

7 August 2023

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

Resource improvement in the Gwydir regulated system in July allows for an increase in general security allocation of 3% of entitlement. Water currently assigned to general security accounts totals 730 gigalitres (GL), which is an average of 143% of entitlement.

The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) usually increases by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan. However, as the ECA account balance is full, holding 90 GL, there no scope for a further increase this time.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 July 2023. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in September.

Current allocation

7 August 2023	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance *
General security	3%	143%
ECA		100%

* Maximum allowable: 150% for General security and 100% for ECA.

Dam levels (as of 7 August 2023)

Copeton Dam is about 92% full, holding about 1,250 GL.

This time last year, Copeton Dam was about 99% full.

Key information

- All licence holders, except general security, have received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2023.
- Supplementary and floodplain harvesting licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Inflow volume into Copeton Dam in July was about 8 GL, and the downstream tributary inflow volume was about 4 GL.
- As a result of some system inflows, including to Copeton Dam, and continued deliveries with less than budgeted delivery loss, an additional volume is available for distribution to general security accounts

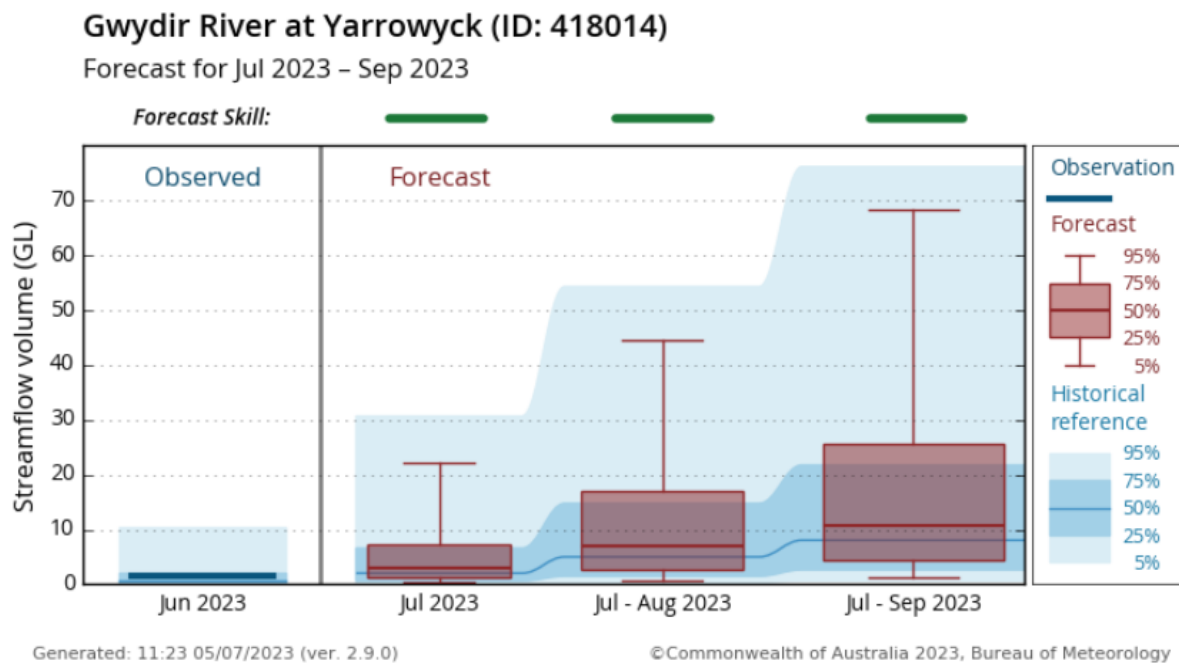
Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for the Gwydir catchment for August to October shows that ‘below median rainfall is likely to very likely’.

Maximum temperatures are at least twice as likely to reach unusually high maximum temperatures for the August to October period. Minimum temperatures for the same period show indication of above median conditions.

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 the coming months. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes for period from July to September – except one - are above the historical quantile references, indicating likely higher inflows than historical conditions. The graph shown below, and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014



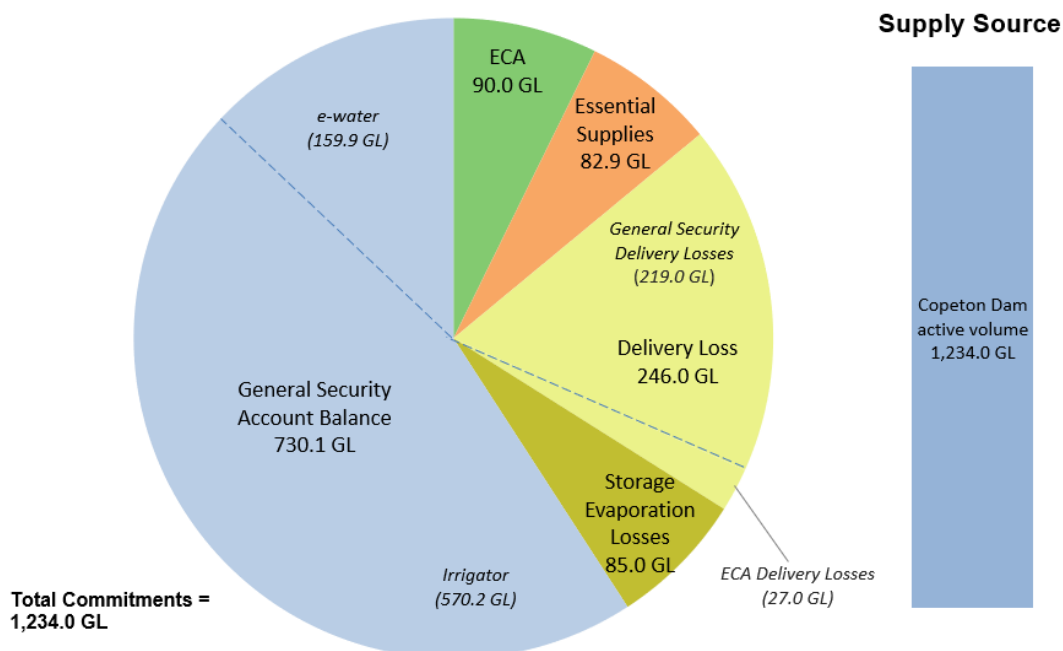
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 July 2023)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,234.0
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	85.0
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss General Security ⁽³⁾	219.0
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	570.2
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	0.0

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Storage evaporation losses are based on forecast surface area and max 24 month historical evaporation.
- ⁽²⁾ This reserve of essential supplies reflects water required 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.
- ⁽³⁾ This volume reflects the water needed to deliver general security and ECA water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system.
- ⁽⁴⁾ General security held environmental water (HEW) account balance is estimated to be 159.9 GL, and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 4.51 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⁾ All available resources are allocated in this assessment meaning no resource surplus or deficit this time.

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



Resource assessment as at 31 July 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	85.0	84.9	0.1	85.0
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	82.0	0.9	82.9
Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)	219.0	217.9	1.1	219.0
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)		719.9	10.2	730.1
Additional Resource for Sharing		12.4	-12.4	0.0
Total		1,234.1	0.00	1,234.1

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	10.2	GL
Available Water Determination	0.03	ML per unit share

Allocations in 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment
1-Jul	LWU, Domestic & Stock	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share*
7-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share
7-Aug	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share

* Maximum allowable.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water 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 water allocation information for this water source will be published on **Thursday, 7 September 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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