



6 April 2016

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update - March 2016

Allocations

There is **no increase** in allocation for Gwydir regulated river general security water users at this time. The Gwydir Valley experienced mostly warm and dry conditions during March, with only minimal rainfall recorded across upper catchment areas. As a result, there has been no improvement in water availability.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir valley	100%	5.28%

Key facts

- Essential supplies are secure for 2016/17.
- Under a continuing dry scenario, targeted deliveries (in consultation with user groups) will be undertaken in 2016/17 to ensure priority needs can be met with limited water availability.
- Due to the continuation of dry weather, the system is being tightly operated.

Dam levels (end of March)

- Copeton Dam is currently 17 per cent full, holding around 236 gigalitres (GL).
- The storage volume fell by about 5 GL during the month. There were some minimum releases during the month to meet essential supplies and some general security demand.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for April to June 2016 indicates most of the valley has roughly equal chances of wetter or drier conditions in the next three months.
- Various conditions continue to influence the current outlook, namely, a declining El Niño, warm sea surface temperatures near Australia and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

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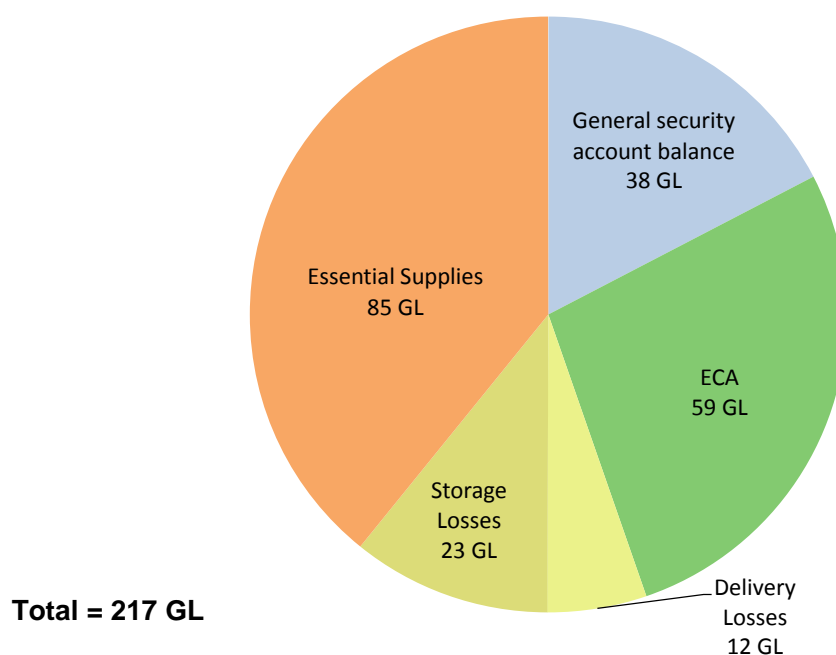
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Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 April 2016) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	217.41
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	23.41
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	85.18 (90% full)
ECA	59.42 (66% full)
Delivery Losses ⁽⁴⁾	11.68 (39% of budget)
General Security Account Balance	37.72
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution Apr 2016 to Jun 2016 Gwydir Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (217 GL) – is total active storage at Copeton Dam at time 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 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 meaning that improvements in water availability will first replenish the loss account before accruing to further general security allocation.

Gwydir resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 29 February 2016
- Current Assessment date: 31 March 2016

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		236.42
Dead storage	19.00	217.42
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)	23.80	193.62

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	89.88	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-2.75	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	0.00	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	0.00	
Current balance	87.13	106.49

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	59.42	
Orders from assessment period	0.00	
Current balance	59.42	47.06

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	37.83	
Orders from assessment period	-0.11	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	0.00	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	37.72	9.34

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	11.76	
Losses since last assessment	-0.08	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.00	
Current balance	11.68	-2.34

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		1.27
Essential Supply Loss	93%	1.19
General Security + ECA Loss	7%	0.08

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	-2.34

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	23.41	23.80	-0.39	23.41
Essential Supplies	94.72	87.13	-1.95	85.18
Delivery Loss	256.35	11.68	0.00	11.68
ECA	90.00	59.42	0.00	59.42
General Security Irrigation	764.50	37.72	0.00	37.72
Uncommitted resources	-	-2.34	2.34	0.00
Total	-	217.42	0.00	217.42

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