

7 June 2024

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

General security (GS) licences in the Gwydir regulated river water source have received a further **allocation of 2%** of their entitlement. Likewise, the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) has increased by the same proportion in accordance with the water sharing plan. Cumulative general security allocation has increased to 17% of entitlement for the current 2023/24 water-year.

Since the last assessment, rainfall has continued to elevate inflows above the minimums, and losses remain lower than the budgeted volume. This underpins the allocation increment announced today. The inflow to Copeton Dam in May was 14.2 gigalitre (GL) and downstream tributary inflows added another 4 GL to the system. Total essential supply demand was about 1 GL, and general security usage was just 1.3 GL. There was no EWA ordered this month.

Water currently available to GS water users totals 458.2 GL, or an average 91% of entitlement. The Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) account balance is 89.7 GL or 199% full. The EWA was formerly the Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) prior to the plan amendment of July 2022.

This resource assessment is based on information to 31 May 2024. Any changes in resources from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in July 2024.

Current allocation

7 June 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General security	2%	91%
E W A	2%	199%

Resource outlook for 2024/25

This outlook for likely 1 July 2024 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution. It seeks to broadly guide water users with their end of year water management decisions. Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting that water account balances can forfeit from some entitlements after 30 June 2024.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including local water utility, are secure for the 2024/25 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including local water utility, stock and domestic and high security can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July 2024.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward into the new water year. The maximum volume that may be held in account at any time is 1.5 megalitres (ML) per unit share (or 150% of entitlement).

- General security users can expect full access to their carried over account water, but no new allocation will be announced on 1 July. Instead, the usual monthly resource assessment will continue, commencing in early July, and any new allocation will be announced in the routine allocation statements throughout 2024/25.
- Floodplain Harvesting water access licence holders can expect a 100% allocation 1 July 2024.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can also expect a 100% allocation 1 July 2024. However, access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow.

Storage levels (as of 7 June 2024)

- Copeton Dam is about 65% full – holding 892 gigalitres (GL).

Climate and Streamflow Outlooks

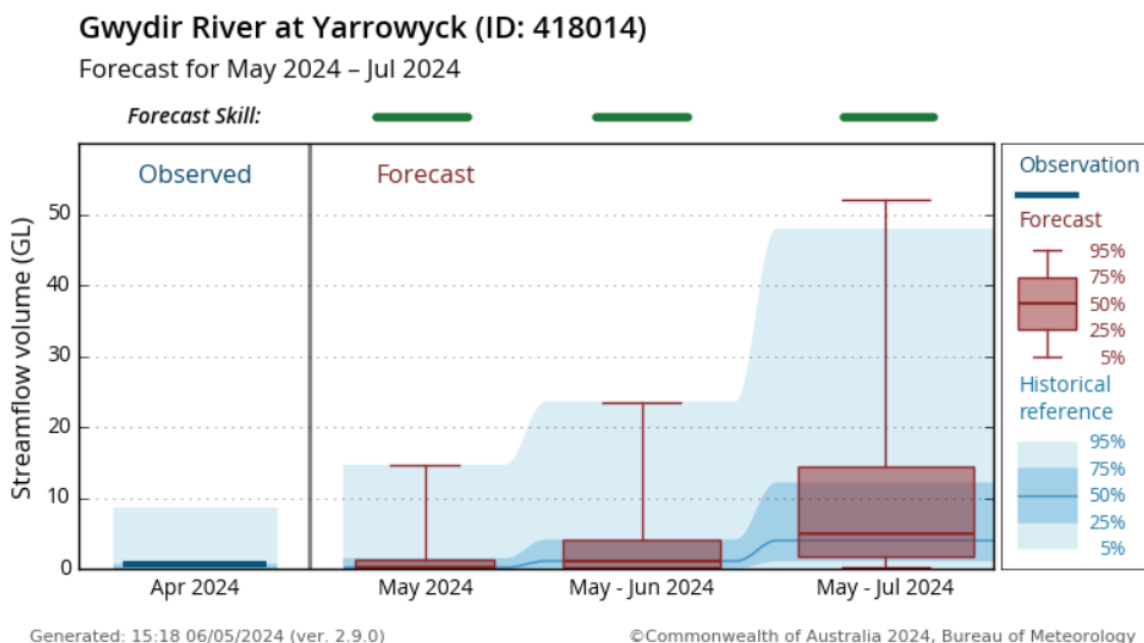
The latest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for June to August 2024 indicates rainfall in the Gwydir valley is likely to be below median. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be hotter than median over this period.

