



6 May 2016

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update - April 2016

Allocations

Continued dry conditions across the Gwydir valley mean **no increase** in water allocation for water users at this time. Rainfall has been patchy across catchments and temperatures have remained high. There has been little runoff into storages.

The seasonal rainfall outlook shows that we can expect above average rainfall conditions across most of NSW in the coming months of June and July.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir valley	100%	5.28%

Key facts

- Critical needs are secure for the 2016/17 water year.
- Some environmental water release from Copeton Dam commenced in April to provide a gentle increase in river levels throughout the Gwydir river system.
- This will improve conditions for native fish and prime the system for a larger release planned by WaterNSW in May.
- Conditions and water availability will continue to be monitored closely and consultations with water users will look for ways to efficiently meet essential water requirements.

Dam levels (end of April)

Copeton Dam is currently 17 per cent full, holding 230,000 megalitres, its lowest level since the Millennium drought ended in 2010.

Seasonal Rainfall Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for May to July indicates roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier May, then a greater chance of wetter conditions in June/July.
- Above average temperatures are expected in May, and are likely to remain above average in June and July for the eastern portion of the valley.
- The current outlook reflects the last stages of the strong 2015–16 El Niño. Historically after El Niño events, warmer days tend to persist over northern and eastern Australia, with warmer nights present across much of Australia.
- Recent changes in the tropical Pacific Ocean and atmosphere, combined with current climate model outlooks, suggest a 50 per cent chance of La Niña conditions forming later in 2016 - which is about double the normal chance. La Niña is often, but not always, associated with above-average winter-spring rainfall in this region.

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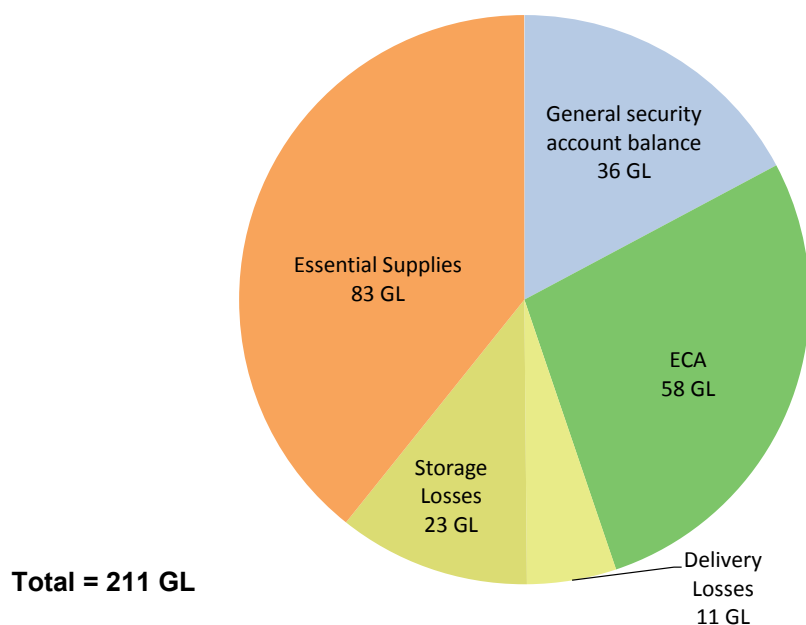
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Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 May 2016) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	210.51
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	22.90
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	82.67 (87% full)
ECA	58.10 (65% full)
Delivery Losses ⁽⁴⁾	10.64 (11% of budget)
General Security Account Balance	36.20
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution May 2016 to Jun 2016 Gwydir Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (211 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: 31 March 2016
- Current Assessment date: 30 April 2016

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		229.51
Dead storage	19.00	210.51
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)	23.41	187.10

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	85.18	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-0.97	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	0.00	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	0.00	
Current balance	84.21	102.89

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	59.42	
Orders from assessment period	-1.32	
Current balance	58.10	44.79

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	37.72	
Orders from assessment period	-1.52	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	0.00	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	36.20	8.58

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	11.68	
Losses since last assessment	-1.04	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.00	
Current balance	10.64	-2.05

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		1.30
Essential Supply Loss	20%	0.26
General Security + ECA Loss	80%	1.04

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	-2.05

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	22.90	23.41	-0.51	22.90
Essential Supplies	94.72	84.21	-1.54	82.67
Delivery Loss	256.35	10.64	0.00	10.64
ECA	90.00	58.10	0.00	58.10
General Security Irrigation	764.50	36.20	0.00	36.20
Uncommitted resources	-	-2.05	2.05	0.00
Total	-	210.51	0.00	210.51

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