

5 February 2016

## Gwydir Valley

### Water availability and allocation update - January 2016

#### Allocations

Some rainfall in January in the Copeton catchment provided a small improvement to storage levels, but this month's assessment indicates that there is **no increase** in allocation available for Gwydir regulated river general security water users at this time.

The system continues to be tightly operated as conditions remain dry.

#### Current allocations

	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 to users is assured this year.
- The total general security allocation for this 2015/16 water year remains unchanged at 5.28 per cent of entitlement.
- 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.
- Recent rainfall at the end of January produced some surplus flows in the Gwydir main channel allowing a small volume of supplementary access.

#### Dam levels (end January 2016)

- Copeton Dam is currently 18 per cent full and holding around 248 gigalitres. This is the lowest the dam has reached since a low of 250.5 gigalitres in March 2015.
- Releases from storage have been primarily to meet summer demand, resulting in the storage volume falling by about 30 gigalitres in January.

#### Seasonal rainfall outlook

- The latest Bureau of Meteorology's (BoM) seasonal outlook for February to April 2016 indicates above average rainfall across most of the catchment. Temperatures are likely to be cooler than average.
- Current climate influences continue to show a combination of a strong El Niño now in decline, in the Pacific, record-warm Indian Ocean temperatures, and warm localised sea surface temperatures.

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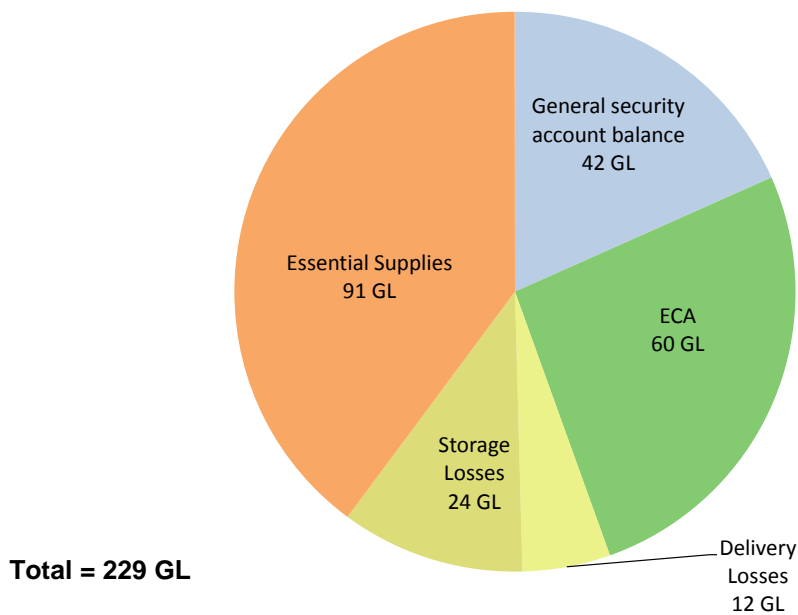
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### Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 February 2016) for 2015/16	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	229.184
<b>less</b>	
Storage Losses <sup>(2)</sup>	24.27
Essential Supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	91.32 (96% full)
ECA	60.02 (67% full)
Delivery Losses <sup>(4)</sup>	11.58 (38% of budget)
General Security Account Balance	41.99
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

\*See notes below

### Resource Distribution for 2015/16 Gwydir Valley - as at 1 February 2016



**Notes:**

- (1) Available Resource (229 GL) – is total active storage at Copeton Dam at time 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 stock and domestic replenishments, delivery loss allowance and end-of-system flow requirements. This commitment is offset by minimum forecast inflows into the storages.
- (4) The normal delivery loss account budget is 30 percent of the volume of water allocated to general security licences and ECA. Currently, there is a shortfall in the delivery loss account with loss account balance showing only 12 GL (38 percent of the
- (5) 31 GL budget).

<b>WaterNSW</b>				
<b>January 2016</b>				
<b>GWYDIR RESOURCE ASSESSMENT</b>				
<b>Previous Assessment date:</b>		<b>31-December-2015</b>		
<b>Current Assessment date:</b>		<b>31-January-2016</b>		<b>GL</b>
<b>Storage volume</b>				248.18
Dead storage			19.00	229.18
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)			26.37	202.81
<b>Essential Supplies</b>				
Brought forward			94.72	
Used and associated loss since last assessment			-9.51	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security			-1.80	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account			-0.54	
Current balance			82.87	119.94
<b>Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)</b>				
Brought forward			60.77	
Orders from assessment period			-0.75	
Current balance			60.02	59.92
<b>General Security Irrigation</b>				
Brought forward			58.91	
Orders from assessment period			-18.73	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security			1.80	
Reconciliation of accounts			0.00	
Current balance			41.99	17.93
<b>Delivery Loss</b>				
Brought forward			18.67	
Losses since last assessment			-7.63	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)			0.54	
Current balance			11.58	6.35
<b>Apparent Losses since last assessment</b>				<b>10.31</b>
Essential Supply Loss	26%		2.68	
General Security + ECA Loss	74%		7.63	
<b>Resources available for sharing</b>				<b>6.35</b>
<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	24.27	26.37	-2.10	24.27
Essential Supplies	94.72	82.87	8.45	91.32
Delivery Loss	256.35	11.58	0.00	11.58
ECA	90.00	60.02	0.00	60.02
General Security Irrigation	764.50	41.99	0.00	41.99
Uncommitted resources	-	6.35	-6.35	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>229.18</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>229.18</b>
<b>Recommendations (General Security)</b>				
<b>Incremental Increase CREDITED</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>GL</b>		
<b>Available Water Determination</b>	<b>0.0000 ML per unit share</b>			
Recommended by:				1 Feb, 2016
Ken Gee, Water System Planner, Water NSW				
Checked by:				4 Feb, 2016
Neeraj Maini, Natural Resource Officer, DPI Water				
Approved by:				5 Feb, 2016
Brain Graham, A/Director Surface Water Assessment, DPI Water				