

7 July 2023

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

The resource assessment to the end of June provides no increase in allocation to general security licences in the regulated Gwydir water source. Water currently assigned to general security accounts totals 726.4 gigalitres (GL), which is an average of 142.5% of entitlement. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) account balance is currently at 90 GL, its maximum limit.

This resource assessment is based on information to 30 June 2023. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in August.

## Current allocation

2023/24	Current Allocation	Average Account Balance
General security	0%	142.5%
ECA	0%	90 GL

## Dam levels (as of 6 July 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.
- The water held general security accounts, about 726 megalitres (ML), has been carried forward in full for use in this 2023/24 water year.
- Supplementary and floodplain harvesting licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Inflow volume into Copeton Dam in June was about 6 GL, and the downstream tributary inflow volume was about 4 GL.
- In June, some 6 GL of water was transferred from high security to general security accounts.

## Summary of last water year (2022/23)

Last year continued with generally wet conditions keeping Copeton storage, on average, nearly 95% full. The storage was full in July, August and September 2022, then dipped to 85% in March 2023 its lowest for the year but has risen to be now about 92% full.

General security users started last year (2022/23) with 755 GL in accounts including an allocation of 1.03 ML/unit share in July 2022. The year saw 10 allocation increments with a closing balance of 726 GL or an average 142.5% of the entitlement in accounts.

Supplementary access water users started last year with a reduced 0.21 ML/unit share allocation which was increased to its maximum (100%) by 15 August 2022. At the same time, floodplain harvesting licenses were issued with a maximum (100%) allocation.

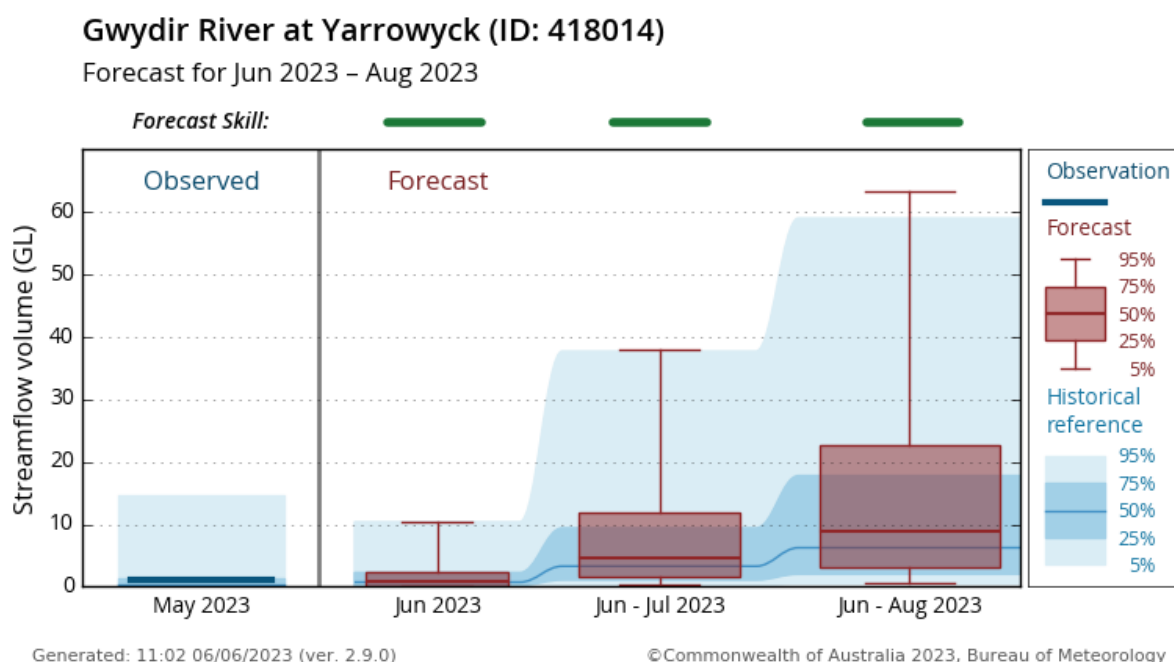
General security and supplementary water usage was approximately 235 GL and 29 GL respectively in 2022/23.

## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for August to October shows below median rainfall for the Gwydir catchment is likely. Maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the August to October period. Minimum temperatures for the same period show indication of warmer than median conditions.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://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 from June to August are above the historical quantile references, indicating higher inflows than historical conditions. The graph to August 2023 is shown below and updates can be found at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014)



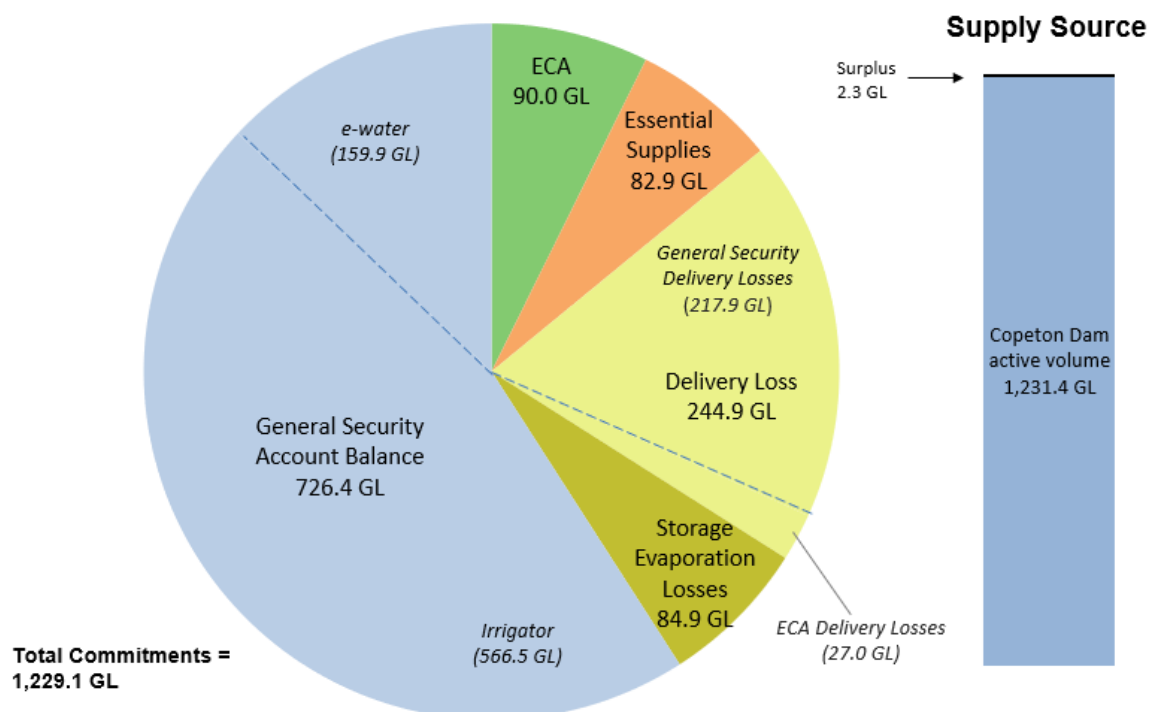
## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 May 2023)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,231.4
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(1)</sup>	84.9
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss General Security <sup>(3)</sup>	217.9
Delivery Loss ECA <sup>(3)</sup>	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	566.5
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	2.3

### Notes:

- <sup>(1)</sup> Storage evaporation losses is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Essential Supplies budget of 82.9 GL. This account reflects 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.
- <sup>(3)</sup> Delivery Losses for general security (budget of 217.9 GL) and ECA (budget of 27 GL). 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. This time the general security delivery loss account balance is 217.9 GL which is on target.
- <sup>(4)</sup> 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 1.25 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).
- <sup>(5)</sup> There is a small resource surplus that is insufficient for an allocation increase this time.

## Resource Distribution as at 30 June 2023 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



### Resource assessment as at 30 June 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	84.91	85.22	-0.30	84.91
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	72.78	10.12	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	217.91	222.36	-4.44	217.91
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)		726.38	0.00	726.38
Additional Resource for Sharing		7.68	-5.37	2.31
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,231.41</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,231.41</b>

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.00	ML per unit share

## Allocations in 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
1-Jul	LWU, Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share
1-Jul	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share
7-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 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](http://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 **Monday, 7 August 2023**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

You can also follow the department on Twitter: @NSWDPIE\_Water

Feedback on this work or any aspect of the department's service can be provided using the widget at: [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/contact](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/contact).