



8 March 2016

## Gwydir Valley:

### Water availability and allocation update - February 2016

#### Allocations

No increase in allocation is available for Gwydir regulated river general security water users at this time.

Hot and dry weather persisted across the Gwydir valley in February, with little or no rain recorded across upper catchment areas. As a result, there has been no improvement in water availability.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir valley	100%	5.28%

#### Key facts

- The system continues to be tightly operated as conditions remain extremely dry.
- Essential supplies are secure for 2016/17.
- Under a continuing dry scenario, targeted deliveries (in consultation with user groups) will be undertaken in 2016/17 to ensure priority needs can be met with limited water availability.

#### Dam levels (end February)

- Copeton Dam is steady at around 242 GL (18 % full).
- Small releases from storage were made during the month to meet some priority downstream demand, resulting in the storage volume falling by about 6 GL.

#### Seasonal Rainfall Outlook

- The latest Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) seasonal outlook for autumn (March to May) indicates above average rainfall across most of the catchment. Summer-like temperatures are expected to continue into March with a possible warm autumn.
- The current outlook reflects a combination of a weakening El Niño, very warm Indian Ocean temperatures and warm sea surface temperatures near Australia.

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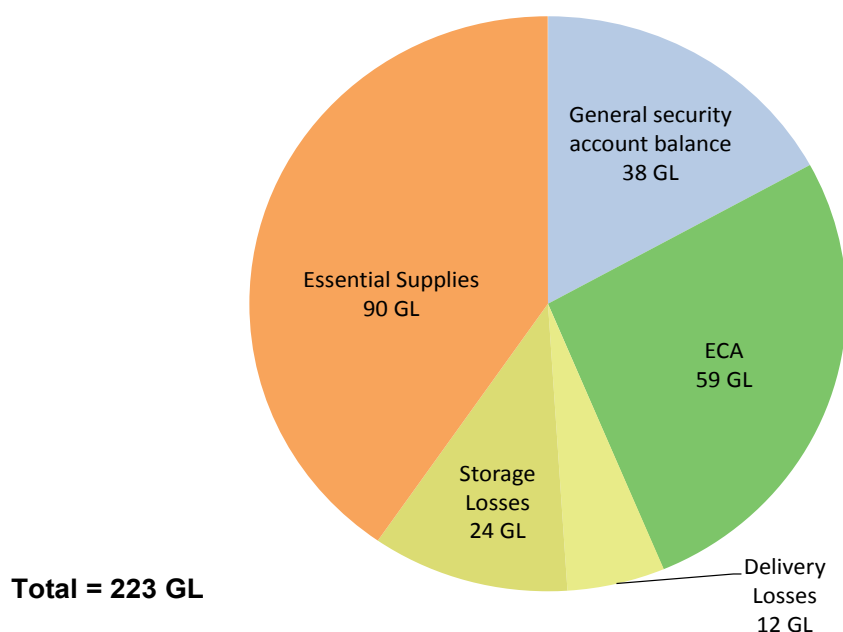
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

## Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 March 2016) for 2015-16	
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	Volume (GL)
<b>less</b>	222.69
Storage Losses <sup>(2)</sup>	
Essential Supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	23.80
ECA	89.88 (95% full)
Delivery Losses <sup>(4)</sup>	59.42 (66% full)
General Security Account Balance	11.76 (40% of budget)
New Allocation from this Assessment	37.83
	Nil

\*See notes below.

## Resource Distribution Mar 2016 to Jun 2016 Gwydir Valley



### Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (223 GL) – is total active storage at Copeton Dam at time of assessment.
- (2) Storage Losses – evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour over 2 years.
- (3) Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for Towns, Stock, Domestic, High Security and riverine environments. Includes stock and domestic replenishments, delivery loss allowance and end-of-system flow requirements. This commitment is offset by minimum forecast inflows into the storages.
- (4) The normal delivery loss account budget is 30 percent of the volume of water allocated to general security licences and ECA. Currently, there is a shortfall in the delivery loss account meaning that improvements in water availability will first replenish the loss account before accruing to further general security allocation.

## Gwydir resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 January 2016
- Current Assessment date: 29 February 2016

<b>Storage volume</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Storage Balance (GL)</b>
Total		241.69
Dead storage	19.00	222.69
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)	24.27	198.42

<b>Essential Supplies</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	91.32	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-2.56	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	-0.60	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	-0.18	
Current balance	87.98	110.44

<b>Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	60.02	
Orders from assessment period	-0.60	
Current balance	59.42	51.02

<b>General Security Irrigation</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	41.99	
Orders from assessment period	-4.75	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	0.60	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	

<b>General Security Irrigation</b>		<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Current balance		37.83	13.19

<b>Delivery Loss</b>		<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward		11.58	
Losses since last assessment		0.00	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)		0.18	
Current balance		11.76	1.43

<b>Apparent Losses since last assessment</b>	<b>% of loss</b>	<b>GL</b>
Total		0.00
Essential Supply Loss	32%	0.00
General Security + ECA Loss	68%	0.00

<b>Resources available for sharing</b>	<b>GL</b>
Total	<b>1.43</b>

<b>New balances</b>	<b>Limit</b>	<b>Commitments</b>		<b>Balance</b>
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	23.80	24.27	-0.47	23.80
Essential Supplies	94.72	87.98	1.90	89.88
Delivery Loss	256.35	11.76	0.00	11.76
ECA	90.00	59.42	0.00	59.42
General Security Irrigation	764.50	37.83	0.00	37.83
Uncommitted resources	-	1.43	-1.43	0.00
Total	-	222.69	0.00	222.69

<b>Recommendations (General Security)</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Unit</b>
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share