



7 March 2017

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update – to end February 2017

Allocations

While February saw average rainfall in the storage headwater catchments, well above average temperatures resulted in little inflows into Copeton Dam. There are insufficient resources to increase allocation to general security licence holders, keeping the total for the 2016/17 water year **unchanged at 72.87 per cent of entitlement.**

All other categories of licence in the valley have already received their maximum allocation for the 2016-17 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir valley	100%	72.87%

Dam levels (as at 6 March)

Copeton Dam is 44 per cent full –falling - holding 608,000 megalitres (ML).

This time last year the storage was 16.5 per cent full.

Key facts

- The storage volume in Copeton Dam fell by about 73,000 ML during February as releases were made to meet downstream irrigation requirements. Demand is expected to taper off by mid-March.
- WaterNSW advises that once the current irrigation season ends, releases from Copeton Dam will be reviewed based on essential supply requirements through until winter. If dry conditions then look like persisting, a block release strategy may need to be considered to extend longevity of critical water supplies.
- NSW experienced its third warmest February on record, with new records being set in some parts of the state. Average maximum temperatures were up to 3 degrees Celsius higher and were the warmest since 1926.

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Seasonal rainfall outlook

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, March is likely to be hotter and drier than average for the Gwydir Valley. Warmer and drier than average conditions are expected to continue through Autumn (March to May), stemming from forecast higher than normal air pressure across western and southern Australia, resulting in the probably of fewer rain-bearing systems.

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) indicator remains neutral. However, recent changes in both the tropical Pacific Ocean and atmosphere, and climate model outlooks surveyed by the Bureau, suggest the likelihood of El Niño forming in 2017 has risen to about 50 per cent.

El Niño is often associated with below average winter–spring rainfall over eastern Australia and warmer than average winter–spring maximum temperatures over the southern half of Australia.

Further information

The next monthly Water Allocation Statement for the Gwydir regulated river water source will be issued on **Friday 7 April 2017**.

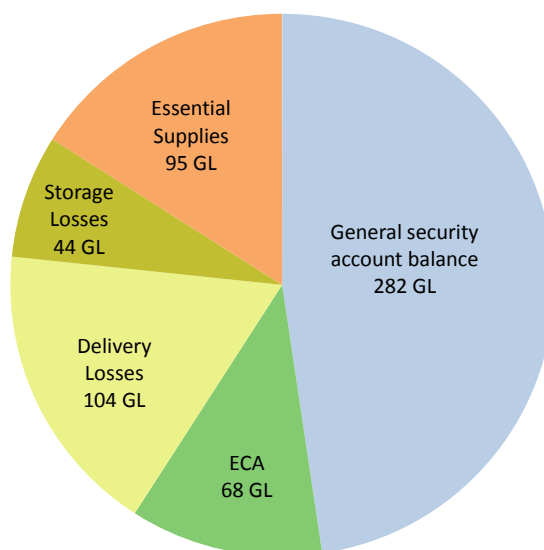
Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution as at 01 March 2017	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	592.32
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	43.50
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	94.72 (100% full)
ECA	67.81
Delivery Losses	104.02
General Security Account Balance	282.27

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 01 March 2017 Gwydir Valley



Total = 592 GL

Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (592 GL): is the total active storage at Copeton Dam at the time of assessment.
- (2) Storage Losses: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 2 years.
- (3) Essential Supplies: water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan 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 storage.

Gwydir resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 January 2017
- Current Assessment date: 28 February 2017

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		611.32
Dead storage	19.00	592.32
Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward)	46.41	545.91

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	94.72	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-3.18	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	-0.10	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	-0.03	
Current balance	91.41	454.51

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	67.81	
Orders from assessment period	0.00	
Current balance	67.81	386.70

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	335.40	
Orders from assessment period	-53.23	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	0.10	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	282.27	104.43

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	120.96	
Losses since last assessment	-21.19	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.03	
Current balance	99.80	4.63

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		22.09
Essential Supply Loss	4%	0.91
General Security + ECA Loss	96%	21.19

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	4.63

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	43.50	46.41	-2.91	43.50
Essential Supplies	94.72	91.41	3.31	94.72
Delivery Loss	256.35	99.80	4.22	104.02
ECA	90.00	67.81	0.00	67.81
General Security Irrigation	764.50	282.27	0.00	282.27
Uncommitted resources	-	4.63	-4.63	0.00
Total	-	592.32	0.00	592.32

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