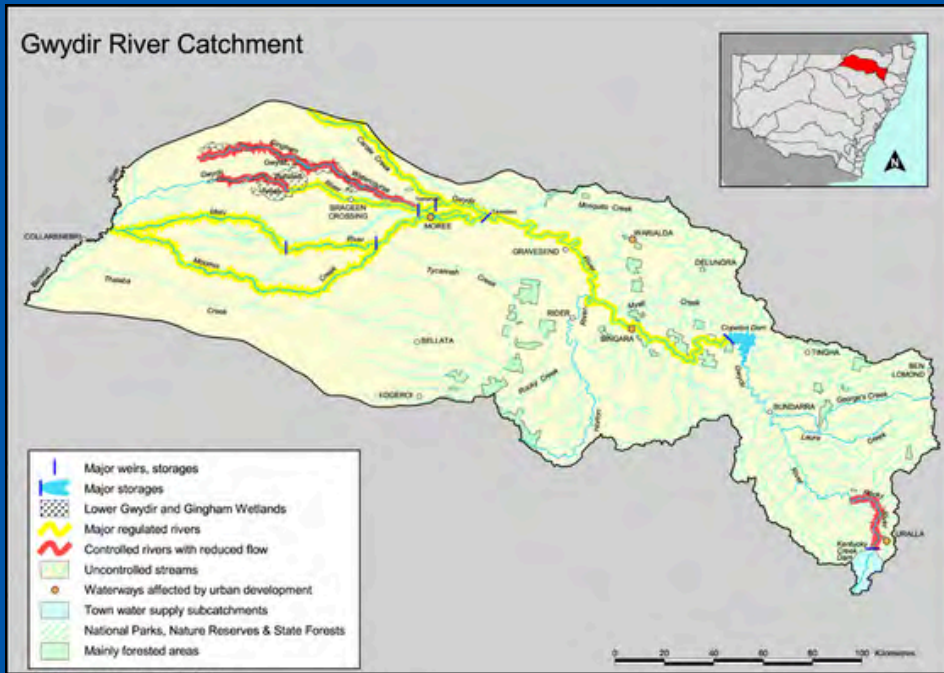


Water in GWYDIR VALLEY



Fast Facts

Where: Northern NSW

Towns: [Warialda](#), [Bingara](#), [Uralla](#), [Moree](#)

Basin: [Murray-Darling](#)

Catchment area: 2% of Murray-Darling Basin

Contribution to Basin: 3.4% of Murray-Darling Basin

Kamilaroi/Gomeroi Country

These waterways hold deep cultural significance for the [Kamilaroi](#) people, the traditional custodians of the land.

The Kamilaroi people are the [largest water holder in the Murray-Darling Basin](#). They have detailed knowledge of seasonal changes, flooding cycles, and the behaviour of plants and animals. This knowledge is now being used alongside science in modern water management and conservation projects in the Gwydir.

[Fire & Seasons Calendars](#)

[Kamilaroi Country](#) - Learn about the Kamilaroi culture and identity.

Gwydir Catchment

Boundaries

- East - Great Dividing Range
- West - Barwon River floodplain
- North - Border Rivers catchment
- South - Namoi catchment

Key Ecosystems

- [Gwydir Wetlands](#) - These are one of the last remaining terminal delta wetland systems of the Murray-Darling Basin. The wetlands hold spiritual and practical importance for the Kamilaroi (Gomeroi) people.
- High Altitude Forests - Generate streamflow, maintain water quality and support biodiversity.

Economy

- [Agriculture](#) - The dominant land use in the catchment is agriculture. [Irrigated cropping](#) such as cotton, wheat, and barley are major agricultural industries.

Other

- People in the Gwydir Valley rely on releases from Copeton Dam for irrigation, town water supply and environmental flows.

[Sustainable Rivers Audit](#) [Gwydir Water Plan](#) [Gwydir Wetlands](#)

Gwydir River's

Distributaries flow away (takes) from Gwydir River

- Mehi River
- Carole-Gil Gil creeks
- Gingham Watercourse
- Big Leather Watercourse

Tributaries flow towards (adds to) Gwydir River

- Copes
- Moredun
- Georges Creek
- Laura Creek
- Horton River

Copeton Dam Completed 1973

Closest Town: Wyangala
River: Lachlan
Dam Size: 113 m x 1400 m
Capacity: 1,346 GL
Reservoir: 46 km²

Tareelaro Weir

Tareelaro Weir controls and diverts water in the Gwydir catchment (particularly flows into Mehi River). Ongoing maintenance ensures the weir continues to operate reliably into the future.

DID YOU KNOW? The Gwydir Wetlands are a Ramsar site.

These internationally-recognised, unique wetlands support key vegetation and wildlife and provide important habitat for waterbirds at critical stages of their life cycles.

Water Users

Local water users can join WaterNSW's [Customer Advisory Groups \(CAGs\)](#) and meet regularly to raise issues, provide advice, and share information.

The federal and state governments hold water licenses and plan how they use water for the environment.

Irrigators Livestock Industry Mining Households Towns Recreation Cultural Environment

Managing Water

Water is a precious resource that is protected by laws and carefully managed by three main agencies in NSW.

| | |
|---|--|
| Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water (DCCEEW) | Makes the rules Plan and develop laws, policies, and guidelines for everyone to follow |
| WaterNSW | Implements the rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage NSW's river systems & 41 dams Organise most users' licensing & approvals Monitor water for other agencies |
| Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) | Enforces the rules Oversee and investigate to make sure everyone is following the rules |

Native Species

The Gwydir River Valley is home to many native species, including threatened plants and animals. [DPIE](#) manages threatened fish.

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Silver Perch | Murray Cod |
| Straw-Necked Ibis | Spotted Marsh Frog |
| Painted Snipe | Australasian Bittern |

Local River Projects

- [Gwydir River System](#): Overview of the water management practices in Gwydir to recreate natural flooding and keep ecosystems alive in a regulated river system.
- [Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourse Country Program](#): A project aimed at improving the resilience of residents and landowners to future flooding events
- [Gwydir Wetlands Cultural Calendar](#): Using indigenous knowledge to understand seasonal changes in the Gwydir wetlands and improve how the ecosystem is managed.