

7 April 2025

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

There is no allocation increment to General Security (GS) licences in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source this time. The GS account balance is about 339 gigalitres (GL), or about an average of 67% of entitlement. The Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) account balance is about 82 GL or an average 181% of entitlement.

Inflows since the last assessment have not been enough to increase GS allocations. This resource assessment is based on information to 31 March 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

## Current allocation and EWA credit

7 April 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General Security	0%	67%
EWA	0%	181%

## Storage volume (as of 7 April 2025)

- Copeton Dam is about 52% full – holding about 718 GL.

## Key information

- In March, inflows to Copeton Dam were 5 GL, and downstream tributary inflows added about another 37.4 GL to the system.
- During March, total essential supply was about 1.54 GL, and GS usage was approximately 0.467 GL. Around 2.8 GL of EWA delivered during this period.

## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The latest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) monthly outlook for May 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be below median across the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be above median over this period. For further details: [Overview – Summary - Climate Outlooks](#)

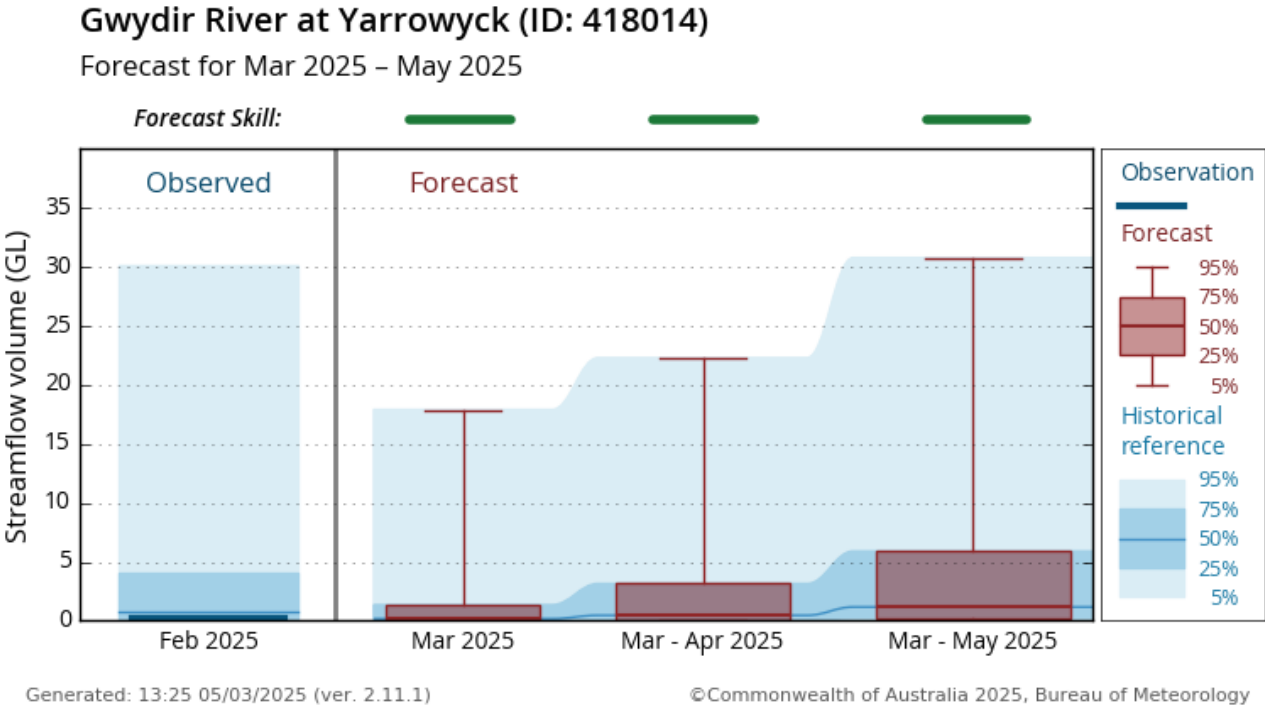
The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Gwydir River at Yarrowyck, upstream of Copeton Dam (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows

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into the dam in the coming months. Most of the forecast quantiles are around or close to the historical flows from March to May 2025, suggesting a neutral outlook with no strong indication of significantly wetter or drier conditions. The graph for March to May 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology \(bom.gov.au\)](#)



