

6 February 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 479 gigalitres (GL), or an average 94% of entitlement. The environmental water allowance (EWA) balance is about 73 GL, or an average of 162% of entitlement.

The current resource assessment is based on system conditions observed up to 31 January 2026. Any changes in resources occurring after this date will be incorporated into the next scheduled resource assessment.

## Current allocation and EWA credit

6 February 2026	Allocation increment	Average account balance
General security	-	94%
Environmental water allowance	-	162%

## Key information

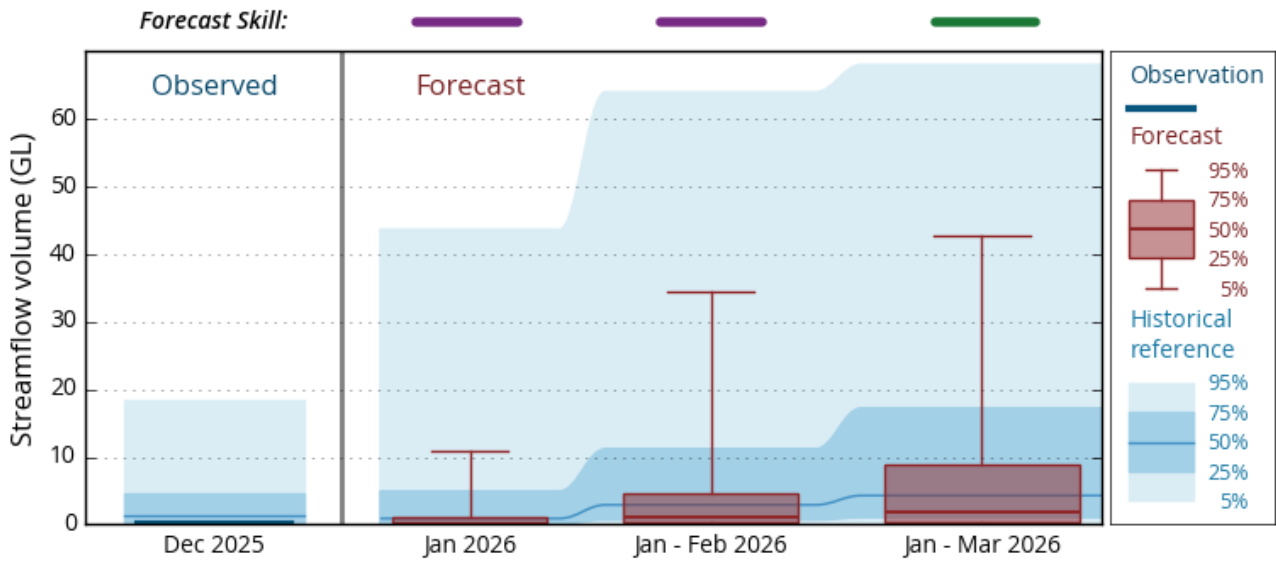
- During January, total essential supply demand was about 3.8 GL, and GS usage was approximately 109.2 GL.
- Around 7.8 GL of EWA delivered during this period.

## 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 sit well below the historical flows, indicating that inflows from January to March 2026 will likely be lower than historical levels. The graph for January to March 2026 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 Jan 2026 – Mar 2026



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### Resource assessment data sheet

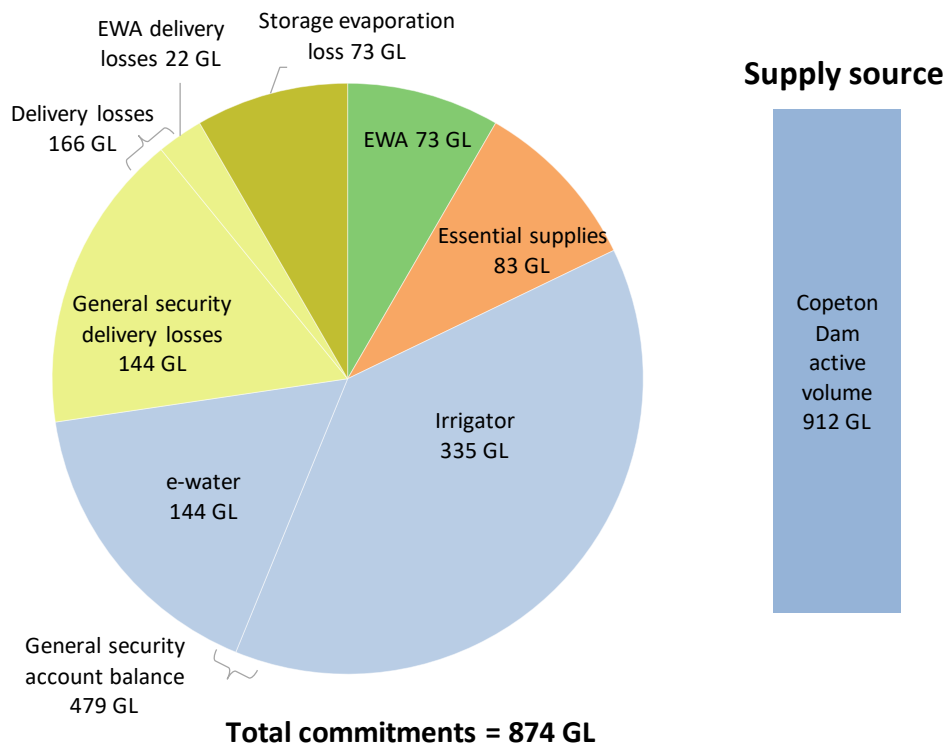
Resource distribution (as of 1 February 2026)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	912
<i>less</i>	
Environmental water allowance	73
Essential supplies <sup>(1)</sup>	83
General security irrigator account balance	335
General security held environmental water account balance <sup>(2)</sup>	144
Delivery loss general security <sup>(3)</sup>	144
Delivery loss EWA <sup>(3)</sup>	22
Storage evaporation loss <sup>(4)</sup>	73
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	38

