

9 January 2025

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General Security (GS) licences in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source have received an allocation increment of 3% of their entitlement. Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) is to be credited by the same ratio. The increment takes the GS account balance is 465.1 gigalitres (GL), or an average 91% of entitlement, and the EWA account balance is about 86.5 GL or an average 192% of entitlement.

The allocation increment is possible due to good inflow conditions along with lower losses in December. This resource assessment is based on information to 31 December 2024. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation and EWA credit

9 January 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General Security	3%	91%
EWA	3%	192%

Storage volume (as of 9 January 2025)

- Copeton Dam is about 63% full – holding about 857 GL.

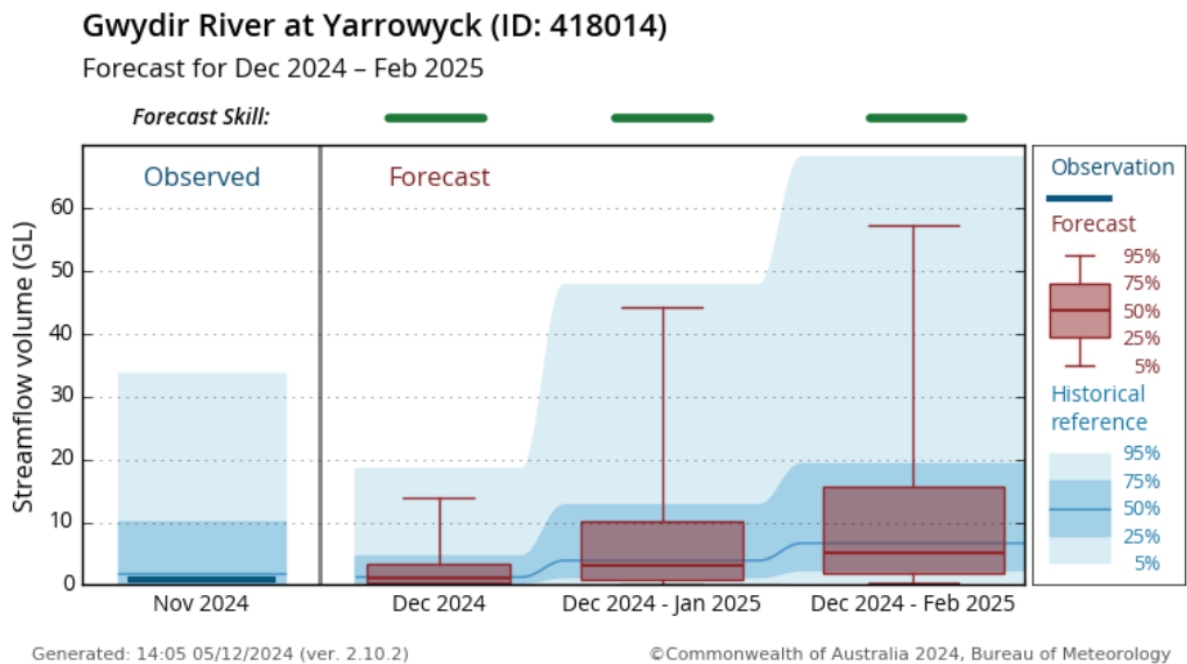
Key information

- In December, inflows to Copeton Dam were 8.3 GL, and downstream tributary inflows added about another 5 GL to the system.
- During December, total essential supply demand was about 1.7 GL, and GS usage was approximately 64.8 GL. There was no EWA usage in December.

Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

The latest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for January 2025 indicates rainfall in the Gwydir valley is likely to be median value. 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 into the dam in the coming months. Most of the forecast quantiles are lower than the historical flows indicating a dryer quarter from December 2024 to February 2025. The graph for December 2024 to February 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

