7 February 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 1%** of their entitlement. Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) is to be credited by the same ratio. The increment takes the GS account balance is 376 gigalitres (GL), or an average 74% of entitlement, and the EWA account balance is about 87 GL or an average 193% of entitlement.

The allocation increment is possible due to good inflow conditions along with lower losses in January. This resource assessment is based on information to 31 January 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

Current allocation and EWA credit

7 February 2025	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General Security	1%	74%
EWA	1%	193%

Storage volume (as of 7 February 2025)

- Copeton Dam is about 54% full – holding about 745 GL.

Key information

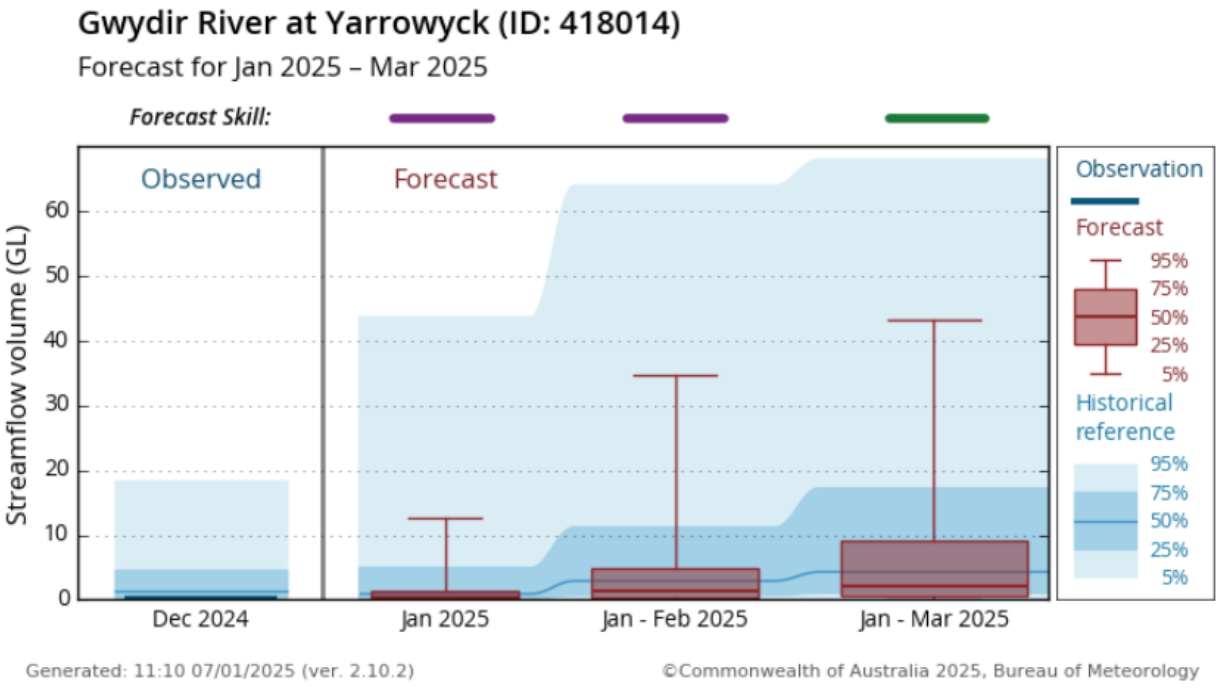
- In January, inflows to Copeton Dam were 3.7 GL, and downstream tributary inflows added about another 0.6 GL to the system.
- During January, total essential supply demand was about 4.3 GL, and GS usage was approximately 95 GL. There was no EWA usage in during this period.

Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

The latest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) monthly outlook for March 2025 indicates rainfall in the Gwydir valley is likely to be above median value. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be above median over this period. For further details: Overview — Summary - Climate Outlooks

PUB25/79

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 January to March 2025 indicating a dryer future. The graph for January to March 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 January 2025)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	753.3
less	
Environmental Water Allowance	86.9
Essential Supplies [1]	82.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	228.3
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance [2]	147.8
Delivery Loss General Security [3]	112.8
Delivery Loss EWA [3]	26.1
Storage Evaporation Losses [4]	65.6
equals	
Surplus (or Deficit) [5]	2.9

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.

