

7 March 2022

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource to increase allocations to general security licences by 8.6% of entitlement. This brings the total cumulative allocation to general security licences to 272% of entitlement for this water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) is full at 90,000 megalitres (ML) of water.

Rainfall in February 2022 was average to above average across the Gwydir catchment.

This resource assessment is based on information to 28 February 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%	272.0%

Dam levels (as of 7 March 2022)

Copeton Dam is 92.4% full - holding 1,259 Gigalitres (GL). This time last year, the dam was just 18% full.

Key information

- Inflow into Copeton Dam in February 2022 was about 20.8 GL and downstream tributary flow contributed about 4.8 GL.
- Releases from Copeton Dam were about 56.5 GL in February. Total essential supply demand was 2.4 GL. General security usage was 41.9 GL and ECA usage was 1.5 GL in February.
- No water was transferred from high security to general security accounts in February.
- Supplementary water usage has been about 52.5 GL so far this water year, which is about 57.9% 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 March to May indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median across the catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be neither warmer nor cooler than median and minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median.

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

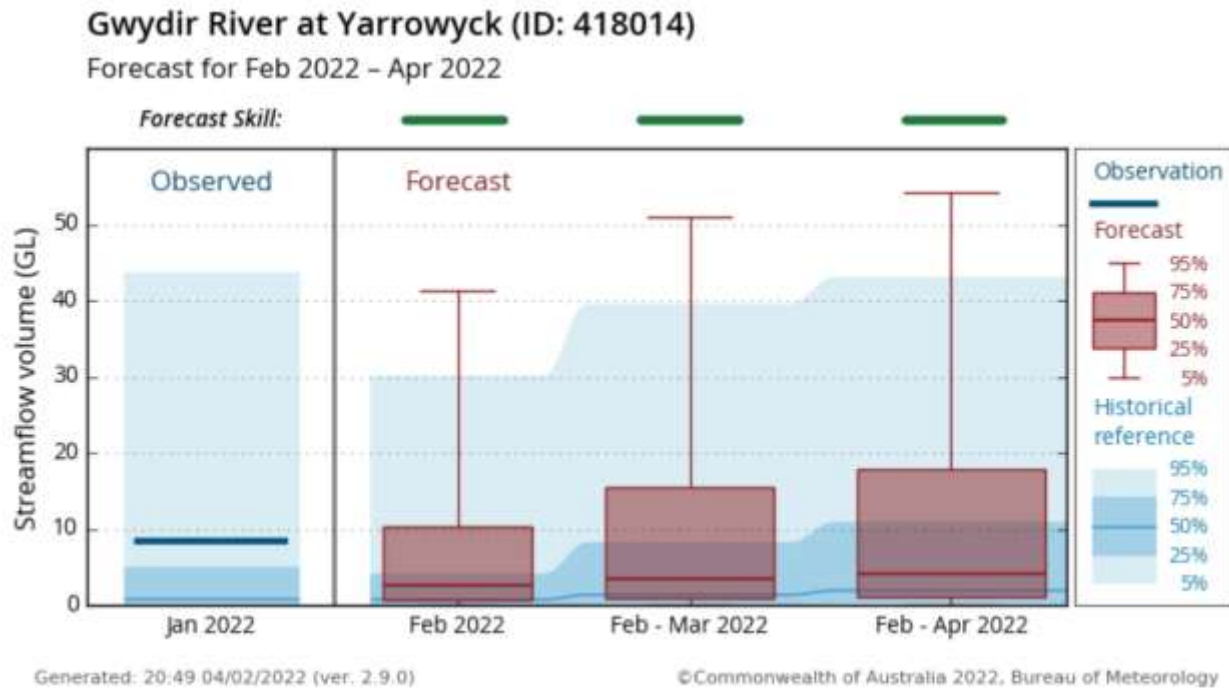
The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Gwydir River at Yarrowyck, upstream of Copeton Dam (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam. The forecast total median flow volume from February to April is higher than the historical median flow, suggesting likely more inflow than usual.

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



Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 28 February 2022)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1,248.6
less	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	85.4
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	90.0
Delivery Loss GS ⁽³⁾	222.3
Delivery Loss ECA ⁽³⁾	27.0
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	159.9
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	581.1
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	0.0

Notes:

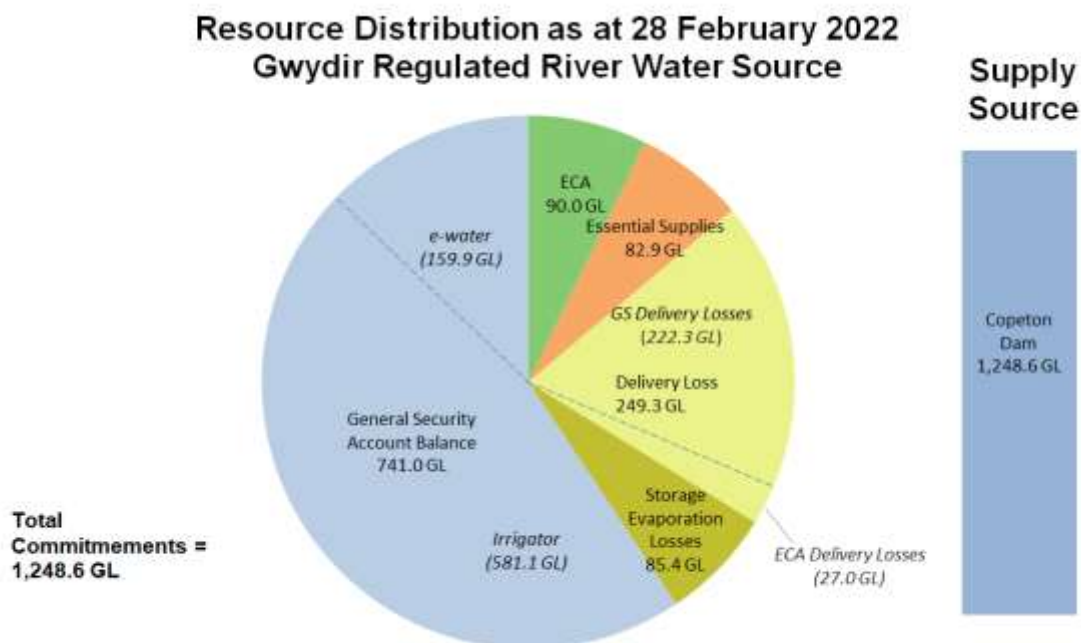
- (1) Storage Losses – evaporation is based on maximum historical rates for the next 24 months.
- (2) Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for Towns, Stock, Domestic, High Security and riverine environments for the next 24 months. It includes stock 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.

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- (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) All available water resources have been fully allocated (no surplus/deficit). The system is secure for next 24 months and beyond.



Resource assessment as at 28 February 2022

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	85.38	86.42	-1.04	85.38
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.90	79.96	2.94	82.90
Delivery Loss GS (229.3 GL max)	222.30	219.50	2.80	222.30
Delivery Loss ECA (27 GL max)	27.00	26.66	0.34	27.00
ECA (90 GL max)		88.55	1.45	90.00
General Security (764.5 GL max)		722.55	18.46	741.01
Additional Resource for Sharing		24.95	-24.95	0.00
Total		1,248.59	0.00	1,248.59

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	18.46	GL

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General Security	Value	Unit
Available Water Determination	0.086	ML per unit share

New water allocation guide

The department is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods 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 **Thursday 7 April 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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