

5 April 2019

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation and availability update

Allocations

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

Rainfall in March was about average across the catchment; however, due to the very dry catchment conditions there was little runoff and no net storage inflow.

There has been just 28.6 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 23GL over a similar period in 1919.

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

Dam levels (as at 1 April)

Copeton Dam is 11.7 per cent full – falling slowly – currently holding 176,000 ML. This time last year the storage was about 29 per cent full.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Gwydir Valley is in Stage 2 drought, as contingency measures are needed to manage the water shortage.

As the drought is deepening, tougher measures are needed to protect critical human needs, and the criticality level will escalate to Stage 3. Management action will focus on ensuring water is available for critical needs for as long as possible.

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 has decreased by 2.8 GL in March 2019, with releases being made to meet essential requirements.
- Evaporation and transmission losses have remained above budget this water year, reflecting the drying river system and contributing to the 49.1 GL resource shortfall.
- There were no general security or environmental water (ECA) deliveries in March 2019.
- The delivery loss account is empty and the essential supply reserve is supporting the delivery of water.
- Critical human and stock needs are secured into the next water year.

- Water for towns, including Moree, is secure in 2019-20 with access to groundwater.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for April to June shows no clear indication of drier or wetter than average conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook is at El Niño ALERT. There is a 70 per cent chance of El Niño conditions developing in 2019, triple the normal likelihood. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral, but of little influence on rainfall from December to April.

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 **Tuesday 7 May 2019**.

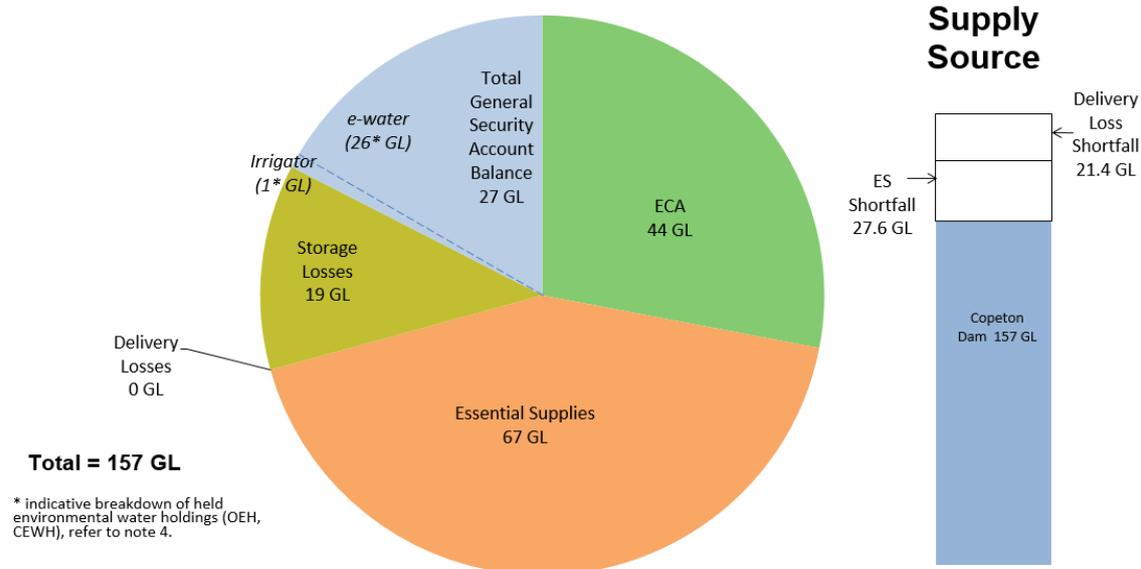
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 March 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	157.2
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	18.7
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	67.1
ECA	44.0
Delivery Losses ⁽⁵⁾	00.0
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	27.4

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 31 March 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 26GL 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. NOTE: the 26GL e-water component of GS account balance has been revised upward from the 25GL reported last month as a result of more accurate reconciliation of accounts.
- (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 increase.

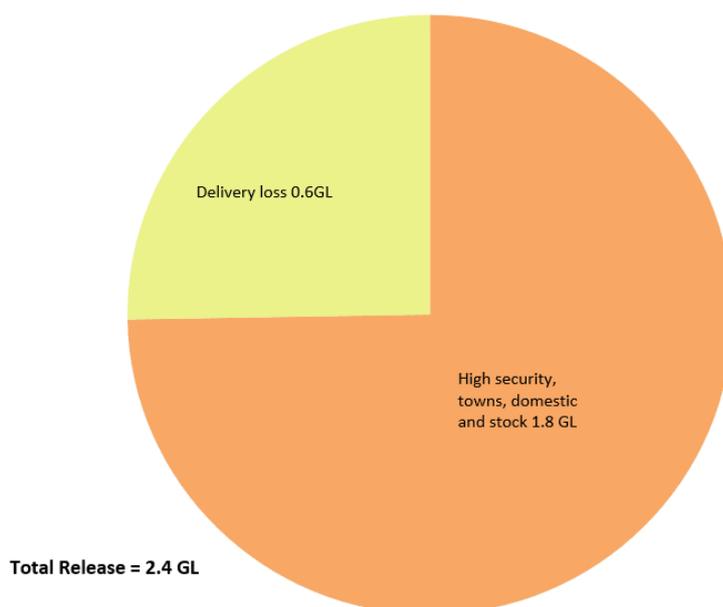
Resource Assessment as at 31 March 2019

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	18.66	18.90	-0.24	18.66
Essential Supplies	94.72	67.29	-0.20	67.08
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	-	-0.44	0.44	0.00
Total	-	157.16	0.00	157.16

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

Copeton Dam released 2.4 GL in March 2019 to meet the following requirements:

Release Distribution for March 2019



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