

6 September 2019


Gwydir Valley

Allocations

Allocations for general security entitlements in the Gwydir regulated river water source remain **unchanged at zero percent**.

Rainfall in August was very much below average across the Gwydir catchment with no rain falling at Copeton Dam.

There has been 29.8 gigalitres (GL) of inflow into Copeton Dam since the last general security allocation 19 months ago in early February 2018. **This is now the lowest 19-month inflow on record**, with the previous lowest being 36.4 GL in the 19-months to August 1994.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Valley	100%	0%	 Stage 3

Dam levels (as at 3 September)

Copeton Dam is 8.8 per cent full – steady – currently holding about 137,000 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was 23.9 per cent 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. Currently, the Gwydir Valley is at Stage 3 criticality. Generally, as the drought deepens, tougher measures are needed to protect critical human needs. Management action may soon be required in the Gwydir valley water source to secure critical needs for another year beyond 2019-20.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Key facts

- Copeton Dam storage volume decreased by 1.5 GL in August 2019, of which, 0.90 GL was to meet essential supplies.
- Evaporation and transmission losses have remained very high since the last allocation 19 months ago, reflecting the drying river system and contributing to the 42 GL resource shortfall.
- There were no general security or ECA releases in August 2019.
- The delivery loss account is effectively empty and the essential supply reserve is supporting the delivery of critical water.

- If extreme dry conditions continue, tougher drought contingency measures will be implemented to secure critical human needs beyond this water year.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for spring suggests a likely drier and warmer than average period through to December 2019.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to remain at neutral for the remainder of 2019 and the positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which is currently the dominant climate driver for Australia, is forecast to continue through the spring period.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir regulated river water source will be available in early October 2019.

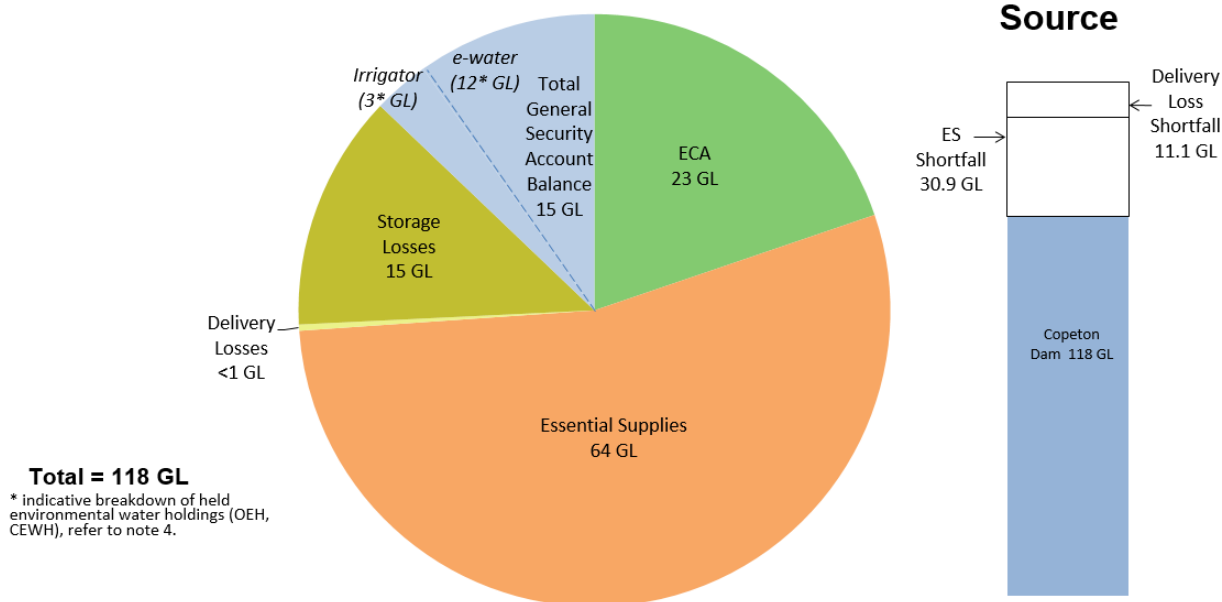
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 August 2019)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		118.0
<i>less</i>		
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	15.2	
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	63.9	
ECA	23.3	
Delivery Losses ⁽⁵⁾	0.4	
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	15.2	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation		0.0

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 31 August 2019 Gwydir Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource – is the total active storage at Copeton Dam at the time of assessment.
- (2) Storage Losses – evaporation based on forecast storage behaviour over 2 years at max historical rates.
- (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 is offset by minimum forecast inflows to storage.

- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – 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 11.6 GL of GS and 5.8 GL of HS. 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.
- (5) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water. Zero balance means that water must be borrowed to continue the delivery of general security water, in accordance with prior practice. The payback of any borrow will occur before further general security allocation. The account balance remains unchanged despite delivering water for GS & ECA since April 2019 due to necessary 'dam wall debit' accounting of the delivery.

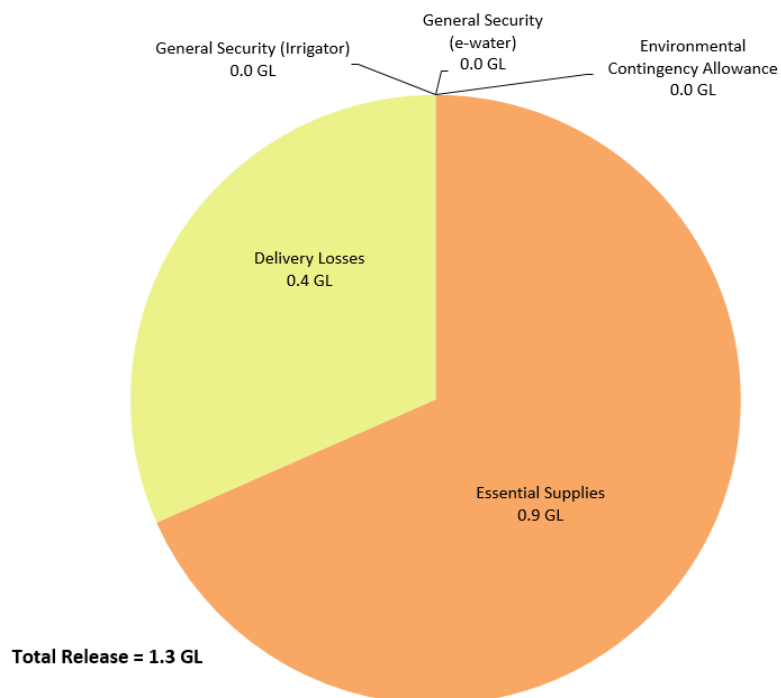
Resource Assessment as at 31 August 2019

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	15.20	15.34	-0.14	15.20
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	63.97	-0.12	63.85
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	11.56	0.46	0.00	0.46
ECA (90 GL max)	-	23.33	0.00	23.33
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	15.19	0.00	15.19
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	-0.26	0.26	0.00
Total	-	118.04	0.00	118.04

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

Copeton Dam released 1.3 GL in August 2019 to meet the following requirements:

Release Distribution for August 2019



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