

7 May 2026

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is **no allocation increment** to general security (GS) licences in the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source this time. The GS account balance is about 446 gigalitres (GL), or an average 87% of entitlement. The environmental water allowance (EWA) balance is about 64 GL, or an average of 142% of entitlement.

The current resource assessment is based on system conditions observed up to 30 April 2026. Any changes in resources occurring after this date will be incorporated into the next scheduled resource assessment.

Current allocation and EWA credit

| 7 May 2026 | Allocation increment | Average account balance |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| General security | - | 87% * |
| Environmental water allowance | - | 142% |

*This may be subject to minor adjustments following account reconciliation.

Key information

- During April total essential supply demand was about 1.9 GL, and GS usage was approximately 1.4 GL.
- There was no EWA delivered during this period.
- Floodplain harvesting and supplementary water extraction are restricted under a Section 324 Order in force for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source from 17 April to 30 September 2026 and are permitted only when flows in the Darling River meet the specified trigger thresholds. Further information is available at: [Temporary water restrictions](#).

Resource outlook for 2026–27

The outlook for likely 1 July 2026 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 aims to broadly guide water users with their end of water year water management decisions.

Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting that water can be forfeit from some accounts after 30 June 2026.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including basic landholder rights and town water, is secure for the 2026–27 water year.
- Higher priority water access license holders including local water utility, stock and domestic and high security entitlements can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward in full into the new water year. The maximum volume that may be held in account at any time is 1.5 megalitres (ML)/unit share (or 150% of entitlement).
- Floodplain Harvesting water access licence holders can expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July. Currently, a Temporary Water Restriction order is in place, prohibiting the taking of water under these access licences.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July. Currently, a Temporary Water Restriction order is in place, prohibiting the taking of water under these access licences.

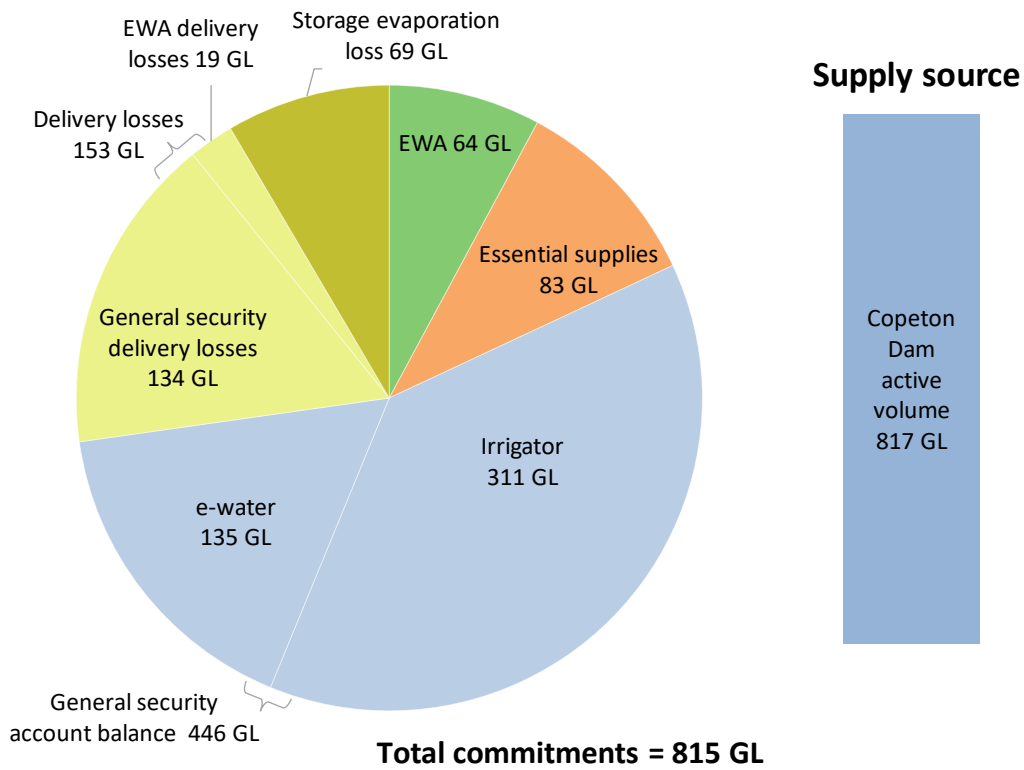
Resource assessment data sheet

| Resource distribution (as of 1 May 2026) | Volume (GL) |
|--|-------------|
| Copeton Dam active volume | 817 |
| <i>less</i> | |
| Environmental water allowance | 64 |
| Essential supplies ⁽¹⁾ | 83 |
| General security irrigator account balance | 311 |
| General security held environmental water account balance ⁽²⁾ | 135 |
| Delivery loss general security ⁽³⁾ | 134 |
| Delivery loss EWA ⁽³⁾ | 19 |
| Storage evaporation loss ⁽⁴⁾ | 69 |
| <i>equals</i> | |
| Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾ | 2 |

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) This small surplus, insufficient for a full percentage increment in allocation, which will be rolled over to the next resource assessment.