**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 assessment identified approximately 38 GL of unreconciled water. This is despite the dam receiving very low inflows and minimal tributary contributions. We are rolling over the volume to next assessment awaiting confirmation from hydrologists.

### Resource distribution as of 1 February 2026 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



## Resource assessment as of 1 February 2026

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage evaporation loss	73	78	-5	73
Essential supplies for next 24 months	83	79	4	83
Delivery loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	166	199	-33	166
<i>Delivery loss GS (229 GL max)</i>	144	175	-31	144
<i>Delivery loss EWA (27 GL max)</i>	22	24	-2	22
EWA (90 GL max)		73	0	73
General security (764.5 GL max)		479	0	479
Uncommitted resources		4	34	38
Total		912	0	912

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 January 2028 after which recovery would be expected.

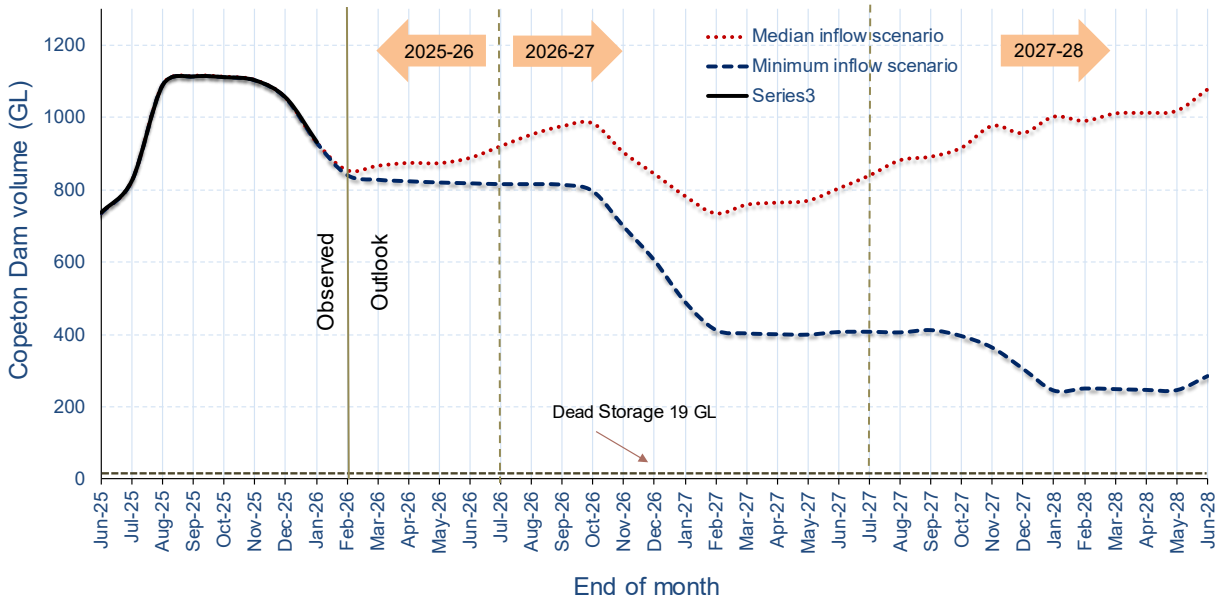


Figure: Simulated depletion of Copeton Dam storage volume

## 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.

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## 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](#)

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## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Friday 6 March 2026**.

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