## Resource assessment data sheet

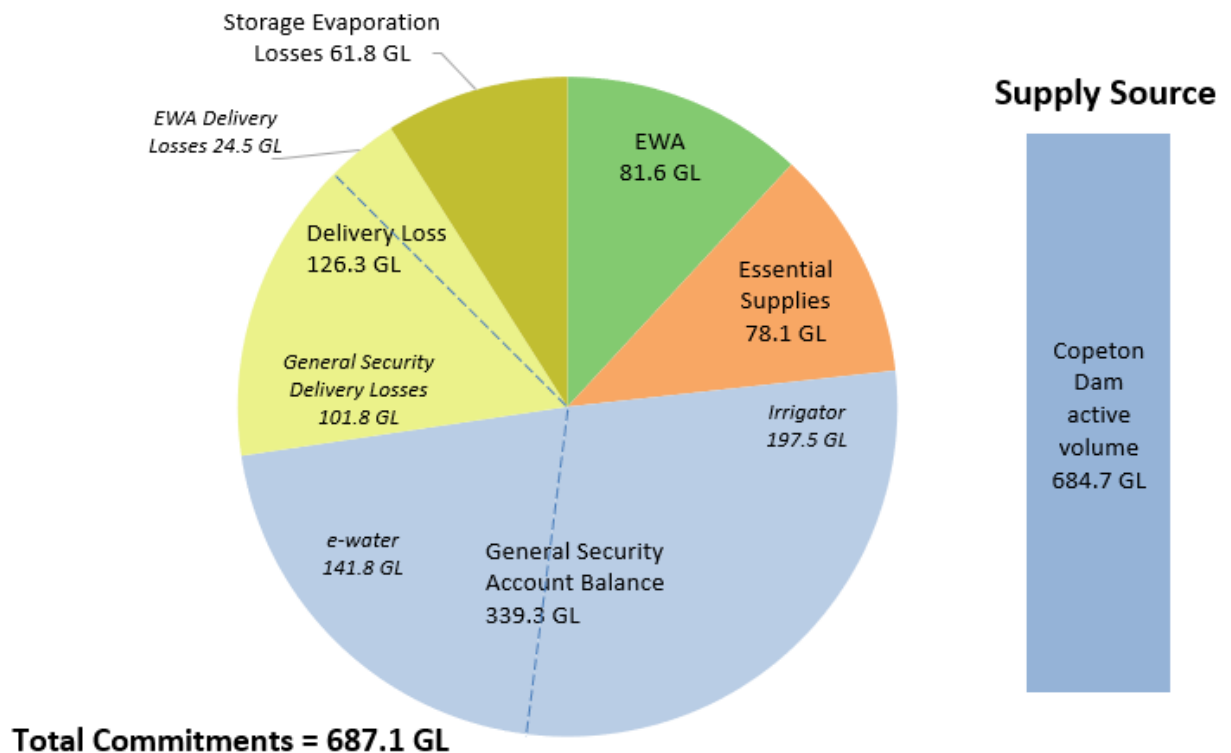
Resource distribution (as of 31 March 2025)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	684.7
less	
Environmental Water Allowance	81.6
Essential Supplies <sup>(1)</sup>	78.1
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	197.5
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance <sup>(2)</sup>	141.8
Delivery Loss General Security <sup>(3)</sup>	101.8
Delivery Loss EWA <sup>(3)</sup>	24.5
Storage Evaporation Losses <sup>(4)</sup>	61.8
equals	
Surplus (or Deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	(2.4)

Notes:

- (1) This is a reserve to provide for local water utility, stock and domestic, high security and riverine environments for the next 24 months. It also includes stock and domestic replenishments, associated delivery loss, and end-of-system flow requirements. This is offset by the minimum inflow into Copeton recorded over February 1918 to January 1920. *The full reserve is 82.9 GL. The current balance is 78.1 GL and will be topped up first from the next inflows.*
- (2) General security held environmental water (HEW) account balance. 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).
- (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) Storage evaporation loss is based on projected storage depletion over the next 24 months and experiencing high evaporation of February 1918 to January 1920.
- (5) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. The deficit is mainly at delivery loss budget, which is being closely monitored.

