

7 September 2020

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source


Allocations

There is an **increase in allocation of 3.07% for general security** water users in the Gwydir regulated river water source – bringing the total for the 2020-21 water year to 4.77% of entitlement. The allocation reflects total resource improvements since the last assessment. The Environmental Contingency Allowance is also similarly credited in accordance with the water sharing plan rules.

The Gwydir catchment experienced average rainfall in August, with Copeton Dam receiving around 37 mm of rainfall. Net inflow into the system in August was about 27 gegalitres (GL), with downstream tributary inflow of about 7 GL.

The continued improvement in rainfall and runoff into the Gwydir catchment has been enough to maintain full essential supply and delivery loss accounts. However, the system is still recovering with stored resources just 236 GL or about 16% full as at 2 September 2020. Block releases will need to continue to be used as an efficiency measure in delivering water orders.

Current allocations

2020/21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	4.77%	 Stage 2

Dam levels (as at 7 September 2020)

Copeton Dam is 16.2% full – steady – currently holding about 237 GL. This time last year the storage was at 8.8% full.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Gwydir regulated river water source is at Stage 2 (Emerging) criticality. Although improving, storage remains low and block release deliveries are necessary. However, the situation is being closely monitored and water users are advised to exercise caution in case dry conditions return.

Further information on drought stages can be found at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Key information

- Total net inflows into Copeton Dam were about 27 GL in August 2020.
- Downstream tributary flows contributed about 7 GL in August 2020.
- Delivery budgets – the Delivery Loss and Essential Supply accounts, have fully recovered.

- August resource improvements underpins an increase in allocation for general security water users of 3.07%.
- Block releases will be utilised in 2020-21 to prudently manage deliveries of account water.
- High priority commitments are secure for 2021-22 under the block release strategy.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for September to November indicates that the catchment is very likely to experience wetter than average conditions. Daytime temperatures over this period are equally likely to be above or below average and night-time temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau of Meteorology states that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook is at La Niña ALERT, meaning the chance of La Niña developing in the coming months is around 70%. This is roughly triple the normal likelihood. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. This combination typically increases the chance of above average rainfall across much of Australia during spring.

Further information

The next water allocation statement will be on **Thursday 8 October 2020**.

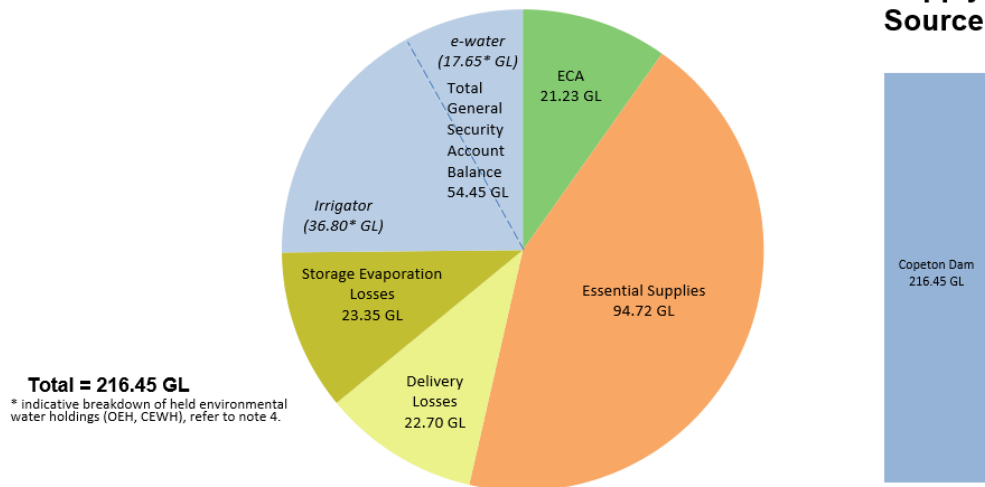
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 August 2020)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	216.45
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	23.35
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	94.72
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	21.23
Delivery Losses ⁽³⁾	22.70
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	17.65
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	36.80

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 31 August 2020 Gwydir Regulated River Water Source



Notes:

- (1) Storage Losses – evaporation based on forecast storage behaviour over 2 years at maximum historical rates.
- (2) 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 is offset by minimum forecast inflows to storage.
- (3) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portion of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart and table. The reporting of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. General Security HEW estimated to be 17.65 GL and High Security HEW is estimated to be 4.508 GL. 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). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

Resource Assessment as at 31 August 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	23.34	21.26	2.08	23.34
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	90.16	4.56	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	22.70	17.59	5.11	22.70
ECA (90 GL max)	-	19.85	1.38	21.23
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	38.79	15.66	54.45
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	28.80	-28.80	0.00
Total	-	216.45	0.00	216.45

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	15.66	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0307	ML per unit share

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.