

7 February 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is an increase to general security water allocations in the Gwydir regulated river water source of 1.03 megalitres per unit share or 103% of general security entitlement. This brings the total cumulative allocation to general security licences in the valley to 263.4% of entitlement for the 2021-22 water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) is full, at 90,000 megalitres (ML) of water.

This apparent large allocation increase is achieved because most accounts are already full or near full and cannot benefit from the increased allocation. Just 21,240 megalitres (ML) of new water has been allocated to the available 'airspace' in eligible accounts under this announcement.

Rainfall in January 2022 was mostly average across the Gwydir catchment.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 January 2022. Any changes in resources since this date will be captured in the next assessment.

Current allocations

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Regulated River	100%	263.4%

Dam levels (as of 7 February 2022)

Copeton Dam is 95.5% full - holding 1,301 gigalitres (GL).

This time last year, it was just 19% full.

Key information

- Inflow into Copeton Dam storage in January 2022 was about 41.6 GL and downstream tributary flow contributed about 5.9 GL.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 62.6 GL in January. Total essential supply demand was 2.04 GL. There were 44.7 GL in general security orders and 4.3 ECA usage in January.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in January.
- Supplementary water usage has been about 49.6 GL so far this water year, which is about 54.7% of the total 90.7 GL of this year's supplementary allocation (being 50% of entitlement).

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median across the catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be median and minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

Water Allocation Statement

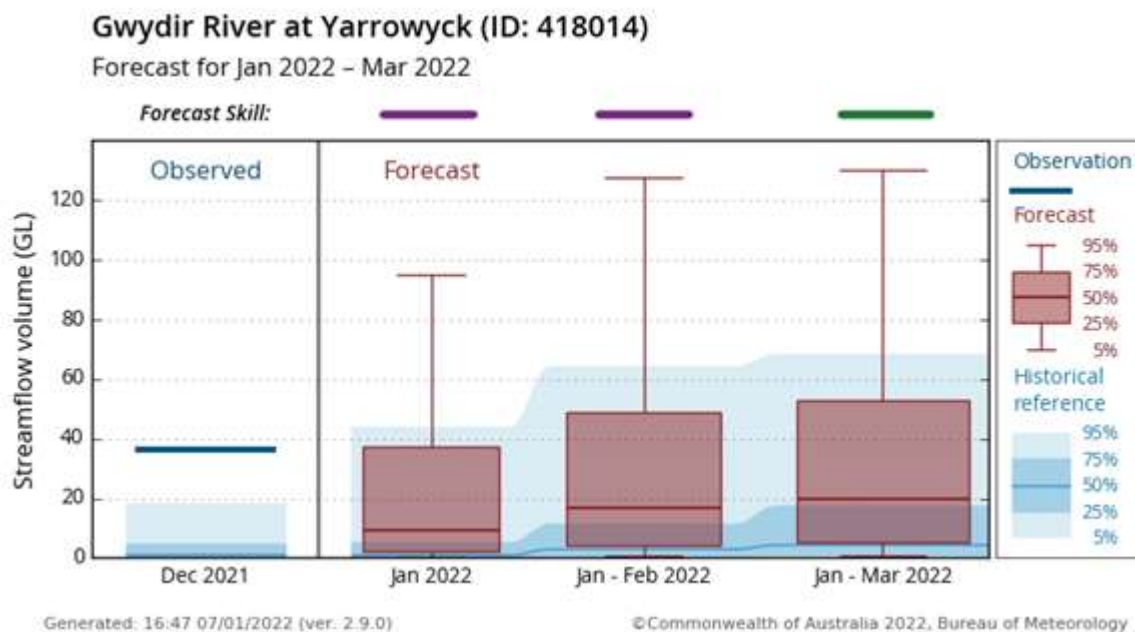


Water availability and allocation update

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.

The forecast total median flow volume from January to March is higher than the historical median flow, suggesting likely more inflow than usual.

Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014



Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 January 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,289.2
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	86.4
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	229.3
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	604.6
Surplus ⁽⁵⁾	9.1

Notes:

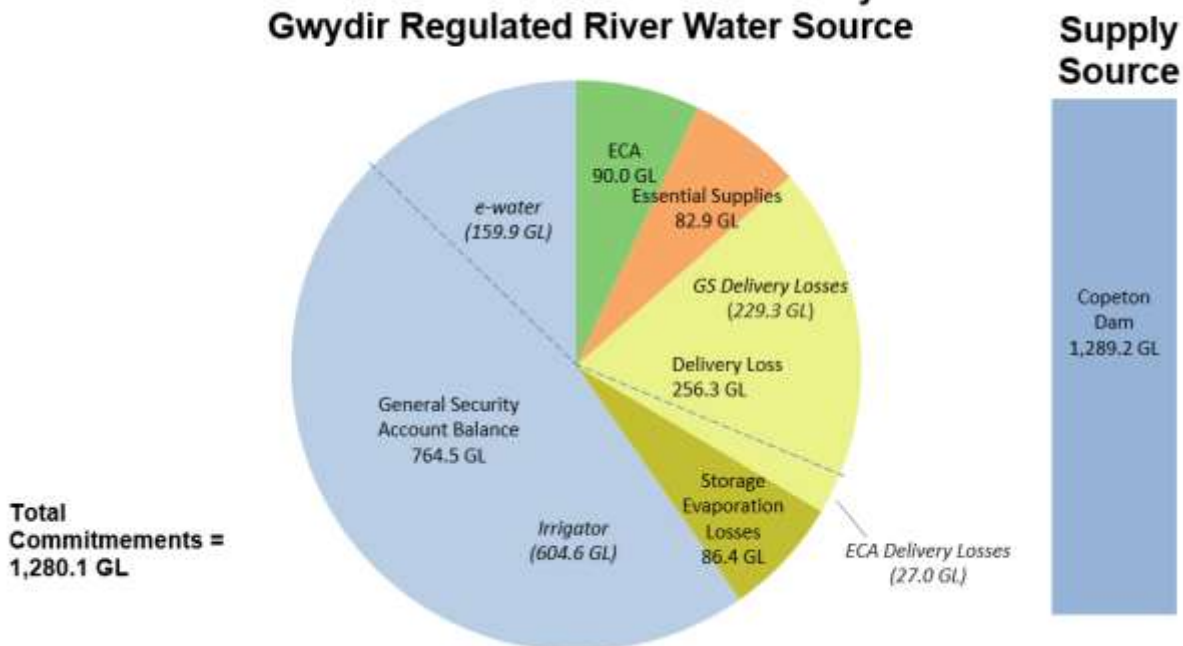
- ⁽¹⁾ Storage Losses – evaporation is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- ⁽²⁾ Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for Towns, Stock, Domestic, High Security and riverine environments for the next 24 months. It includes stock 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 and ECA water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Held environmental water (HEW) – The reporting of held environmental water is indicative only. General Security HEW account balance estimated to be 159.9 GL and High Security HEW account balance is estimated to be 5.8 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⁾ There is 9.1 GL of surplus. The system is secure for next 24 months and beyond.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution as at 31 January 2022 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 31 January 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	86.42	87.08	-0.66	86.42
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	80.39	2.51	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	229.35	219.24	10.11	229.35
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.00	26.03	0.97	27.00
ECA (90 GL max)		85.70	4.30	90.00
General Security (764.5 GL max)		719.79	44.71	764.50
Additional Resource for Sharing		71.01	-61.93	9.08
Total		1,289.24	0.01	1,289.25

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	21.24	GL
Available Water Determination	1.03	ML per unit share

New water allocation guide

The department is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation process for most NSW regulated river systems. One for the Gwydir regulated river water source is now available.

Further details at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Monday 7 March 2022**.

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

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