

7 June 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There was sufficient resource improvement in May to again top-up general security water accounts to their maximum limit of 150% of entitlement.

The resource assessment shows that this can be achieved with just 23.4 gigalitres (GL), but requires an allocation of 1.029 megalitres per unit share (ML/unit share). Note: once an account is full it does not benefit from addition allocation.

The environmental contingency allowance (ECA) is full at 90,000 ML of water with no increment possible this time.

Rainfall in May was above average across the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received about 90 mm of rainfall in May and corresponding inflows totalled about 48 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 May 2022. Any changes in resources since that date will be captured in the July allocation statement.

Resource outlook for 2022/23

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including local water utility, are secure for the 2022/23 water year.
- High priority water access licence holders including **local water utility, stock and domestic** and **high security** can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- The department is on track to implement the amendments to the water sharing plan for the Gwydir regulated water sharing plan that includes rules for the take of Floodplain Harvesting Water. This would result in an opening allocation for **supplementary** entitlement holders of 100%. However, if the amendment orders are delayed beyond 30 June, the department will again be required to implement a growth in use response. This would result in a reduced opening allocation for supplementary entitlement holders. The situation is being monitored and will be updated in the July water allocation statement. Supplementary access licence holders are reminded that use of this water is only available during announced supplementary access events.
- Water held in **general security** accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward in full into new water year. The maximum volume that may be held at any time is 1.5 ML/share (or 150% of entitlement).
- Water held in general security accounts is expected to be fully deliverable in 2022/23.

Dam levels (as of 6 June 2022)

Copeton Dam is 98.8% full and holding 1,345 GL. This time last year, the dam was about 42% full.

Key information

- Inflow into Copeton Dam in May 2022 was about 47.9 GL and downstream tributary flow contributed was about 15.6 GL.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 12.5 GL in May. Total essential supply demand was 0.6 GL, general security usage was 29.6 GL and there was no ECA usage in May.
- 5.9 GL was transferred from high security to general security accounts in May.
- Supplementary water usage has been about 54.3 GL this water year, out of the 90.7 GL allocated to supplementary access water users this year.

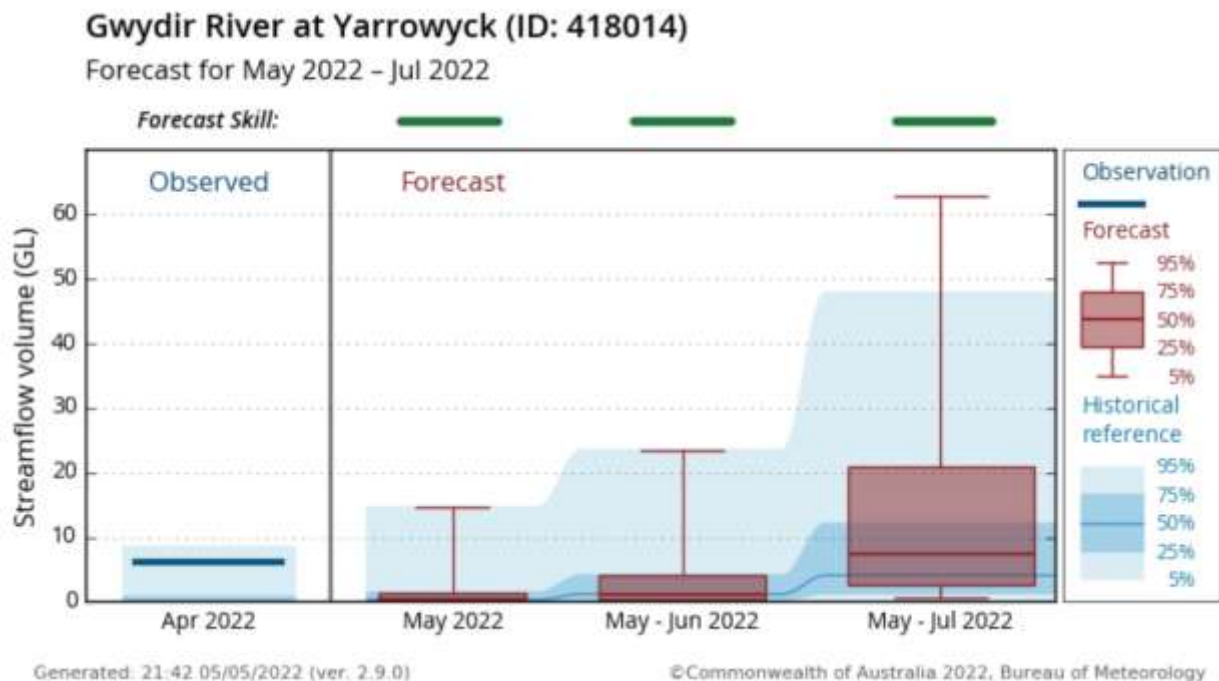
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for June to August indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median for the Gwydir catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be below median and minimum temperatures are likely to be above median for the catchment during the same period.

