

7 July 2026

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

No change to general security allocations

Category	2026–27 allocation	Account balance
General security	0%	88% (449 GL)
Environmental allowance	0%	135% (61 GL)

Key information

- This resource assessment is based on information as of 30 June 2026 for the new water year commencing 1 July 2026.
- All higher priority licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2026. Likewise supplementary and floodplain harvesting licence holders received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- During June, total higher priority demand was about 0.4 gigalitre (GL) while no general security (GS) usage recorded.
- Around 2.1 GL of environmental water allowance (EWA) was also delivered in June.
- Floodplain harvesting and supplementary water extraction were restricted under a Section 324 Order in force for the Gwydir Regulated River Water Source until 30 September 2026. However, the restrictions are temporarily lifted now as the active storage levels in the upper lakes at Menindee have risen above 250GL. Further information is available at: [Temporary water restrictions](#).

Next statement

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Friday 7 August 2026**.

Summary of last water year (2025–26)

At the start of the water year, all local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security licence holders received their maximum (100%) allocations. Floodplain harvesting and supplementary access licence holders also commenced the year with maximum (100%) allocations.

GS users began 2025-26 with an average account balance of 69% of entitlement. Over the water year, three allocation increments were made to GS licences, resulting in a total allocation of 67% for the 2025–26 water year. By 30 June 2026, the average general security account balance had decreased to 88% of entitlement (449 GL), reflecting usage of around 39% of entitlement (198 GL).

In 2025–26, 66% of entitlement (30 GL) of the EWA was utilised over the 2025–26 water year with balance of 61 GL remaining in the account.

In 2025–26, supplementary access licences received water through several events in the first quarter, resulting in about 40% of entitlement (72 GL) used.

During the 2025–26 water year, the overall catchment received good rainfall of around 200-300 mm within first quarter of the water year. Consequently, Copeton Dam started the water year at 53% capacity and eventually increased to a peak of 82% capacity in October. Copeton Dam storage levels gradually declined from December due to usages and lower inflows. By the end of the water year, Copeton Dam had depleted to 60% capacity.

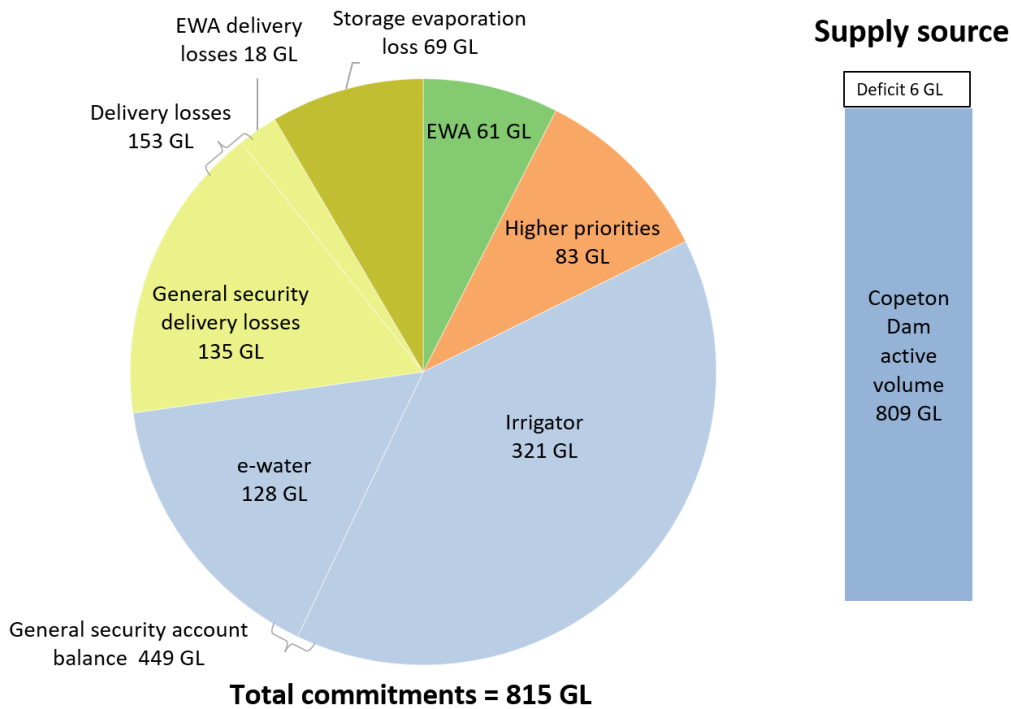
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 1 July 2026)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	809
<i>less</i>	
Environmental water allowance	61
Higher priorities ⁽¹⁾	83
General security irrigator account balance	321
General security held environmental water account balance ⁽²⁾	128
Storage evaporation loss ⁽³⁾	69
Delivery loss EWA ⁽⁴⁾	18
Delivery loss general security ⁽⁴⁾	135
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	(6)

