

5 November 2015

Gwydir Valley

Water availability and allocation update October 2015

Allocations

There has been insufficient resource improvement in the past month to provide an allocation increase. Conditions remained relatively dry in October with only minor inflows to storage.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir valley	100%	5.28%

Key facts

- No allocation increase is made for general security water users from this assessment.
- Full allocation was made to local water utilities, stock and domestic, and high security access licences on 1 July 2015. Delivery of this water is assured this year.
- A block release strategy will be utilised if necessary to efficiently deliver remaining account volumes this year.
- Conditions and water availability will continue to be monitored closely and consultations with water users will continue to ensure that difficulties are identified.

Dam levels

- Copeton Dam is currently 22 per cent full, holding 308,700 megalitres, after a low in late-March of 250,500 megalitres
- Without rainfall and inflows this level is likely to fall as the weather begins to warm and releases commence to meet summer demand.

Seasonal Rainfall Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) latest outlook shows a drier than average November across most parts of southeast Australia is likely in the lead up to summer.
- The three month period from November to January is about an even chance of above average rainfall in the Gwydir catchment. The current outlook reflects a combination of a strong El Niño in the Pacific, decaying positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

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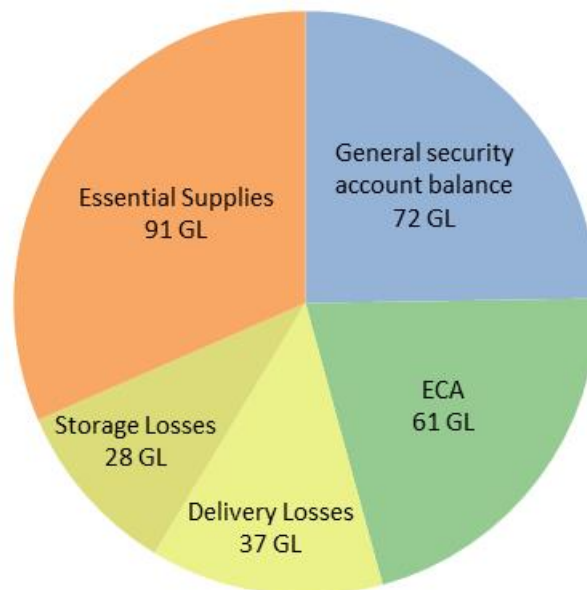
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Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 November) for 2015/16 & 2016/17	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	289.46
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	28.33
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	91.32 (96% full)
ECA	60.77 (68% full)
Delivery Losses ⁽⁴⁾	37.42
General Security Account Balance	71.62
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

*See notes below

Allocation Distribution 2015/16 & 2016/17 Gwydir Valley - 1 November 2015



Total = 289 GL

Note: Data is for the 1st to the 31st of October 2015 period

Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (289 GL) - Active Copeton Dam storage volume at the day 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 S&D replenishments, delivery loss allowance and end-of-system flow requirements. This commitment is reduced by minimum forecast inflows into the storages.
- (4) The delivery loss budget is 30 per cent of the volume of water allocated to general security licences and ECA.