

8 March 2019

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation and availability update

Allocations

Allocations for the Gwydir regulated river water source **remain unchanged**.

Rainfall for February was mostly below average to very much below average in the catchment, with Copeton Dam itself receiving no rainfall. There was no net inflow to the upper system with conditions remaining generally hot and dry.

There has been just 27.6 gigalitres (GL) of inflow into Copeton Dam since the last general security allocation in February 2018. This is the second lowest inflow on record, exceeded only by a similar period in 1920.

Apart from general security, all other categories of licence in the regulated river valley have received their maximum allocation for the 2018-19 water year.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Valley	100%	0%	 Stage 2

Dam levels (as at 8 March)

Copeton Dam is 11.8 per cent full – falling – currently holding 178,000 ML. This time last year the storage was about 29.4 per cent full.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduces a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Gwydir Valley is assessed to be in Stage 2 drought, as contingency measures are needed to manage the water shortage. These measures include ceasing deliveries for the small volumes of general security water remaining in accounts in the 2019-20 water year earlier in the season and intermittently releasing water to supply high security users.

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 stored volume has decreased by 10.5 GL in February 2019, mostly due to supply essential requirements and general security orders.
- Evaporation and transmission losses have been persistently higher than budgeted in this water year, reflecting a drying river system, contributing to the 46.5 GL resource shortfall.
- There were no ECA deliveries in February 2019.
- Deliveries for general security users have ceased for this season.

- The delivery loss account is empty and the essential supply reserve is supporting the remaining account delivery.
- Critical human and stock needs are secured into the next water year.
- Towns including Moree have access to back-up groundwater supplies.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for March to May shows conditions are likely to be drier than average. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño WATCH. Sea surface temperatures have warmed and are around El Niño thresholds. There is an even chance of an El Niño event forming in autumn or winter. The Indian Ocean Dipole, which has little influence on the Australian climate from December to April, is neutral.

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

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir regulated river will be provided on **Friday 5 April 2019**.

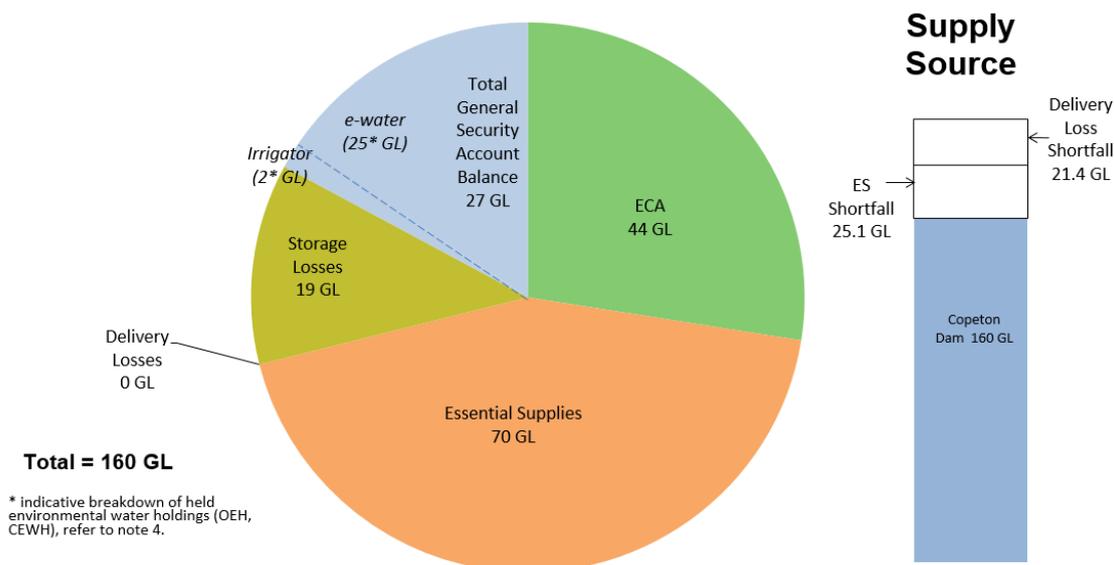
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 28 February 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	160.0
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	18.9
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	69.7
ECA	44.0
Delivery Losses ⁽⁵⁾	00.0
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	27.4

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 28 February 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 25GL 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.
- (5) This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water (delivery losses). 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 increase.

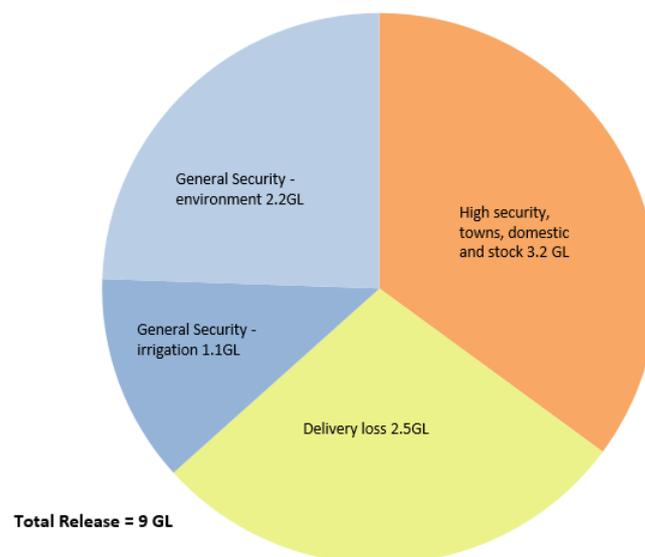
Resource Assessment as at 28 February 2019

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	18.90	19.77	-0.87	18.90
Essential Supplies	94.72	71.55	-1.89	69.66
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	21.42	00.00	0.00	00.00
ECA (90 GL max)	-	44.03	0.00	44.03
General Security Irrigation (764.5 GL max)	-	27.38	0.00	27.38
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	-2.75	2.75	0.00
Total	-	159.98	0.00	159.98

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

Copeton Dam released 9 GL in February 2019 to meet the following requirements:

Release Distribution for February 2019



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