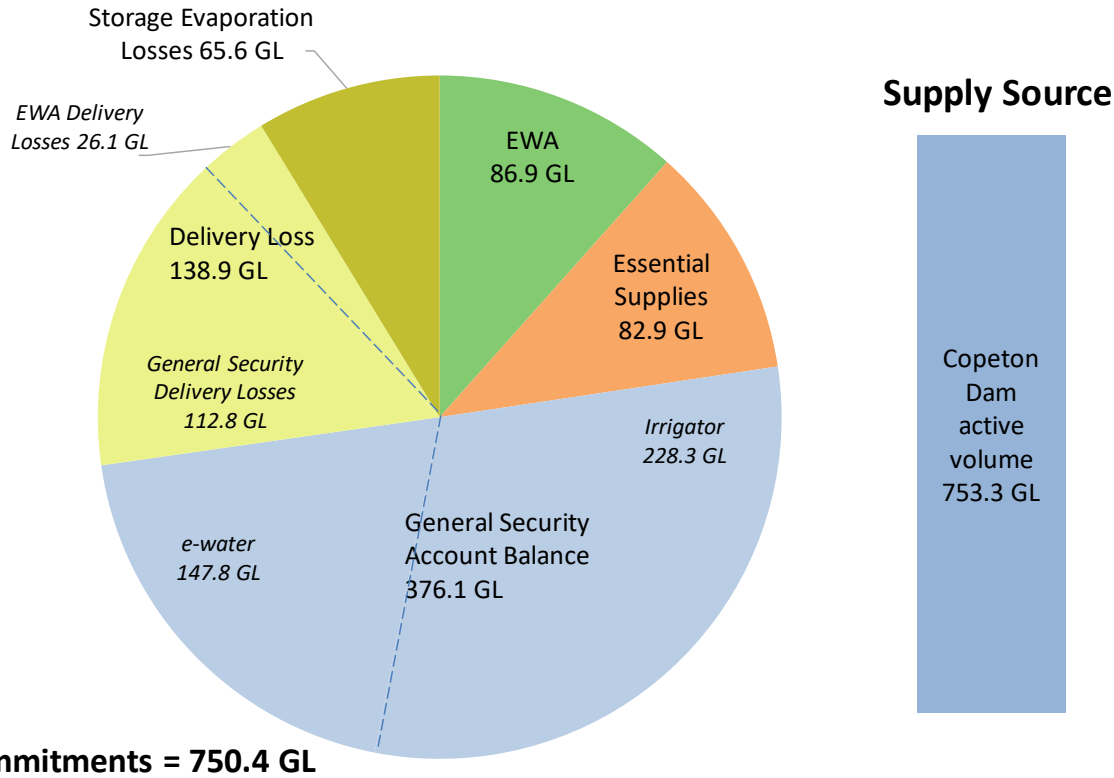
(2) General security held environmental water (HEW) account balance. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW environment water holder and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).

(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 January 2025
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Total Commitments = 750.4 GL

Resource Assessment as of 31 January 2025

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	65.6	71.7	-6.1	65.6
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	76.5	6.4	82.9
Delivery Loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	138.9	144.9	-6.0	138.9
Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)	112.8	118.9	-6.1	112.8
Delivery Loss EWA (27 GL max)	26.1	25.9	0.1	26.1
EWA (90 GL max)		86.5	0.5	86.9
General Security (764.5 GL max)		371.0	5.1	376.1
Uncommitted resources		2.6	0.1	2.8
Total		753.2	0.0	753.2

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	5.09	GL
Available Water Determination	0.01	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.

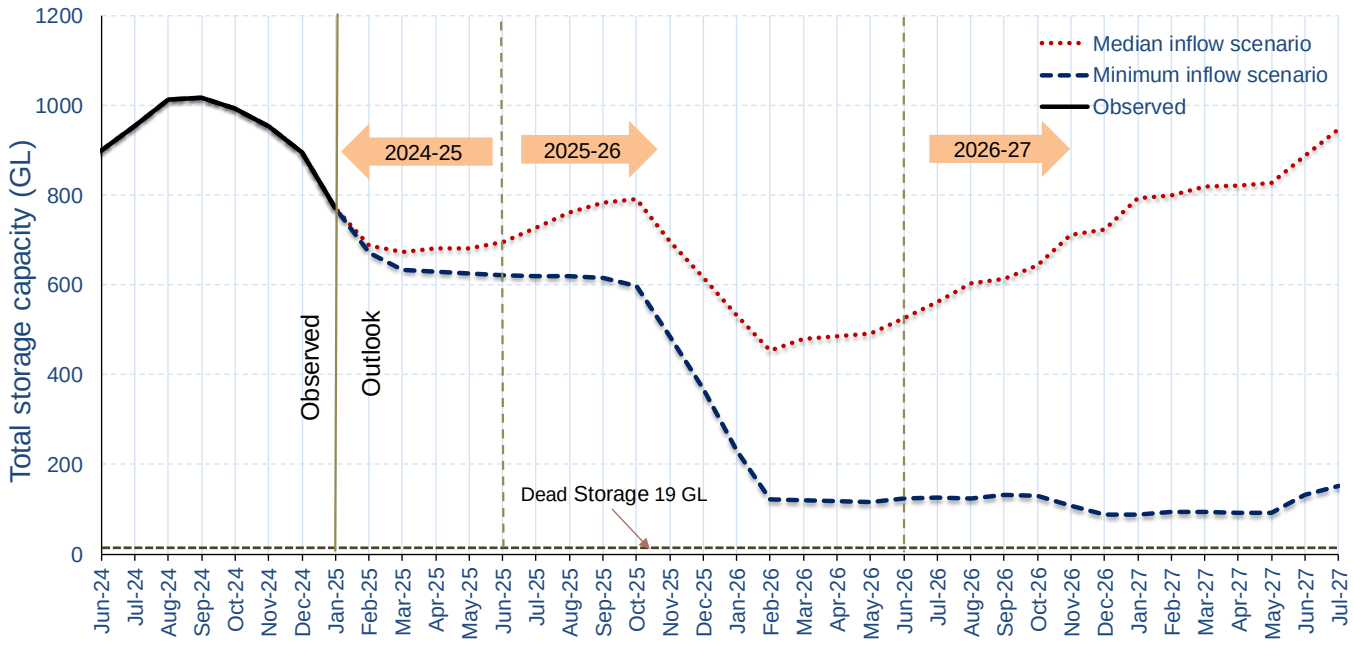


Figure: Simulated of Copeton Dam storage volume

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 March 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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