

5 December 2016

Gwydir Valley Water allocation update – November 2016

Allocations

Sufficient resources are available to announce an **increased allocation of 3.42 per cent of entitlement to general security licence holders in the Gwydir Valley, bringing the total for the 2016/17 water year to 72.43 per cent of entitlement.**

This increase in allocation is the result of inflows to Copeton Dam from rainfall events in early November.

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%	72.43%

Dam levels (as at 05 December)

Copeton Dam is 58 per cent full - falling slowly - holding 801,600 megalitres (ML).

Key facts

- The storage volume in Copeton Dam peaked in mid-November with a small net increase in storage since the start of the month.
- Irrigation demand during November was met primarily from on-farm water storages that had filled from the wet conditions in winter and early-spring. Demand from Copeton Dam is expected to increase as these storages deplete.
- WaterNSW is working with NSW's Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to determine a plan for environmental flow releases from Copeton Dam to the Mallowa Creek watercourse and the Gwydir Wetlands over the summer.
- Access to supplementary flow ceased in the first week of November 2016.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a less than 30 per cent chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the Gwydir Valley during December 2016. The climate outlook for summer (December to February) shows that the rainfall is likely to be below average.

The current outlook reflects a negative Southern Annular Mode and a weak La Niña-like pattern in the Pacific Ocean, including warmer than average waters to the northwest of Australia. As a result, days and nights are likely to be warmer than average in coming months.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Further information

The next monthly Water Allocation Statement for the Gwydir regulated river water source will be issued **mid-January 2017**.

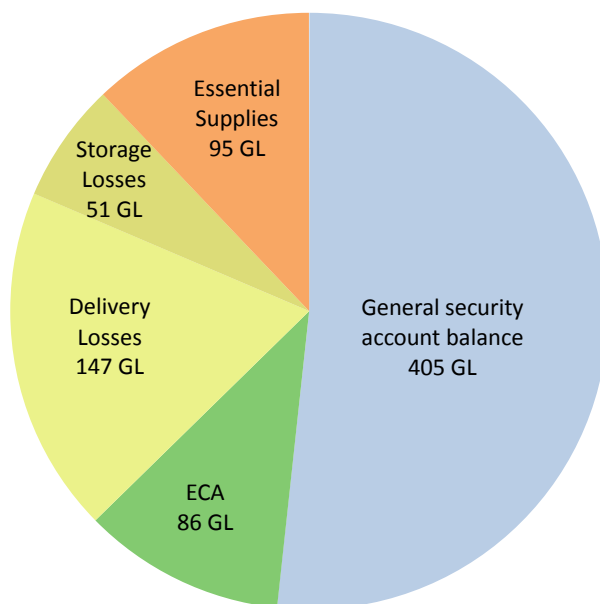
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution as at 01 December 2016	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	783.90
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	50.80
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	94.72 (100% full)
ECA	85.61
Delivery Losses	147.32 (30% of demand)
General Security Account Balance	405.45

*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution as at 01 December 2016
Gwydir Valley**



Total = 784 GL

Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (784 GL) – is total active storage at Copeton Dam at the 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.

Gwydir resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 October 2016
- Current Assessment date: 30 November 2016

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		802.90
Dead storage	19.00	783.90
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)	49.92	733.98

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	94.72	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-1.48	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	-0.04	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	-0.01	
Current balance	93.18	640.80

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	84.06	
Orders from assessment period	0.00	
Current balance	84.06	556.74

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	388.70	
Orders from assessment period	-0.81	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	0.04	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	387.93	168.81

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	141.83	
Losses since last assessment	0.00	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.01	
Current balance	141.84	26.97

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		0.00
Essential Supply Loss	65%	0.00
General Security + ECA Loss	35%	0.00

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	26.97

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	50.80	49.92	0.88	50.80
Essential Supplies	94.72	93.18	1.54	94.72
Delivery Loss	256.35	141.84	5.48	147.32
ECA	90.00	84.06	1.55	85.61
General Security Irrigation	764.50	387.93	17.52	405.45
Uncommitted resources	-	26.97	-26.97	0.00
Total	-	783.90	0.00	783.90

Recommendations (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	17.52	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0342	ML per unit share