

9 October 2015

Gwydir Valley:

Water availability and allocation update September 2015

Allocations

This resource assessment has provided an allocation increase of 0.0039 megalitres per unit share (ML/share), bringing to 5.28 per cent the total allocation this year for Gwydir valley regulated river general security entitlement holders.

Earlier allocations this year for Gwydir general security entitlement holders have been 0.0075 ML/share in August and 0.0414 ML/share in September.

In addition, there was 41,220 megalitres (8.1 per cent of entitlement) held in general security accounts as private carryover at the commencement of the 2015/16 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir valley	100%	5.28%

Key facts

- Full (100 per cent) 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.
- The sum of general security allocations is now 5.28 per cent of entitlement for the 2015/16 water year.
- Conditions and water availability will continue to be monitored closely and consultations with water users will continue to look for ways to efficiently deliver water, particularly if the expected dry conditions persist.
- A block release strategy will be used to maximise the opportunity for water delivery.

Dam levels

- Copeton Dam is currently 22 per cent full, holding 316,000 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.

Seasonal Rainfall Outlook

- An emerging positive Indian Ocean Dipole combined with a mature El Niño in the Pacific has caused the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to provide a special update of its climate outlook for October to December.

Media contact: Bunty Driver M 0407 403234

www.water.nsw.gov.au

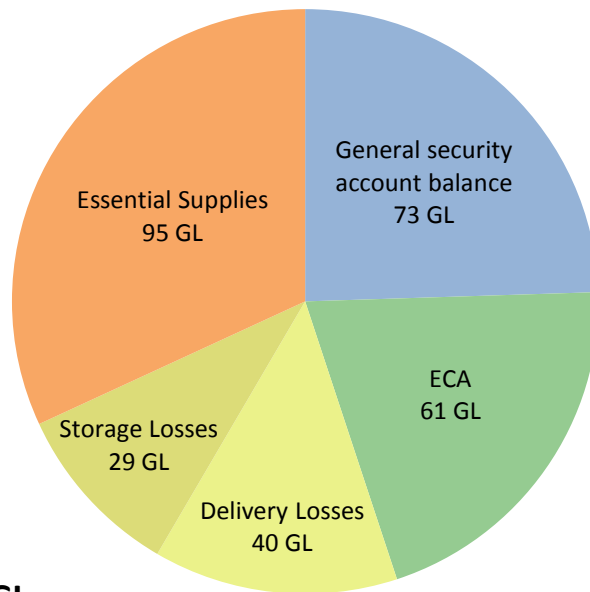
- The rainfall outlook for October has shifted significantly towards a drier month, especially for NSW. The regional outlook is for a less than 20 per cent chance of reaching median rainfall conditions coupled with a greater than 80 per cent chance of exceeding the median for maximum temperatures.
- Hot dry conditions are likely for the next three months.

Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 October) for 2015/16 & 2016/17	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	297.09
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	28.81
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	94.72 (full)
ECA	60.77 (68% full)
Delivery Losses ⁽⁴⁾	40.05
General Security Account Balance	72.74
Announced General Security	26.90 (5.28%)

**See notes below*

Allocation Distribution 2015/16 Gwydir Valley - October 2015



Total = 297 GL

Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (297 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.