

7 June 2021

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source


Water allocation update

General security allocation has increased by 0.9% of entitlement in the regulated Gwydir river system on the back of minor resource improvements since the last assessment. This brings the total general security allocation to 58% of entitlement for the 2020-21 water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) also increases by the same percentage in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Rainfall in May was about average in the Gwydir catchment. Copeton Dam received about 28 mm of rainfall. Inflow into the storage in May was about 11 gigalitres (GL) and downstream tributary flow was about 5 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 May 2021. Any Copeton Dam volume increases since that date will be captured in the July allocation statement.

Current allocations

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	58.0%	 Stage 1

Resource outlook for 2021-22

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including local water utilities, environmental and basic landholder rights, are secure for the 2021-22 water year.
- High priority licence holders including Local Water Utilities, Domestic and Stock, and High Security water access licenses, can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- Water held in general security accounts is accrued on a continuous basis and will be carried forward in full into 2021-22, up to the maximum volume that may be held in the accounts at any time which is 1.5 megalitres per unit share (ML/share).
- Supplementary water users are likely to get a reduced allocation of 0.5 ML/share next water year. This results from the implementation of growth in use requirements under the water sharing plan. Supplementary access licence holders are reminded that use of this water is only available during announced supplementary access events.

Details about the growth in use identified and required management strategy can be found at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/faqs

Dam levels (as at 7 June 2021)

Copeton Dam is 41.8% full – steady –holding about 579 gigalitres (GL). This time last year the storage was just 15% full.

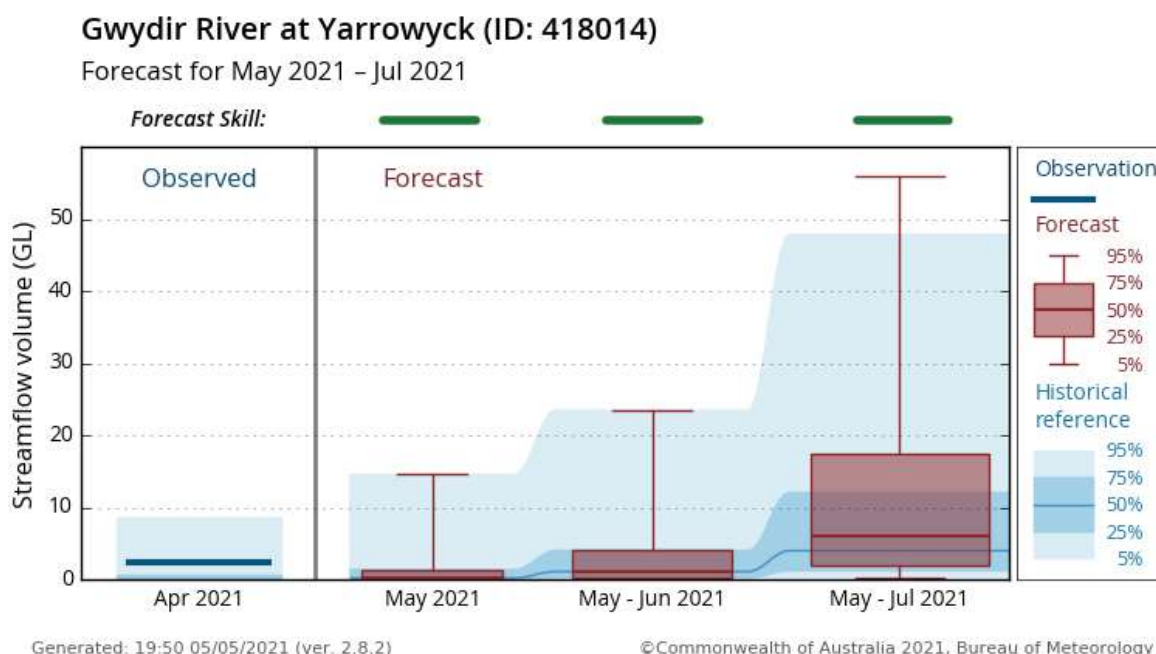
Key information

- Inflow into the storage was about 11 GL in May. Any improvement in June will be included in the next assessment.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were low, at about 0.9 GL. Total essential supply demand was about 1.0 GL. There was no General Security or ECA usage in May.
- There was 1.3 GL transferred from High Security to General Security accounts.

Seasonal climate and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for winter indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Both daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be above average for winter.

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. All forecast quartiles of total flow volume from May to July are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating wetter than the historical conditions.



Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/

Further information

The state-wide opening water allocation statement will be published on Thursday 1 July.

Monthly water allocation statements for the new 2021-22 water year for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will commence on **Wednesday 7 July 2021**.

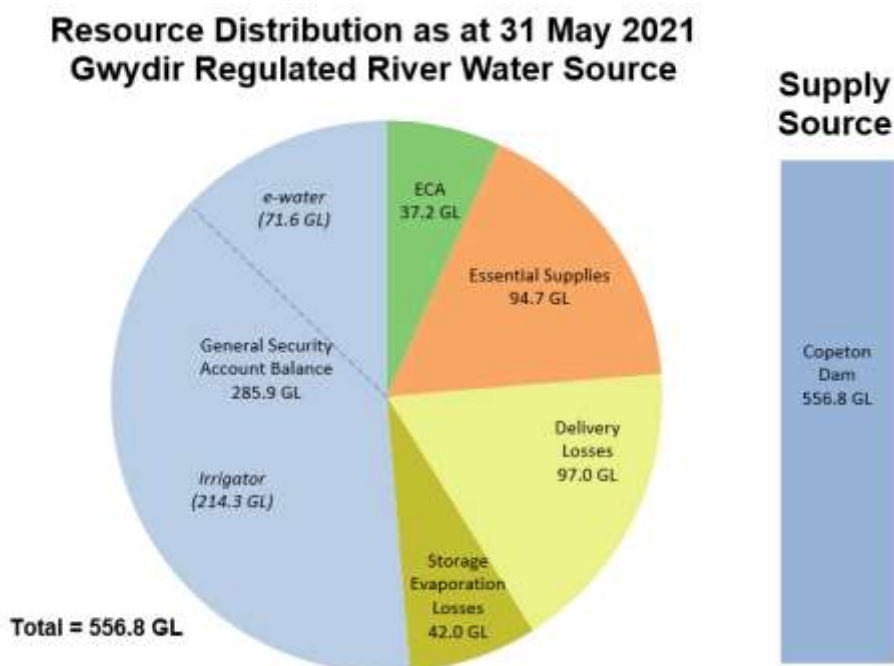
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 st May 2021)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	556.8
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	42.0
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	94.7
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	37.2
Delivery Losses ⁽³⁾	97.0
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	71.6
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	214.3

Notes:

- (1) Storage Losses – evaporation 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 Towns, Stock, 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 to storage.
- (3) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – The reporting of held environmental water is indicative only. General Security HEW account balance estimated to be 71.6 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 0 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).



Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource assessment as at 31 May 2021

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss for next 24 months	42.02	41.64	0.38	42.02
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	91.27	3.45	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	95.00	95.37	1.57	96.95
ECA (90 GL max)	-	36.80	0.42	37.23
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	281.11	4.81	285.92
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	10.63	-10.63	0.00
Total	-	556.83	0.00	556.83

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	4.81	GL
Available Water Determination	0.009	ML per unit share

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