For further details: [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. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from May to July 2024 are slightly higher than the historical flows indicating potential for marginally wetter conditions than historically over this period.

The graph for May to July 2024 is shown below, and updates can be found at:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=418014>



Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 May 2024)

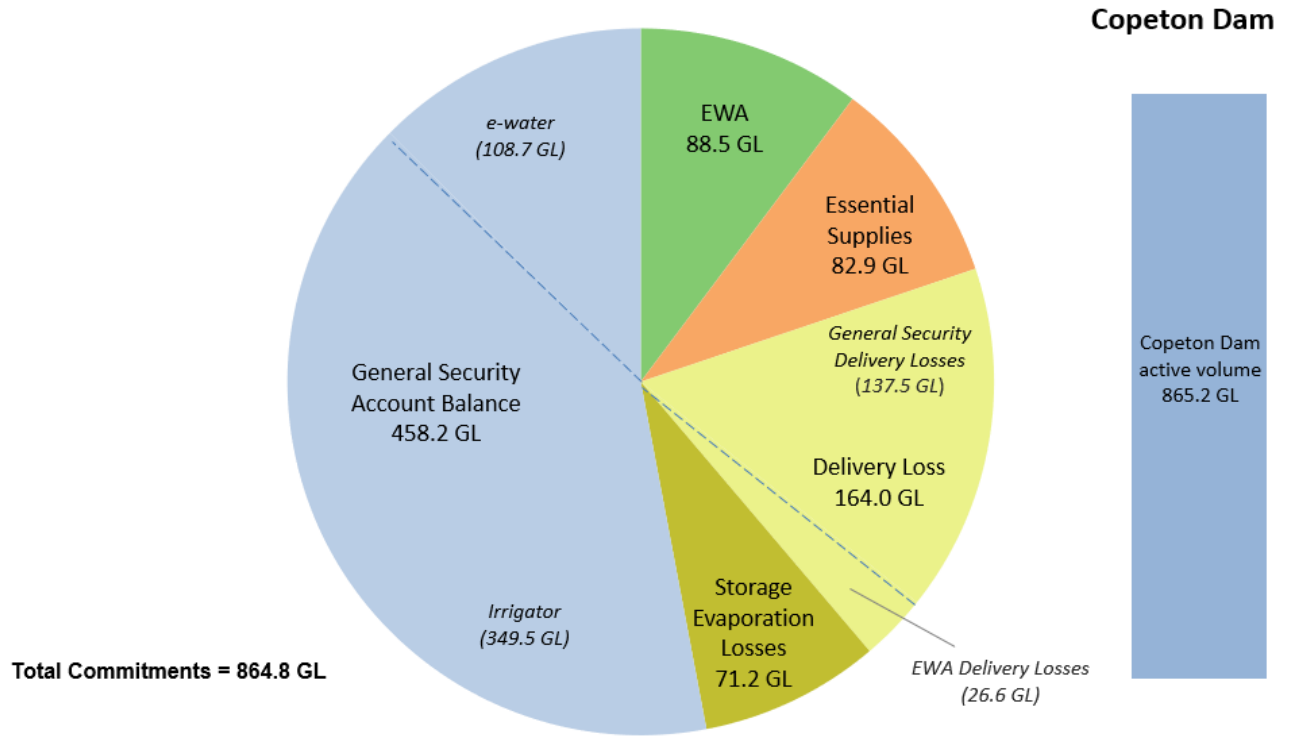
**Volume
(GL)**

Copeton Dam active volume	865.2
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	71.2
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	82.9
Environmental Water Allowance (EWA)	88.5
Delivery Loss General Security ⁽³⁾	137.5
Delivery Loss EWA ⁽³⁾	26.6
General Security Held Environmental Water Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	108.7
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	349.5
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (Deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	0.4

Notes:

- (1) Storage evaporation loss is based on projected storage depletion over the next 24 month and experiencing high evaporation of February 1918 to January 1920.
- (2) This reserve of essential supplies reflects water required 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 the minimum inflow into Copeton recorded over February 1918 to January 1920.
- (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) General security held environmental water (HEW) account balance is estimated to be 108.7 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) The resource assessment returns a small surplus after allocation. This volume will be rolled over to next month's resource assessment.

