

7 December 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There has been enough resource improvement and general security usage in November to allow for a 16% increase to general security water entitlements in the Gwydir regulated river water source.

The general security account balance is approximately 150% of entitlement, which is the maximum account limit.

The environmental contingency allowance (ECA) is at its maximum 90 gigalitres (GL) account balance.

Rainfall in November 2022 was about average across the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received about 39 mm of rainfall in November, and corresponding storage inflows totalled about 125 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 November 2022. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next allocation statement.

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security AWDs	General Security Account Balance
Gwydir Regulated River	260%	~150%*

* Maximum allowable.

Dam levels (as of 6 December 2022)

Copeton Dam is 97% full and holding about 1,325 GL. This time last year, Copeton Dam was about 99% full.

Key information

- Inflow volume into Copeton Dam in November 2022 was about 125 GL, and the downstream tributary inflow volume was about 54 GL.
- Releases from Copeton Dam totalled about 102 GL in November, mainly for airspace operation and flood management.
- Essential supply and general security usage was just 1.7 GL and 3.8 GL respectively in November.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in November.
- Supplementary usage for the current water year to the end of November has been about 13.9 GL, which is about 7.6% of the total supplementary entitlement.

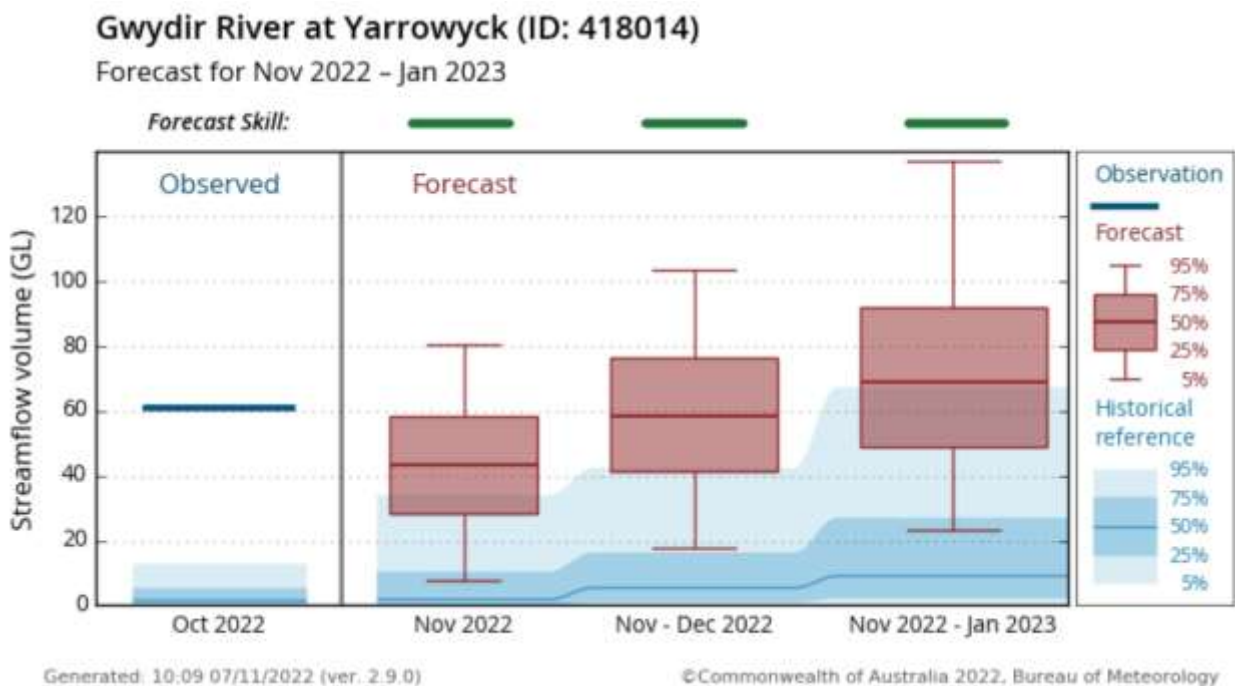
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for December 2022 to February 2023 shows rainfall is likely to be about or below the median for the Gwydir catchment. Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be below the median temperatures 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. The forecast of the total median flow volume from November 2022 to January 2023 is higher than the historical median flow volume for the same period, indicating more than usual flow volume is likely.

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



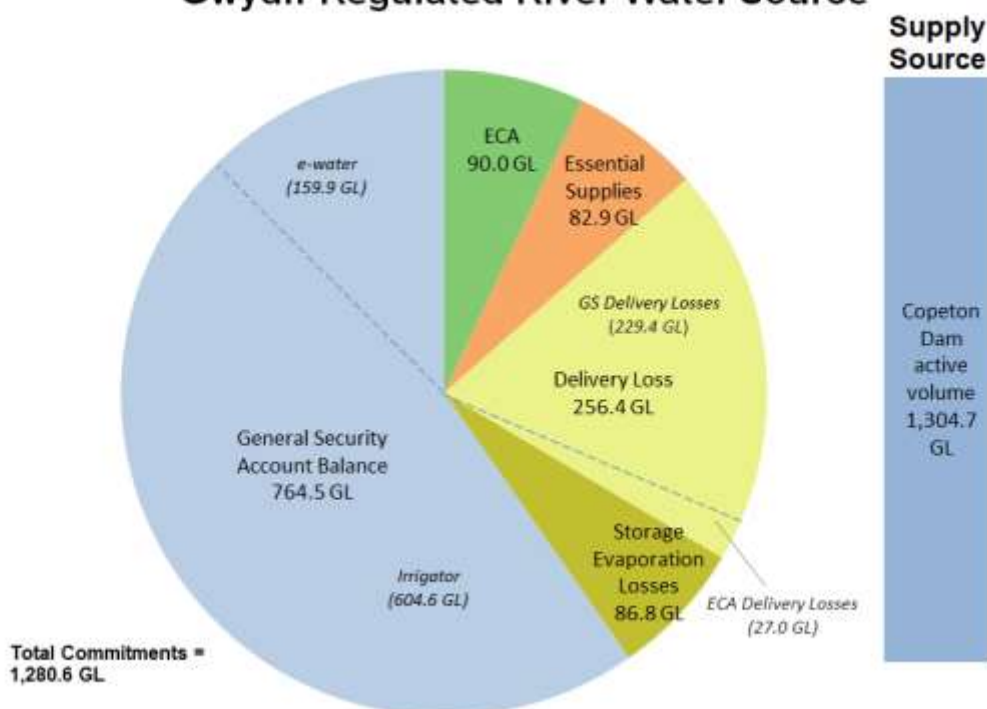
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 30 November 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,304.7
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	86.8
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
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	24.1

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 a surplus of 24.1 GL. The system is secure for the next 24 months and beyond.

Resource Distribution as at 30 November 2022 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 30 November 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	86.79	86.36	0.44	86.79
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	52.17	30.73*	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	229.35	162.03	67.32*	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)		760.65	3.84	764.50
Additional Resource for Sharing		126.47	-102.33	24.15
Total		1,304.69	0.00	1,304.69

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	3.84	GL
Available Water Determination	0.16	ML per unit share

* Refer to Note (3) above.

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	~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	~150%*

* 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 **Thursday 12 January 2023**. Note: this is about one week later than usual due to the holiday season.

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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