## Resource Distribution as at 31 March 2025

### Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



## Resource assessment as of 31 March 2025

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	61.8	62.3	-0.5	61.8
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	76.6	1.5	78.1
Delivery Loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	126.3	123.9	0.0	123.9
<i>Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)</i>	<i>101.8</i>	<i>101.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>101.5</i>
<i>Delivery Loss EWA (27 GL max)</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>22.4</i>
EWA (90 GL max)		81.6	0.0	81.6
General Security (764.5 GL max)		339.3	0.0	339.3
Uncommitted resources		1.0	-1.0	0.0
Total		684.7	0.0	684.7

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

## Water allocation 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%*
6-Sep	General Security	0.11 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share	108%
6-Sep	EWA	11%	21%	200%*
8-Oct	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.24 ML/unit share	110%
8-Oct	EWA	3%	24%	186%
7-Nov	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.27 ML/unit share	106%
7-Nov	EWA	3%	27%	188%
6-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.28 ML/unit share	101%

Date	Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	Account Balance
6-Dec	EWA	1%	28%	189%
9-Jan	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.31 ML/unit share	91%
9-Jan	EWA	3%	31%	192%
7-Feb	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.32 ML/unit share	74%
7-Feb	EWA	1%	32%	193%

\* Maximum allowable.

## Storage volume simulation

Storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current commitments and an assumed repeat of historical minimum inflows or median inflows together with forecast demands, the volume in Copeton Dam will reduce to a minimum by the end of January 2027 then begin to recover by February 2027.

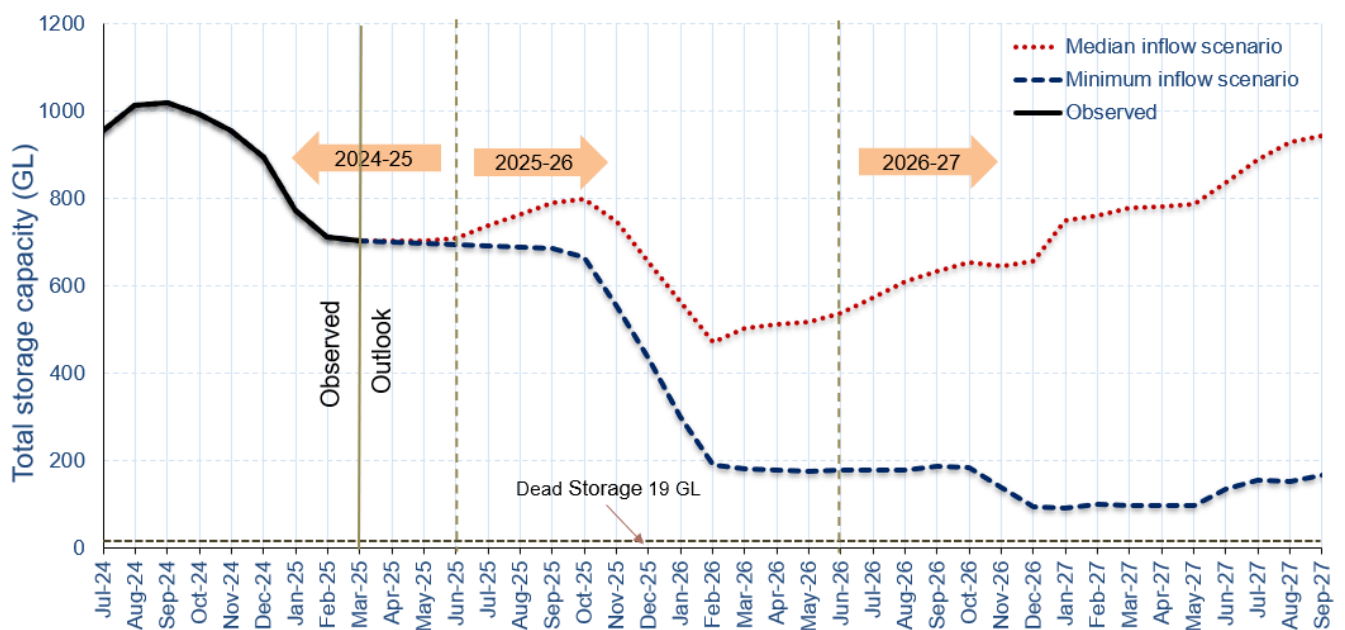


Figure: Simulated of Copeton Dam storage volume

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## 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: [Resource assessment process | NSW Government Water](#)

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## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Wednesday 7 May 2025**.

*Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [NSW Government Water](#).*

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