Resource Distribution as at 31 May 2024 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as at 31 May 2024

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	71.2	70.7	0.5	70.7
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	82.9	79.2	14.4	82.9
Delivery Loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	164.0	161.1	5.6	160.4
Delivery Loss GS (229.0 GL max)	137.5	134.8	5.0	134.1
Delivery Loss EWA (27 GL max)	26.6	26.3	0.6	26.3
EWA (90 GL max)		87.6	1.8	87.6
General Security (764.5 GL max)		448.1	18.2	447.1
Uncommitted resources		18.5	-18.2	0.3
Total		865.2	0.0	865.2

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	10.11	GL
Available Water Determination	0.02	ML /unit share

Allocations in 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24	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%*
7-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	142.5%
7-Jul	EWA	0%	0%	90GL*
7-Aug	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.03 ML/unit share	143%
7-Aug	EWA	3%	3%	90GL*
7-Dec	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.04 ML/unit share	119%
7-Dec	EWA	1%	4%	90GL*
8-Jan	General Security	0.04 ML/unit share	0.08 ML/unit share	112%
8-Jan	EWA	4%	8%	90GL*
7-Feb	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.11 ML/unit share	96%
7-Feb	EWA	3%	11%	90GL*
7-May	General Security	0.04 ML/unit share	0.15 ML/unit share	88%
7-May	EWA	4%	15%	88GL
7-Jun	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.17 ML/unit share	91%
7-Jun	EWA	2%	17%	89.7GL

* Maximum allowable.

Storage volume prediction

Storage outlook for the assessment horizon is provided below. It shows that with current commitments and an assumed repeat of historical minimum inflows and median inflows together with forecast demands, the volume in Copeton Dam will reduce to a minimum by the end of March 2026 after which recovery would be expected.

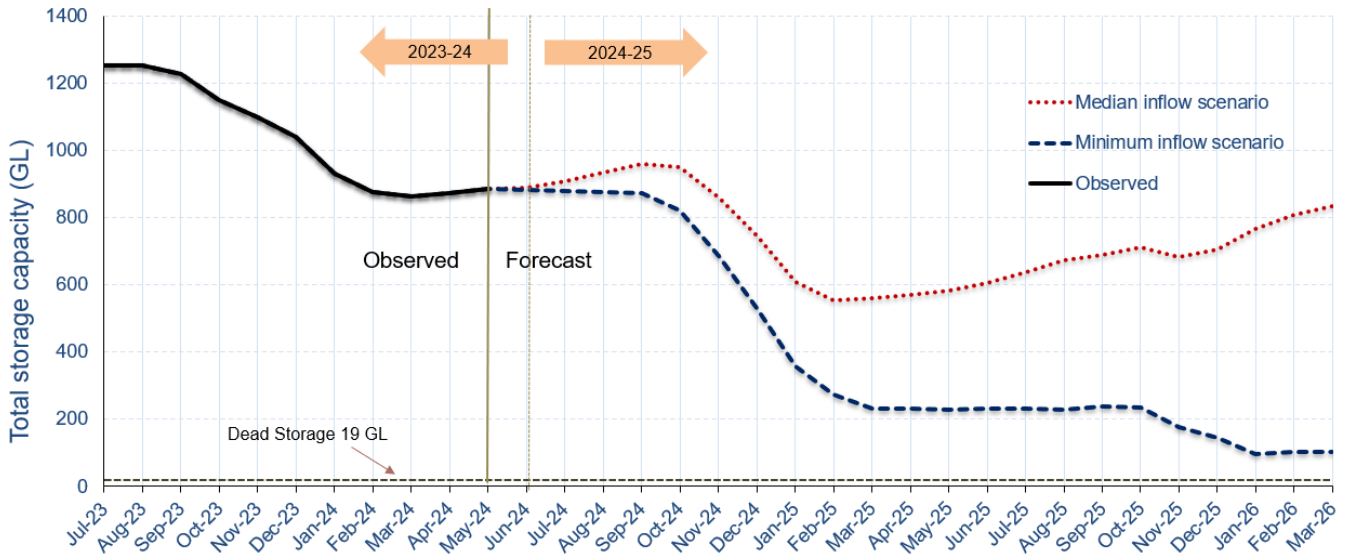


Figure: Simulated depletion of Copeton Dam storage volume

Water 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: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process>

Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Friday 5 July 2024**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department’s website: [Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au).

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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