

7 August 2024

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security (GS) licences in the Gwydir regulated river water source have received an **allocation of 9%** of their entitlement. Likewise, the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) has been credited by same ratio up to their maximum allowable balance.

Since the last assessment, inflows into the Copeton Dam have been significant. In July, inflows were 57.5 gigalitres (GL), which yielded the allocation increment announced today. Downstream tributary inflows added about another 22.1 GL to the system.

Total essential supply demand was about 1 GL, and general security usage was approximately 0.1 GL. There were no EWA orders in July.

Water currently available to GS water users totals 508.3 GL, or an average 100% of entitlement. The Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) account balance is about 90 GL or about 200% full.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 July 2024. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in September 2024.

Current GS allocation and EWA credit

7 August 2024	Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	9%	100%
EWA	9%	200%*

*the maximum allowable balance

Storage levels (as of 5 August 2024)

- Copeton Dam is about 70% full – holding 964 gigalitres (GL).

Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

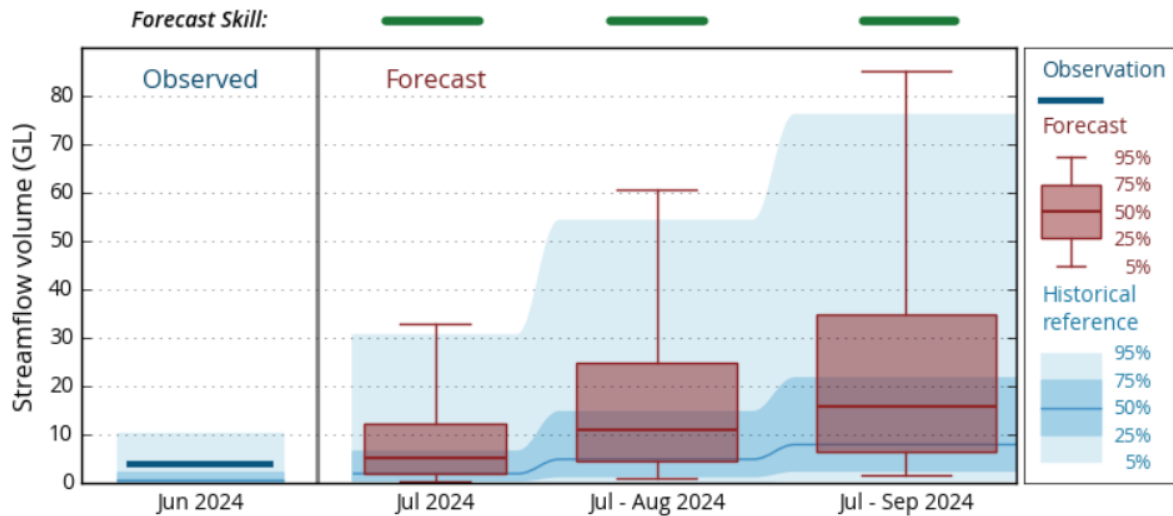
The latest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for August to October 2024 indicates rainfall in the Gwydir valley is likely to be around median value. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be above median over this period.

For further details: [Climate outlooks](#)

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 July to September 2024 are higher than the historical flows indicating likely wetter condition than historical over this period. The graph for July to September 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014>

Gwydir River at Yarrowyck (ID: 418014)

Forecast for Jul 2024 – Sep 2024



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Resource Assessment Data Sheet

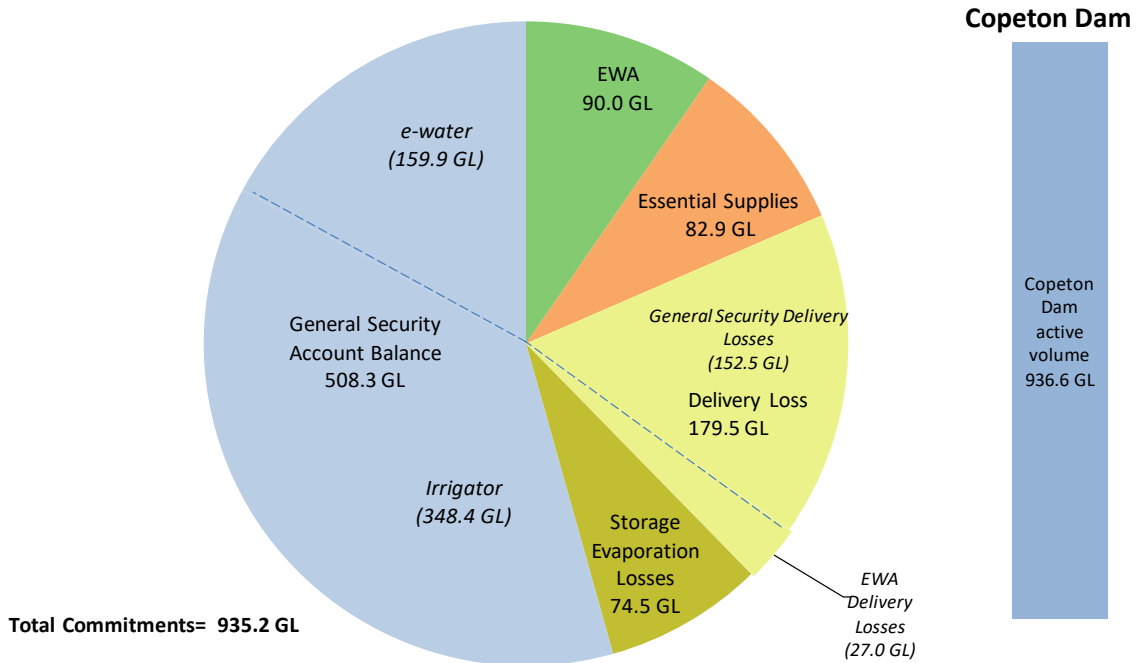
Resource distribution (as of 31 July 2024)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	936.6
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	74.5
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Water Allowance	90.0
Delivery Loss General Security ⁽³⁾	152.5
Delivery Loss EWA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	348.4
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus ⁽⁵⁾	1.4

