

6 April 2023

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There has been enough improvement in the Gwydir regulated resource in March to allow for an increase in general security allocation of 25% of entitlement. This increment contributes to the total general security account volume of 712 gigalitres (GL) or an average of 140% of entitlement.

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) also receives a share, in accordance with the water sharing plan, and now holds its maximum 90 GL.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 March 2023. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation

2022/23	Cumulative General Security Allocation	General Security Average Account Balance
Gwydir Regulated River	300%	140%*

* Maximum allowable is 150%.

Dam levels (as of 5 April 2023)

Copeton Dam is about 92% full, holding about 1,248 GL. This time last year, Copeton Dam was about 95% full.

Key information

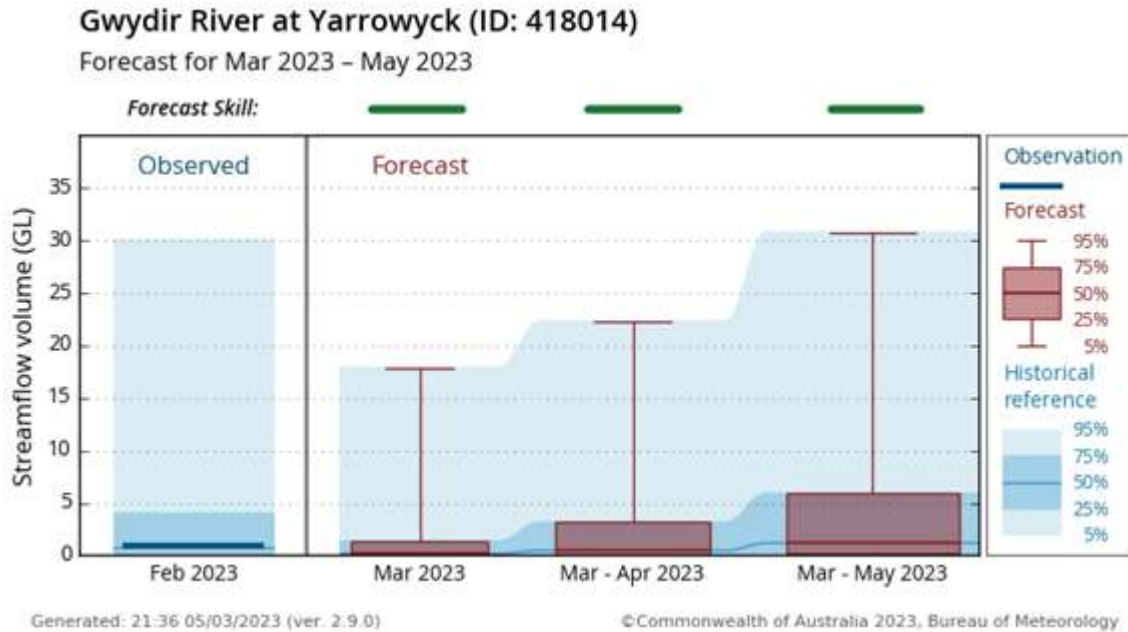
- March rainfall has been average to very much above average in the Gwydir catchment.
- Inflow volume into Copeton Dam in March was about 85 GL, and the downstream tributary inflow volume was a further 15 GL.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in March.
- Supplementary access diversion to the end of March has been about 17 GL, which is 9.6% of the total volume allocated to supplementary entitlements in 2022/23.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for April to June shows below median rainfall for the Gwydir catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the April to June period. Minimum temperatures for the same period show no clear indication of either cooler or warmer than median conditions.

Further details at: 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 March to May are on par with the historical quantile references, indicating no clear change from historical conditions. The graph to May 2023 is shown below and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014



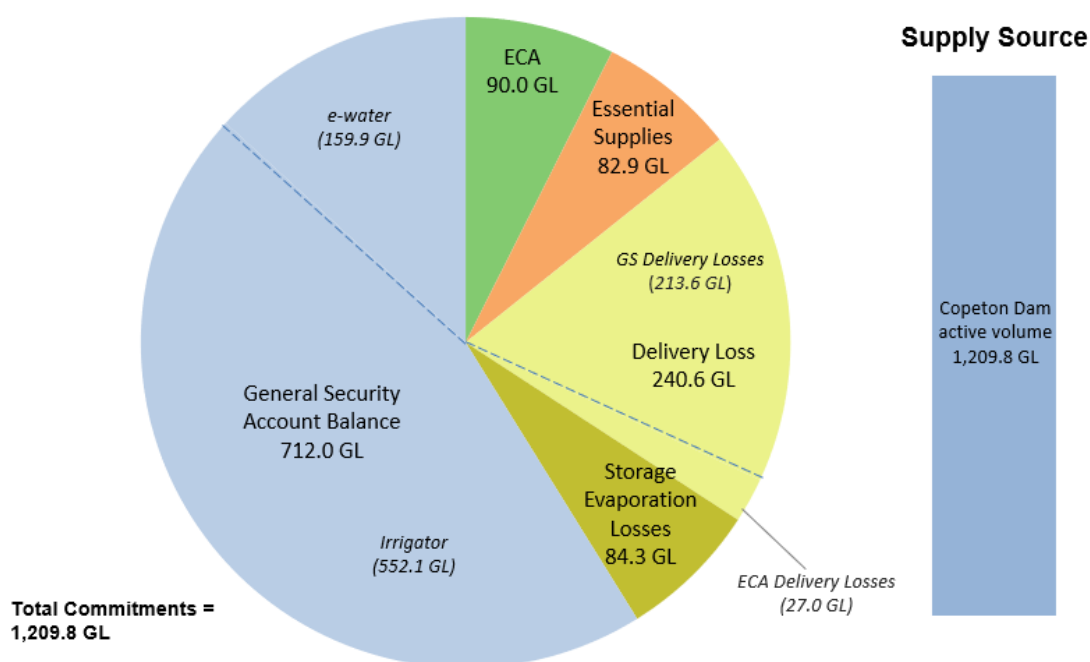
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 March 2023)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,209.8
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	84.3
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	213.6
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	552.1
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	0.0

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Storage evaporation losses 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 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 minimum forecast inflows into the 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 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⁾ There is no resource deficit. The system is secure for the next 24 months.

Resource Distribution as at 31 March 2023 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 31 March 2023

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	84.30	82.36	1.94	84.30
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	81.20	1.70	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	213.60	200.05	13.55	213.60
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.00	26.30	0.70	27.00
ECA (90 GL max)		86.81	3.19	90.00
General Security (764.5 GL max)		650.51	61.49	712.00
Additional Resource for Sharing		82.56	-82.56	0.00
Total		1,209.80	0.00	1,209.80

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	61.49	GL
Available Water Determination	0.25	ML per unit share

Allocations in 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.21 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share
7-Jul	General Security	1.03 ML/unit share	1.03 ML/unit share
5-Aug	General Security	0.58 ML/unit share	1.61 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Floodplain harvesting	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Supplementary	0.79 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
7-Sep	General Security	0.54 ML/unit share	2.15 ML/unit share
10-Oct	General Security	0.29 ML/unit share	2.44 ML/unit share
7-Dec	General Security	0.16 ML/unit share	2.60 ML/unit share
12-Jan	General Security	0.11 ML/unit share	2.71 ML/unit share
7-Feb	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	2.73 ML/unit share
7-Mar	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	2.75 ML/unit share
6-Apr	General Security	0.25 ML/unit share	3.00 ML/unit share

* Maximum allowable.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has 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

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source will be published on **Friday 5 May 2023**.

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

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