

5 September 2025

# Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

General security (GS) licences in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source have received an allocation increase of 48% of entitlement. Environmental water allowance (EWA) is to be credited by the same ratio until it reaches its maximum limit. The increment takes the GS account balance to 607 gigalitres (GL), or an average 119% of entitlement, and increases the EWA account balance to its maximum allowable limit of about 90 GL or 200% of entitlement.

In August, Copeton Dam inflow was approximately 268 GL, with downstream tributaries contributing an additional 141 GL. The allocation increment is possible due to significant inflow volumes since the last assessment. This resource assessment is based on information to 31 August 2025. Any changes in resources from this date forward will be captured in the next resource assessment.

## Current allocation and EWA credit

5 September 2025	Allocation increment	Average account balance
General security	48%	119%
Environmental water allowance	48%	200%*

\*Maximum allowable balance

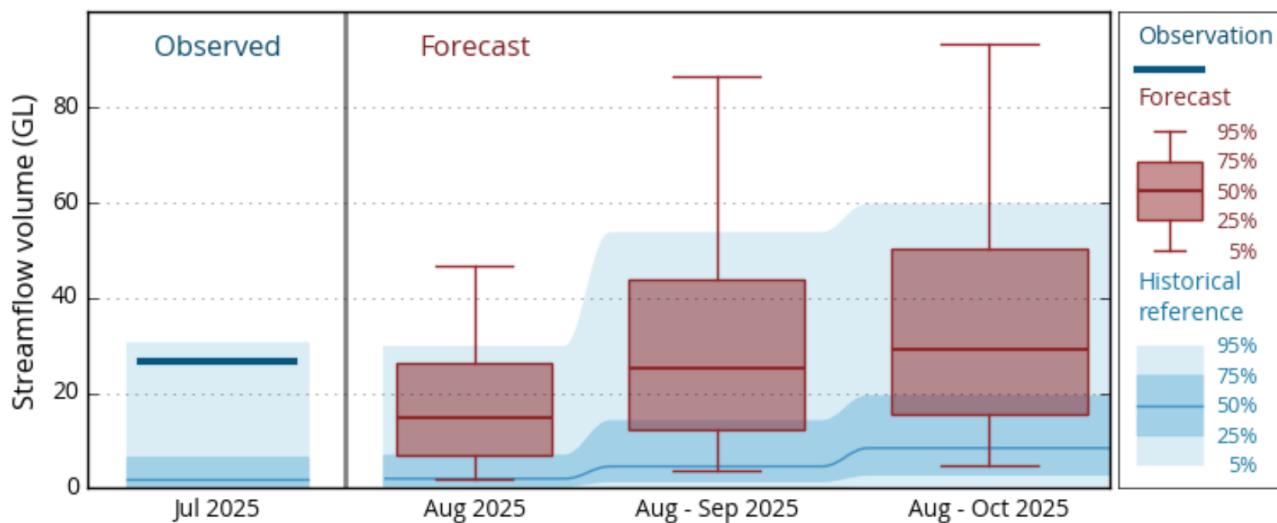
## Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Gwydir River at Yarrowyck, upstream of Copeton Dam (see the figure below). Though preliminary, this may suggest the potential inflows into the dam in the coming months. All the forecast quantiles are above the historical flows, suggesting a likelihood of wetter conditions for the August to October 2025. The graph for August to October 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology](#)

## Gwydir River at Yarrowyck (ID: 418014)

Forecast for Aug 2025 – Oct 2025

Forecast Skill:



Generated: 11:08 05/08/2025 (ver. 2.11.1)

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## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 31 August 2025)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	1072
<i>less</i>	
Environmental water allowance	90
Essential supplies <sup>(1)</sup>	83
General security irrigator account balance	447
General security held environmental water account balance <sup>(2)</sup>	160
Delivery loss general security <sup>(3)</sup>	182
Delivery loss EWA <sup>(3)</sup>	27
Storage evaporation loss <sup>(4)</sup>	80
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	3

### Notes:

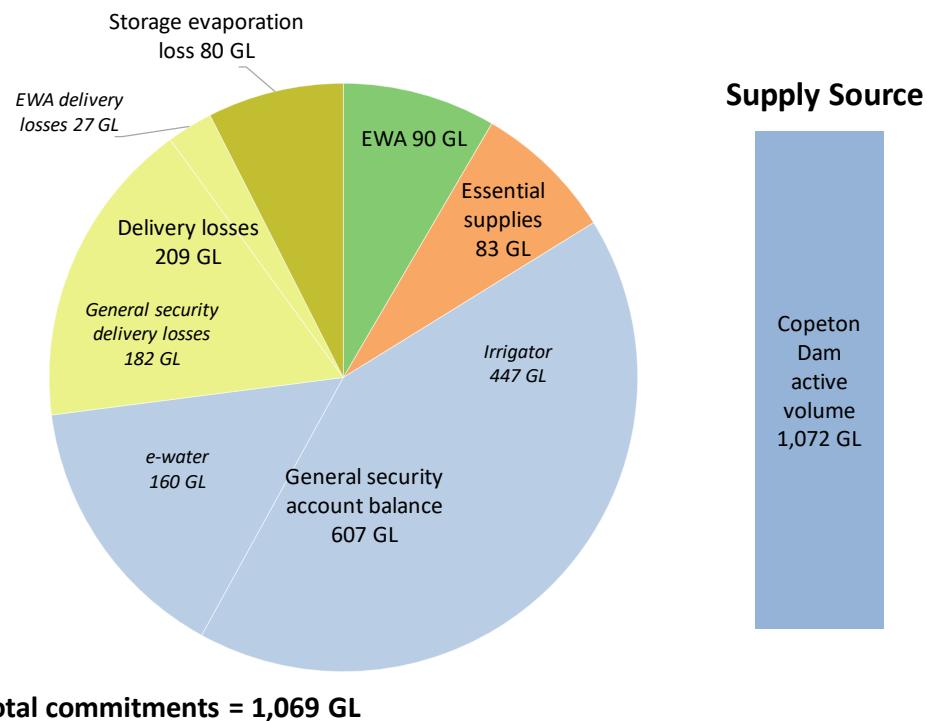
- (1) This is a reserve to provide for local water utility, stock and domestic, high security and riverine environments for the next 24 months. It also includes stock and domestic replenishments, associated delivery loss, and end-of-system flow requirements. This is offset by the minimum inflow into Copeton recorded over February 1918 to January 1920.
- (2) 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 the next resource assessment.

