

7 May 2020

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Allocations

As a result of the inflows in April, there is now enough water to make an **allocation of 1.9 per cent of entitlement to General Security (GS)** licence holders. This is the first allocation able to be made for general security licences since February 2018.

The Gwydir catchment received average rainfall in April, and stored water increased by 18.9 gigalitres (GL) to a total of about 188 GL. This improvement has also ensured a full essential supply account and recovery to the delivery loss account.

The improvements in the last two to three months have been welcome, but further recovery is required to build security and offset the extreme dry conditions experienced in the last two years.

Since the last general security allocation in 2018, there has been around 137 gigalitres (GL) of inflow into Copeton Dam. Despite the improvements, **this is the third lowest 27-month inflow volume on record**. The lowest inflow was a century ago with 63 GL in 27 months to April 1920.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	1.9%	 Stage 2

Dam levels (as at 7 May 2020)

Copeton Dam is 12.7 per cent full – steady – currently holding about 189 GL. This time last year the storage was at 11.1 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. The Gwydir Regulated River Water Source has been eased to Stage 2 criticality based on improving conditions and outlooks, however; the situation is being closely monitored in case dry conditions return.

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 received 43 mm of rainfall in April 2020.
- Inflows into Copeton Dam were about 20 GL in April 2020.
- Downstream tributary inflows contributed about 18 GL in April 2020.
- The general security and ECA delivery loss accounts have recovered.
- Higher inflows allowed for GS allocation increase of 1.9% of GS entitlement - the first GS allocation since February 2018.
- Essential supply requirements are secure for 2020-21. However, if extreme dry conditions return, drought contingency measures may be needed once again to secure critical human needs beyond 2020-21.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for May to July indicates that the catchment is likely to experience wetter than average conditions. Daytime temperatures over this period are likely to be above average and nights are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau of Meteorology states that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is most likely to remain neutral over winter, but may cool towards La Niña levels by late winter or early spring. However, the current probability of a La Niña occurring is less than 50%, the current ENSO Outlook remains at inactive. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral, however; a negative IOD could form during 2020. Negative IOD events typically increase the likelihood of above average winter-spring rainfall across southern Australia.

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 June 2020.

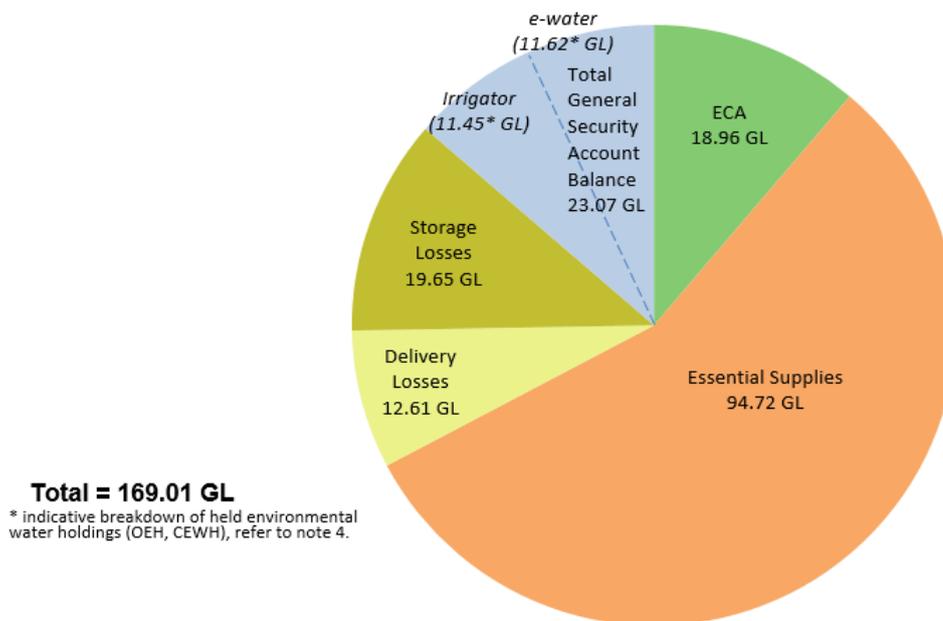
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 30 April 2020)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	169.01
<i>less</i>	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	19.65
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	94.72
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	18.96
Delivery Losses ⁽⁴⁾	12.61
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁵⁾	11.62
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	11.45

See notes below.

**Resource Distribution as at 30 April 2020
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source**



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 maximum 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) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water.
- (5) Held environmental water (HEW) – water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portion of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart and table. The reporting of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. General Security HEW estimated to be 11.62 GL and High Security HEW is estimated to be 0.66 GL. 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.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Assessment as at 30 April 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	19.65	18.06	1.59	19.65
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	92.72	2.00	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	12.61	5.82	6.79	12.61
ECA (90 GL max)	-	18.10	0.86	18.96
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	13.37	9.70	23.07
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	20.93	-20.93	0.00
Total	-	169.01	0.00	169.01

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	9.70	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0190	ML per unit share

About 1 GL was released from Copeton Dam in April 2020. A combination of dam releases and downstream tributary inflows was utilised to meet demand of 1.27 GL of essential supply. There was no general security or environmental contingency allowance deliveries in April 2020.

Essential Supply demand	1.27 GL
General Security demand	0.00 GL
Total demand	1.27 GL
Release from Copeton Dam to meet demand	1.00 GL
Downstream tributary flows utilised to meet demand	0.27 GL

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