

8 January 2016

Gwydir Valley

Water availability and allocation update December 2015

Allocations

There is **no increase** in Gwydir general security allocations available at this time. Generally dry conditions have continued in December across the valley, with very little inflows into the storages despite some intermittent rainfall.

Current allocations

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir valley	100%	5.28%

Key facts

- The sum of general security available water determination remains at 5.28 per cent of entitlement for the 2015/16 water year.
- All other higher priority licences have already received their maximum allocations for the 2015-16 water year on 1 July 2015.
- Water user groups in effluent streams will continue to be consulted with regards to targeted deliveries to ensure priority needs can be met despite drought conditions.
- A localised storm in the Gravesend area overnight on Tuesday 5 January 2016 produced some surplus flows in the Gwydir main channel allowing a small volume (1,240 megalitres) of supplementary access.

Dam levels (end December 2015)

- Copeton Dam is currently 20 per cent full and holding around 278 gigalitres. It reached a low in March 2015 of 250.5 gigalitres.
- Releases from storage have been primarily to meet summer demand, resulting in the storage volume falling by about 35 gigalitres in December 2015.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

- The latest Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) seasonal outlook for January to March 2016 indicates equal chance of above or below average rainfall across most of the catchment. Temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.
- Current climate influences continue to show a combination of a strong El Niño in the Pacific and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.
- El-Niño systems tend to coincide with dry conditions in northern NSW but have been observed to deteriorate in late summer.

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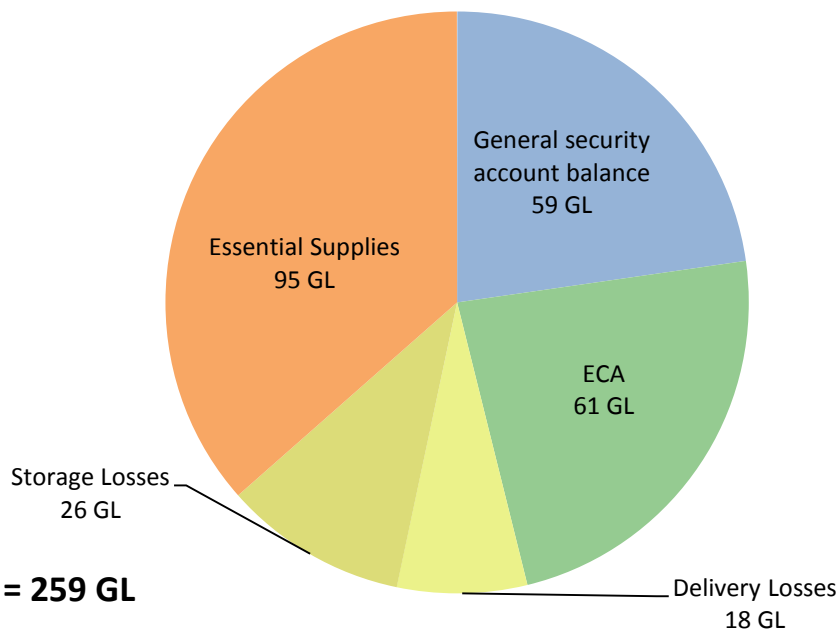
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Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 January 2016) for 2015/16 & 2016/17	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	259.44
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	26.37
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	94.72 (100% full)
ECA	60.77 (68% full)
Delivery Losses ⁽⁴⁾	18.67 (50% full)
General Security Account Balance	58.91
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

*See notes below

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



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

Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (259 GL) – is total active storage at Copeton Dam at time 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 per cent of the volume of water allocated to general security licences and ECA. Currently, there is a shortfall in the delivery loss account with loss account balance showing only 18 GL (50 per cent of 36 GL budget).

Gwydir Resource Assessment December 2015

- Previous Assessment date: 30 November 2015
- Current Assessment date: 31 December 2015

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		278.45
Dead storage	19.00	259.45
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)	28.66	230.79

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	94.72	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-4.50	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	0.00	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	0.00	
Current balance	90.22	140.57

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	60.77	
Orders from assessment period	0.00	
Current balance	60.77	79.79

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	70.92	
Orders from assessment period	-12.01	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	0.00	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	58.91	20.88

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	39.66	
Losses since last assessment	-23.43	

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.00	
Current balance	16.23	4.65

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		26.41
Essential Supply Loss	11%	2.98
General Security + ECA Loss	89%	23.43

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	4.65

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	26.37	26.66	-2.29	26.37
Essential Supplies	94.72	90.22	4.50	94.72
Delivery Loss	256.35	16.23	2.44	18.67
ECA	90.00	60.77	0.00	60.77
General Security Irrigation	764.50	58.91	0.00	58.91
Uncommitted resources	-	4.65	-4.65	0.01
Total	-	259.45	0.00	259.45

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

Recommended by	Date	Checked by	Date	Approved by	Date
Ken Gee Water System Planner Water NSW	31 Dec 2015	Neeraj Maini Natural Resource Officer DPI Water	5 Jan 2016	Brian Graham Acting Director Surface Water Management DPI Water	7 Jan 2016