## Resource distribution as of 31 August 2025

### Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



## Resource assessment as of 31 August 2025

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage evaporation loss	79.8	68.4	11.5	79.8
Essential supplies for next 24 months	82.9	82.1	0.8	82.9
Delivery loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	209	151.1	57.9	209.0
Delivery loss GS (229 GL max)	182.0	124.9	57.1	182.0
Delivery loss EWA (27 GL max)	27.0	26.2	0.8	27.0
EWA (90 GL max)		87.4	2.6	90.0
General security (764.5 GL max)	414.9	191.7		606.6
Uncommitted resources	267.9	-264.5		3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1071.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>		<b>1071.7</b>

General security	Value	Unit
Incremental increase credited	191.7	GL
Available water determination	0.48	ML/unit share

## Water allocation and EWA credits in 2025–26

Date	Category	Increment	Total 2025–26	Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic and stock	100%*	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local water utility	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-Aug	General security	0.13 ML/unit share	0.13 ML/unit share	82%
7-Aug	EWA	13%	13%	194%
5-Sep	General security	0.48 ML/unit share	0.61 ML/unit share	119%
5-Sep	EWA	48%	61%	200%*

\* 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 with forecast demands, the volume in Copeton Dam will reduce to a minimum by the end of May 2027 then begin to recover from June 2027.

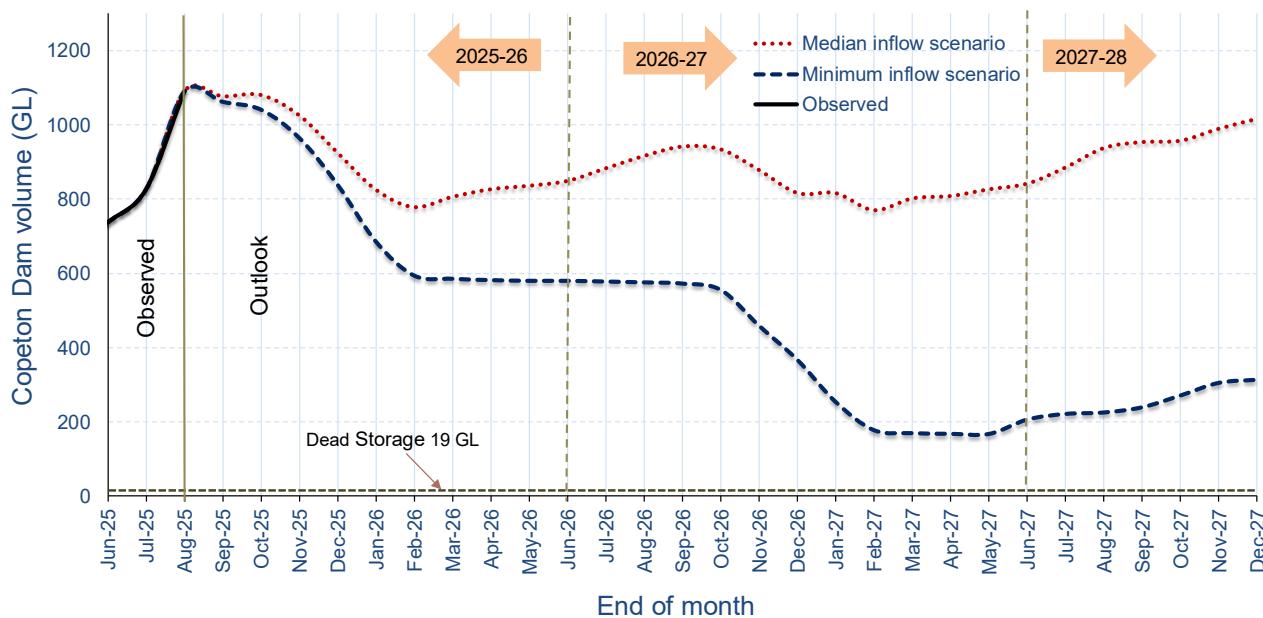


Figure: Simulated depletion of Copeton Dam storage volume

## Water sharing plan rules

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decision.

- Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security licence categories are to receive an allocation of 100% at the start of the water year. These licence categories have an account limit of 100% of entitlement and cannot carryover the closing balance into the next water year.
- General security access licences are to receive allocation only after all higher priority requirements are met. Any unused water can be carried over to the next water year. The account balance at any time must not exceed 150% of entitlement.
- The EWA is credited incrementally at the same ratio with general security allocations. The EWA has an account limit of 90,000 ML.
- Supplementary water access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance cannot be carried over into the next water year.
- Floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance can be carried over to the next water year, but the account balance must not exceed 500% of entitlement.

## Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We 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](#)
- Water allocation statement - The water allocation statement for all water sources can be accessed at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – We developed a dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources. The dashboard can be accessed at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water Sharing Plan – The water sharing plan for this water source is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source 2016](#)

## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on Wednesday 8 October 2025.

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