA (90 GL max)	-	35.78	1.03	36.80
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	268.20	11.66	279.86
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	19.11	-19.11	0.00
Total	-	548.03	0.00	548.03

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	11.66	GL
Available Water Determination	0.023	ML per unit share

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