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Storage evaporation loss is based on projected storage depletion over the next 24 months and experiencing high evaporation of February 1918 to January 1920.
- ⁽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. This is offset by the minimum inflow into Copeton recorded over February 1918 to January 1920.
- ⁽³⁾ This volume reflects the water needed to deliver general security and EWA water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. See the table below on this statement for the actual volume remaining in the budget, which may be lower.
- ⁽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 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⁾ The resource assessment returns a small surplus after allocation. This volume will be rolled over to next month’s resource assessment.

Resource Distribution as at 31 July 2024 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 31 July 2024

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	74.5	72	2.5	74.5
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	79.9	3.0	82.9
Delivery Loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	179.5	168.1	11.4	179.5
Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)	152.5	141.4	11.1	152.5
Delivery Loss EWA (27 GL max)	27.0	26.7	0.3	27.0
EWA (90 GL max)		89.0	1.0	90.0
General Security (764.5 GL max)		471.1	37.3	508.3
Uncommitted resources		56.6	-55.2	1.4
Total		936.6	0.0	936.6

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	37.3	GL
Available Water Determination	0.09	ML /unit share

Allocations and EWA credits in 2024/25

Date	Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	Account Balance
1-Jul	LWU, Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
5-Jul	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.01 ML/unit share	92%
5-Jul	EWA	1%	1%	199%
7-Aug	General Security	0.09 ML/unit share	0.10 ML/unit share	100%
7-Aug	EWA	9%	10%	200%*

* Maximum allowable.

Storage volume prediction

Storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current commitments and an assumed repeat of historical minimum inflows and median inflows together with forecast demands, the volume in Copeton Dam will reduce to a minimum by the end of May 2026 after which recovery would be expected.

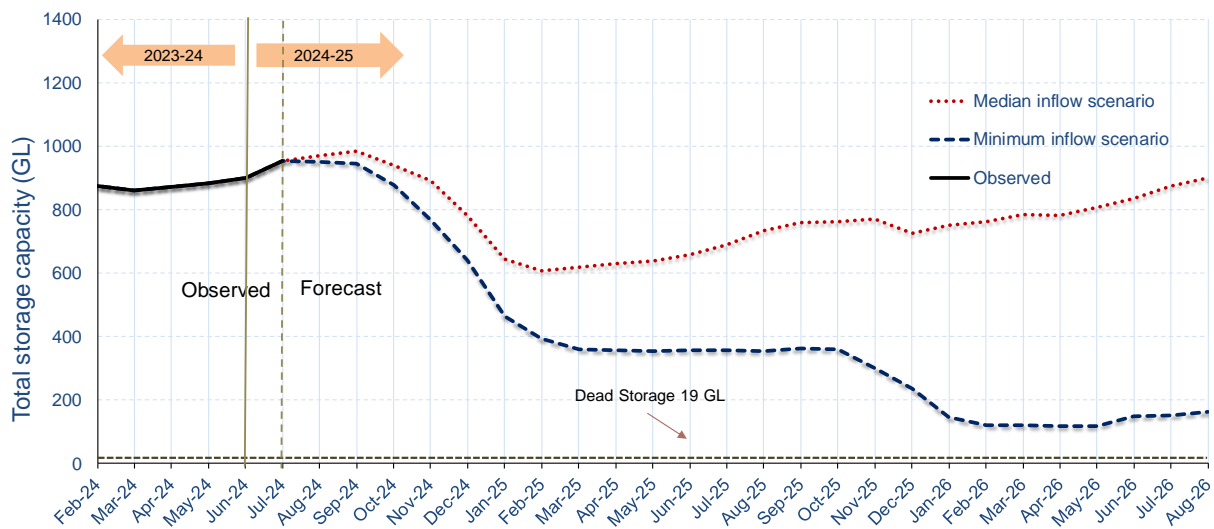


Figure: Simulated depletion of Copeton Dam storage volume

Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is

available at the following link: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process>

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Friday 6 September 2024**.

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

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