Resource distribution as of 1 May 2026 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Resource assessment as of 1 May 2026

| Volumes in GL | Budget | Current | Additional | Balance |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------|------------|------------|
| Storage evaporation loss | 69 | 69 | 0 | 69 |
| Essential supplies for next 24 months | 83 | 81 | 2 | 83 |
| Delivery loss EWA+GS (256 GL max) | 153 | 151 | 2 | 153 |
| <i>Delivery loss GS (229 GL max)</i> | 134 | 132 | 2 | 134 |
| <i>Delivery loss EWA (27 GL max)</i> | 19 | 19 | 0 | 19 |
| EWA (90 GL max) | | 64 | 0 | 64 |
| General security (764.5 GL max) | | 446 | 0 | 446 |
| Uncommitted resources | | 6 | -4 | 2 |
| Total | | 817 | 0 | 817 |

| General security | Value | Unit |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Incremental increase credited | 0.00 | GL |
| Available water determination | 0.00 | ML/unit share |

Water allocation and EWA credits in 2025–26

| Date | Licence 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%* |
| 8-Oct | General security | 0.06 ML/unit share | 0.67 ML/unit share | 123% |
| 8-Oct | EWA | 0% | 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 its lowest by May 2028 after which recovery would be expected.

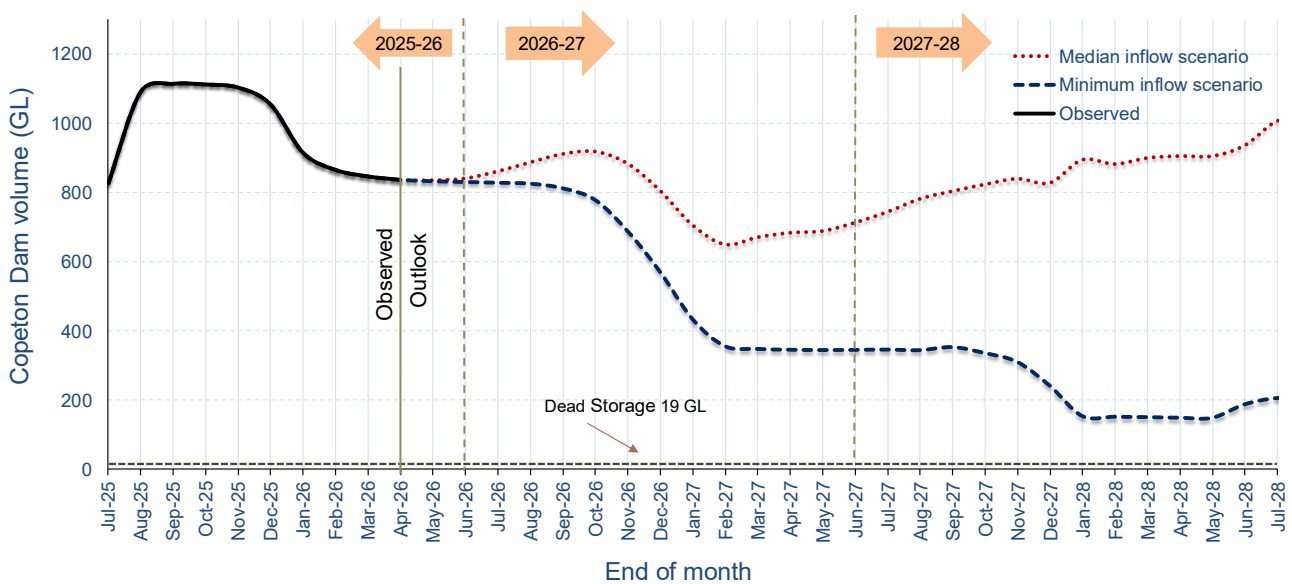


Figure: Simulated depletion of Copeton Dam storage volume

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 cannot carryover their closing balances 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 environmental water allowance (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 is available at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources is available 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 **Friday 5 June 2026**.

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