

7 June 2018

## Gwydir Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

The Gwydir regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at 17.59 per cent of entitlement.**

Australia experienced the third driest May on record and NSW had the seventh lowest May rainfall in 119 years. Rainfall was very low in the catchment during May, with Copeton Dam receiving just 1mm during the month. There was no resource improvement to provide an increase in allocation.

Apart from general security, all other categories of licence in the regulated river valley have already received their maximum allocation for the 2017-18 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Valley	100%	17.59%

#### Dam levels (as at 6 June)

Copeton Dam is approximately 27 per cent full – falling – currently around 378,000 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was about 47 per cent full.

#### Key facts

- The volume in Copeton Dam has decreased by 9,700 ML since the last assessment, mostly due to releases to meet downstream general security demand.
- The forecast, based on the minimum inflow sequence, indicates that water for essential supplies will be deliverable, with careful river operation, for the next 24 months.
- Due to the persisting dry conditions, block releases will likely be used in 2018-19 to allow delivery of small volumes of irrigation water.
- Block releases will primarily consist of up to three discrete deliveries to the effluent streams of Moomin, Carole and lower sections of the Mehi River in spring and summer of 2018-19.

#### Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting that rainfall is unlikely to exceed median conditions during June to August for the catchment. Forecasts also suggest that day and night-time temperatures are likely to be above median during this period.

The outlook for the south-east of Australia suggests that winter will likely be drier and warmer than average. The EL NIÑO–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are forecast to remain neutral during winter meaning weather patterns will be influenced mostly by local effects.

### **Further information**

This is the final water allocation statement for the 2017-18 water year. State-wide opening allocations for the 2018-19 water year will be made on Sunday 1 July 2018. The next water allocation statement for the Gwydir regulated river will be available in early August 2018.

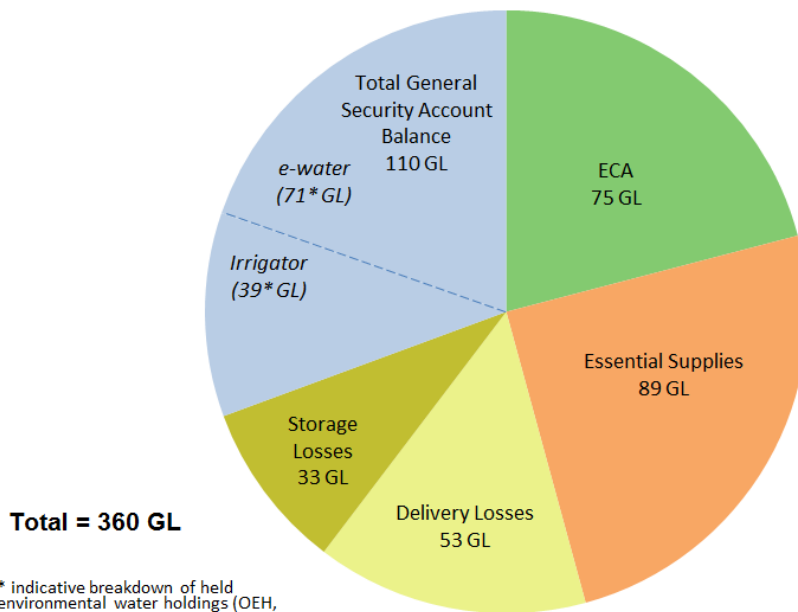
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

**Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

Resource Distribution (as at 31 May 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	359.88
<b>less</b>	
Storage Losses <sup>(2)</sup>	32.51
Essential Supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	89.35 (94.3% full)
ECA	75.33
Delivery Losses	52.51
General Security Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	110.20

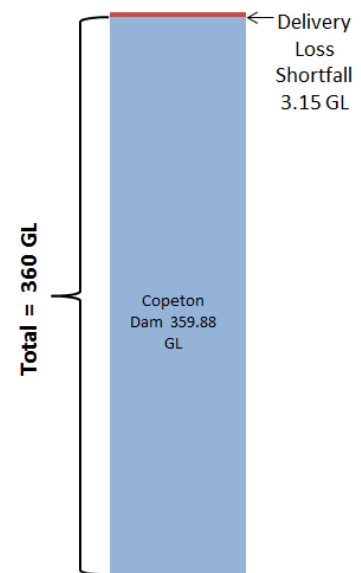
See notes below.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 May 2018  
Gwydir Valley**



\* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH), refer to note 4.

**Supply Distribution**



**Notes:**

- (1) Available Resource – 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 to storage.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – as a trial, water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portions of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 71GL of GS and 0GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual Agency websites.

## Gwydir resource assessment

- Previous assessment date: 30 April 2018
- Current assessment date: 31 May 2018

<b>Storage volume</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Storage Balance (GL)</b>
Total		378.88
Dead storage	19.00	359.88
Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward)	33.04	326.84

<b>Essential Supplies</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	87.53	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-0.84	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	-1.27	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	-0.38	
Current balance	85.04	241.80

<b>Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	75.33	
Orders from assessment period	0.00	
Current balance	75.33	166.47

<b>General Security Irrigation</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	121.55	
Orders from assessment period	-12.63	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	1.27	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	110.20	56.28

<b>Delivery Loss</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	52.12	
Losses since last assessment	0.00	

<b>Delivery Loss</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.38	
Current balance	52.51	3.77

<b>Apparent Losses since last assessment</b>	<b>% of loss</b>	<b>GL</b>
Total		0.00
Essential Supply Loss	6%	0.00
General Security + ECA Loss	94%	0.00

<b>Resources available for sharing</b>	<b>GL</b>
Total	3.77

<b>New balances</b>	<b>Limit</b>	<b>Commitments</b>		<b>Balance</b>
		<b>Current</b>	<b>Additional</b>	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	32.51	33.04	-0.53	32.51
Essential Supplies	94.72	85.04	4.31	89.35
Delivery Loss	256.35	52.51	0.00	52.51
ECA	90.00	75.33	0.00	75.33
General Security Irrigation	764.50	110.20	0.00	110.20
Uncommitted resources	-	3.77	-3.77	0.00
Total	-	359.88	0.00	359.88

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