



12 January 2017

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update – end of December 2016

Allocations

Water resources in the Gwydir Valley during December were insufficient to allow any new allocation to general security licence holders, leaving the total for the 2016/17 water year **unchanged at 72.43 per cent of entitlement.**

Below average rainfall occurred in much of the catchment which, combined with very warm conditions, resulted in minimal inflows into Copeton Dam last month.

All other categories of licence in the valley have already received their maximum allocation for the 2016-17 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir valley	100%	72.43%

Dam levels (as at 11 January)

Copeton Dam is 54 per cent full - falling slowly - holding 742,500 megalitres (ML).

Key facts

- The storage volume in Copeton Dam fell by about 32,500 ML during December 2016 as water was released to meet growing downstream irrigation requirements. This time last year, the storage was 19 per cent full.
- Leading into spring, the catchment experienced very wet conditions. This has since given way to very hot and dry conditions, with December in the top 10 per cent of years for maximum temperatures. Higher delivery losses have also been observed.
- Releases are increasing to meet rising demands, which are expected to peak in late-January or early-February.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a less than 35 per cent chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the Gwydir Valley during January 2017. The climate outlook for January to March shows that rainfall is likely to be below average.

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral, but continues to show some weak La Niña-like patterns. A northerly shift in the average position of westerly winds and high pressure systems (a negative Southern Annular Mode (SAM)) is forecast for January. A negative SAM in summer is typically associated with below average rainfall and higher temperatures.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Gwydir regulated river water source will be issued on **Tuesday 7 February 2017**.

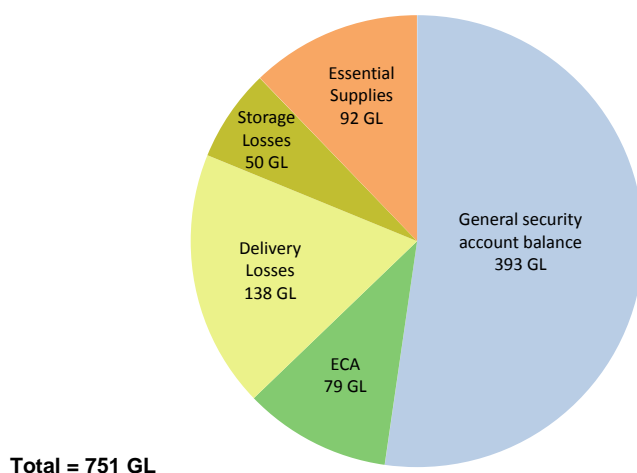
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution as at 01 January 2017	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	751.31
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	49.63
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	91.60 (97% full)
ECA	78.99
Delivery Losses	138.21
General Security Account Balance	392.87

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 01 January 2017 Gwydir Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (751 GL): is the total active storage at Copeton Dam at the time of assessment.
- (2) Storage Losses: evaporation loss based on forecast storage behaviour and maximum historical evaporation rates over 2 years.
- (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 commitment is offset by minimum forecast inflows into the storage.

Gwydir resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 30 November 2016
- Current Assessment date: 31 December 2016

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		770.31
Dead storage	19.00	751.31
Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward)	50.80	700.51

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	94.72	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-3.05	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	-2.50	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	-0.75	
Current balance	88.42	612.08

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	85.61	
Orders from assessment period	-6.62	
Current balance	78.99	533.09

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	405.45	
Orders from assessment period	-15.09	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	2.50	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	392.87	140.22

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	147.32	
Losses since last assessment	-9.86	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.75	
Current balance	138.21	2.01

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		10.81
Essential Supply Loss	9%	0.95
General Security + ECA Loss	91%	9.86

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	2.01

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	49.63	50.80	-1.17	49.63
Essential Supplies	94.72	88.42	3.18	91.60
Delivery Loss	256.35	138.21	0.00	138.21
ECA	90.00	78.99	0.00	78.99
General Security Irrigation	764.50	392.87	0.00	392.87
Uncommitted resources	-	2.01	-2.01	0.00
Total	-	751.31	0.00	751.31

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