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. The forecast total median flow volume from May to July is higher than the historical flow distribution indicating more flow than usual is likely.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014



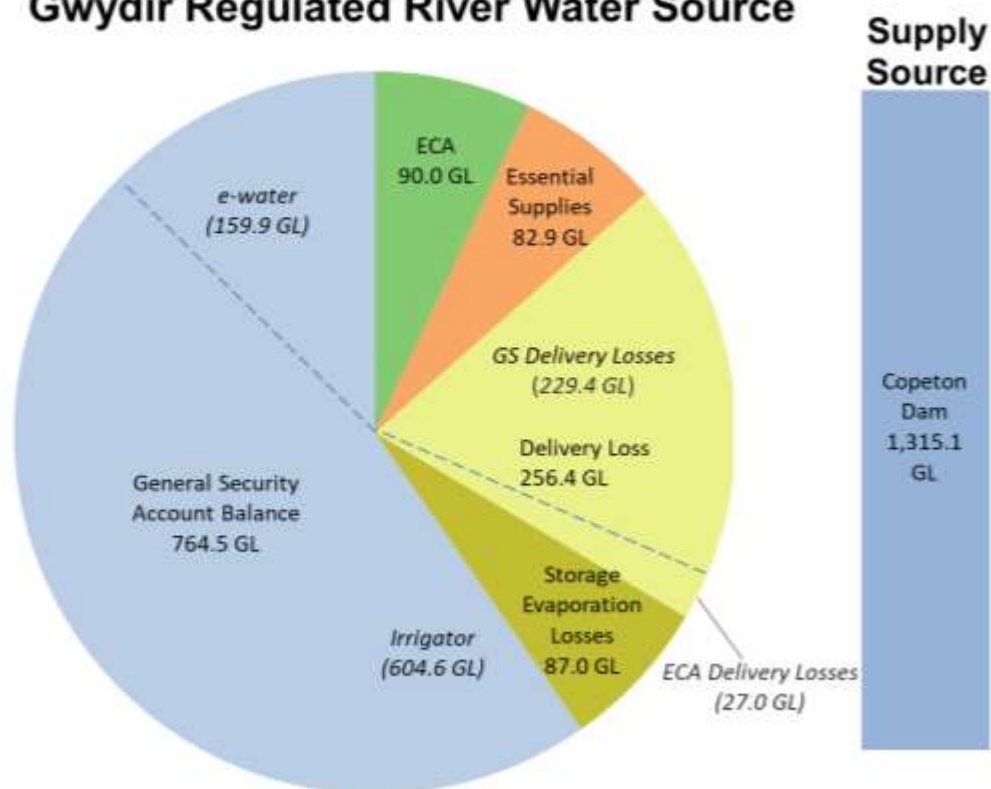
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 May 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,315.1
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	87.0
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	229.4
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	604.6
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	34.3

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.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Held environmental water (HEW): the reporting of held environmental water is indicative only. General security HEW account balance estimated to be 159.9 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 4.4 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⁾ The available water resource has been fully allocated, with a surplus of 34.3 GL. The system is secure for the next 24 months and beyond.

Resource Distribution as at 31 May 2022 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Total Commitments = 1,280.8 GL

Resource assessment as at 31 May 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	87.04	86.22	0.82	87.04
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	74.58	8.32	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	229.35	231.12	-1.77 ⁽¹⁾	229.35
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)		740.83	23.66 ⁽²⁾	764.50
Additional Resource for Sharing		65.30	-31.02	34.27
Total		1,315.06	0.00	1,315.06

(1) By transferring 5.9 GL from HS to GS and accounting 0.3 of 5.9 GL for delivery loss, the delivery loss account balance exceeded the maximum limit. This value is used to adjust the delivery loss account balance to be at maximum limit.

(2) 23.66 GL is available to allocate to GS, only 23.36 GL is required to fill all accounts to their maximum limit.

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	23.36	GL
Available Water Determination	1.029	ML per unit share

Allocations in 2021/22

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2021/22	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	0.50	0.50	
7-Jul	General Security	0.111	0.111	67.6%
6-Aug		0.295	0.406	97.2%
7-Sep		0.287	0.693	125.9%
8-Oct		0.043	0.736	130.3%
5-Nov		0.048	0.784	135.0%
7-Dec		0.400	1.184	150.0%*
13-Jan		0.420	1.604	150.0%*
7-Feb		1.030	2.634	150.0%*
7-Mar		0.086	2.720	145.4%
7-Apr		0.122	2.842	147.3%
6-May		1.291	4.133	150.0%*
7-Jun		1.029	5.162	150.0%*

*Maximum allowable

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Gwydir regulated river water source 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 **Thursday 7 July 2022**.

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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