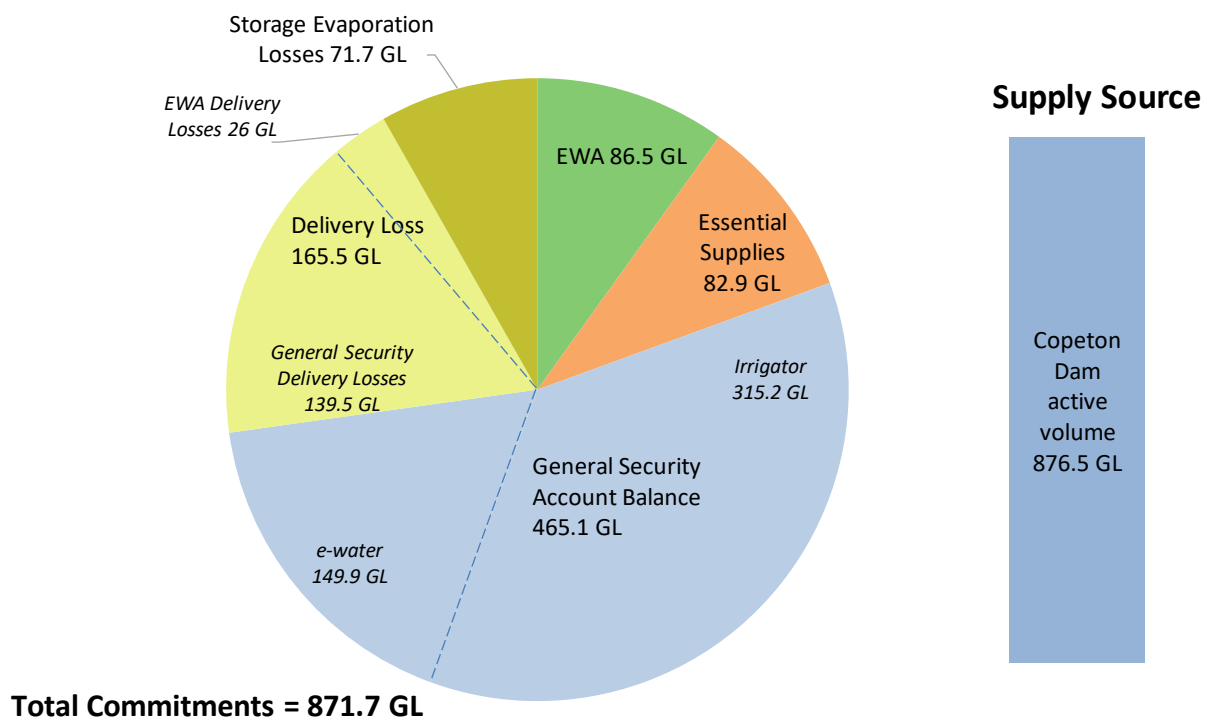
Resource distribution (as of 31 December 2024)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	876.5
less	
Environmental Water Allowance	86.5
Essential Supplies ⁽¹⁾	82.9
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽²⁾	149.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	315.2
Delivery Loss General Security ⁽³⁾	139.5
Delivery Loss EWA ⁽³⁾	26.0
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽⁴⁾	71.7
equals	
Surplus (or Deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	4.8

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.
- (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. There is a small surplus which will be rolled over to next month's assessment.

Resource Distribution as at 31 December 2024

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource Assessment as of 31 December 2024

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	71.7	74.4	-2.6	71.7
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	77.7	5.2	82.9
Delivery Loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	165.5	180.3	-14.8	165.5
Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)	139.5.0	154.8	-15.2	139.5
Delivery Loss EWA (27 GL max)	25.9	25.5	0.4	25.9
EWA (90 GL max)		85.1	1.4	86.5
General Security (764.5 GL max)		451.0	14.1	465.1
Uncommitted resources		8.0	-3.3	4.7
Total		876.5	0.0	876.5

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	14.14	GL
Available Water Determination	0.03	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%

* 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 February 2026 after which recovery would be expected.

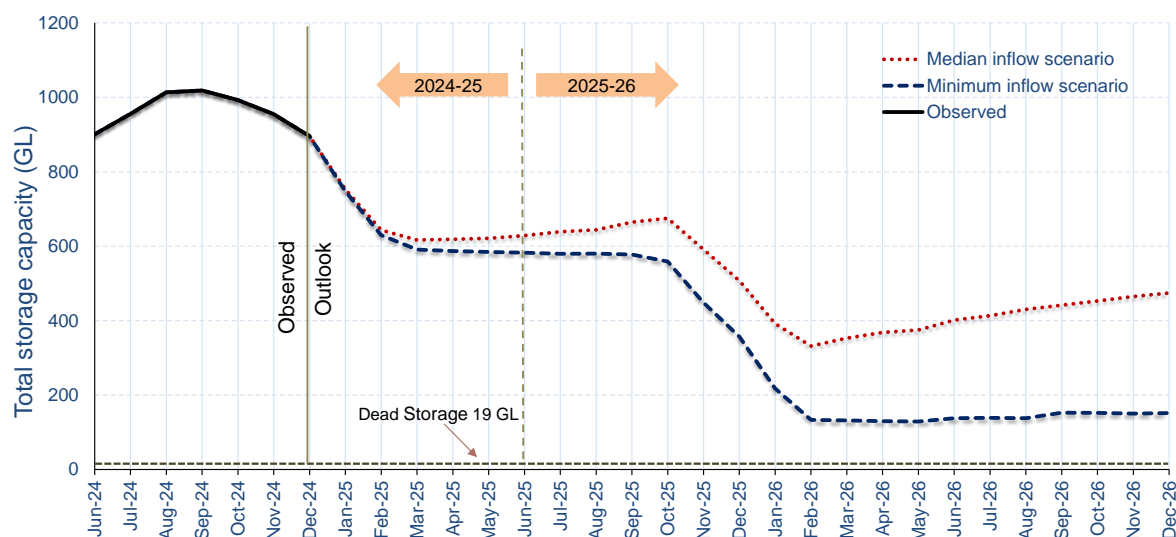


Figure: Simulated of Copeton Dam storage volume

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

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on Friday 7 February 2025.

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

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

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