Notes:

- (1) This is a reserve to provide for local water utility, stock and domestic, high security and riverine environments for next 24 months. It also includes stock and domestic replenishments, associated delivery loss, and end-of-system flow requirements. The demand 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 Government and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (3) Storage evaporation loss is based on projected storage depletion over the next 24 months and experiencing high evaporation of February 1918 to January 1920.
- (4) 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.
- (5) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. A notional deficit is identified in this assessment, which will be monitored closely.

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



Resource assessment as of 1 July 2026

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage evaporation loss	69	69	0	69
Higher priorities for next 24 months	83	83	0	83
Delivery loss EWA+GS (256 GL max)	153	153	0	153
<i>Delivery loss GS (229 GL max)</i>	135	135	0	135
<i>Delivery loss EWA (27 GL max)</i>	18	18	0	18
EWA (90 GL max)		61	0	61
General security (764.5 GL max)		449	0	449
Uncommitted resources		-6	0	-6
Total		809	0	809

General security	Value	Unit
Incremental increase credited	0.0	GL
Available water determination	0.0	ML/unit share

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 during March to May 2028 after which recovery would be expected. Note that this is not a forecast but a simulation to show that delivery to higher priority needs is secure.

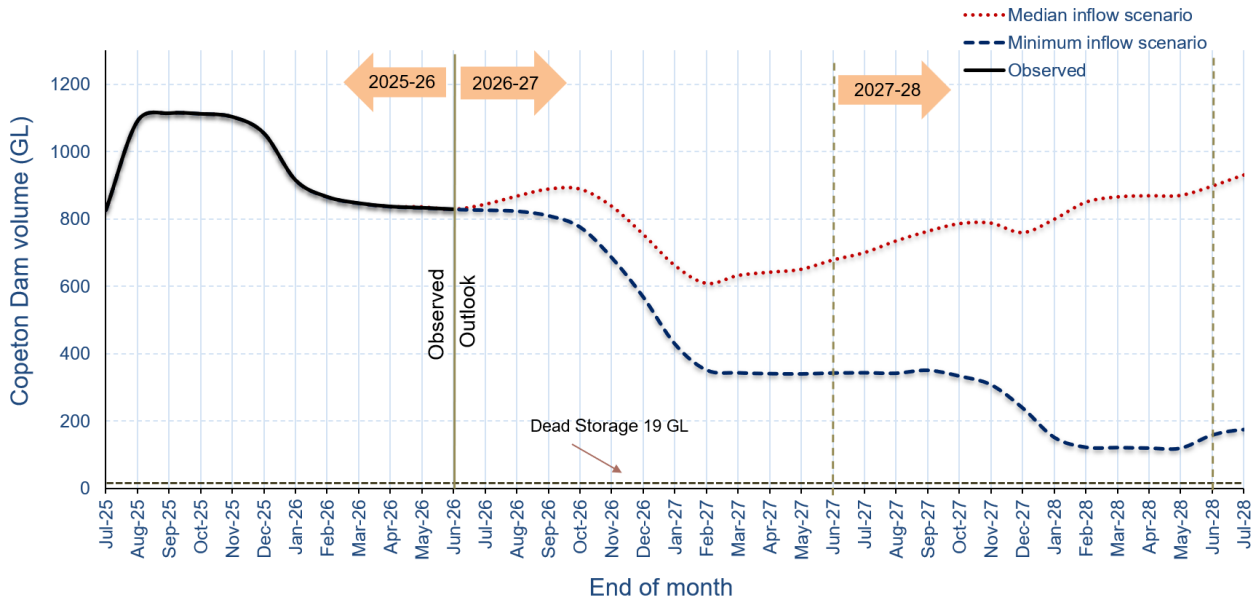


Figure: Simulated depletion of Copeton Dam storage volume

Useful links



Allocation statements for all water sources are available at: [Water allocation statements | Water](#)



A series of guides that describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems are available at: [Resource assessment process | Water](#)



The dashboard on water availability and allocations for all water sources is available at: [Allocations dashboard | Water](#)



The water sharing plan for this water source is available at: [Gwydir Regulated River Water Source 2016](#)

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Annexure

Allocations in 2026–27

Table 1: Gwydir water allocation in 2026–27

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2026–27	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%*

*Maximum allowable

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, where 100% equals 45,000 ML. 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.