

10 September 2018

## Gwydir Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

##### **General security allocation remains unchanged at 0 per cent of entitlement.**

There was no resource improvement to provide an increase in allocation. Rainfall and inflow into Copeton Dam were very low in August 2018.

Flows into Copeton Dam since the last general security allocation of February 2018 have been within the lowest 5 out of 100 years. Evaporation and delivery losses for the same period have been higher than expected, causing a shortfall of around 22,000 megalitres.

Apart from general security, all other categories of licence in the regulated river valley have received their maximum allocation for the 2018-19 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Valley	100%	0%

#### **Dam levels (as at 10 September)**

Copeton Dam is just below 24 per cent full – falling – currently holding around 337,000 ML. This time last year the storage was about 52 per cent full.

#### **Key facts**

- The volume in Copeton Dam has decreased by about 19,500 ML in August 2018.
- The resource assessment shows essential requirements can be met for next 24 months. However, the general security and ECA delivery loss account will be extremely low by the end of this year if dry conditions continue.
- ECA deliveries will continue with the possibility of environmental deliveries to Mallowa commencing shortly.
- Three block releases will be needed to minimise losses in the delivery of low volumes of general security account water, with the first release to commence in October.

## Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting an even chance of rainfall conditions being drier or wetter than median in the three months from September to November. Forecasts indicate that day and night-time temperatures are very likely to be above median during this period.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are currently neutral. However, current observations and model outlooks indicate El Niño and a positive IOD could develop in spring.

El Niño typically means warmer days for the southern two-thirds of Australia. Warmer conditions, combined with a positive IOD in spring, which typically means below average rainfall for southern and central Australia, indicates a drier and warmer than average spring.

For further details:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/archive/outlooks/latest-outlook.shtml>

## Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Gwydir regulated river will be available in early October 2018.

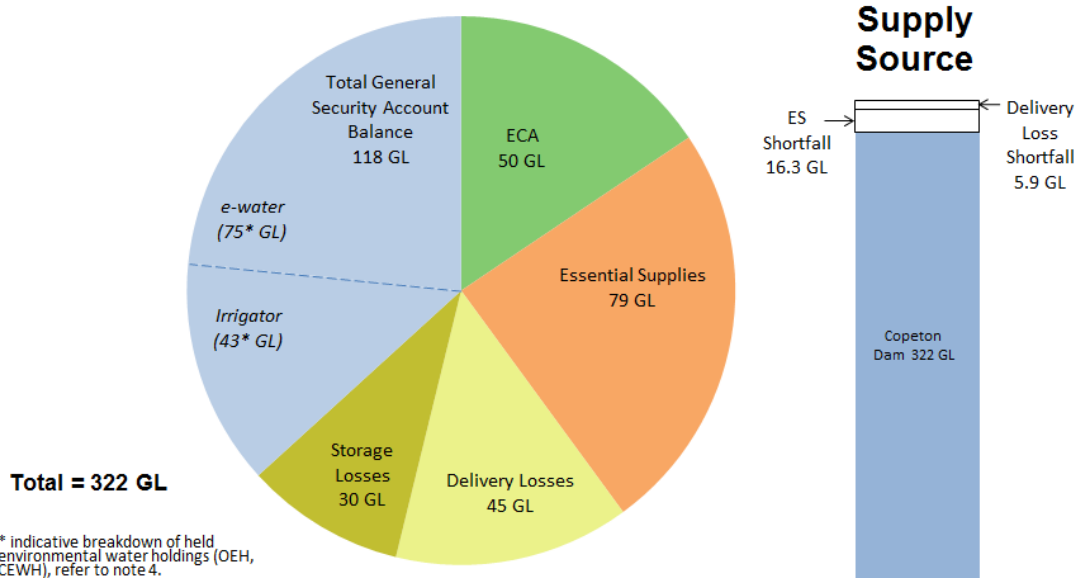
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 August 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	322.14
<b>less</b>	
Storage Losses <sup>(2)</sup>	30.34
Essential Supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	78.45
ECA	50.21
Delivery Losses	44.73
General Security Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	118.40

See notes below.

### Resource Distribution as at 31 August 2018 Gwydir Valley



### Notes:

- (1) Available Resource – 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 to storage.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portions of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 75GL of GS and 1GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual Agency websites.

## Resource Assessment as at 31 August 2018

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	30.34	31.48	-1.14	30.34
Essential Supplies	94.72	76.76	1.69	78.45
Delivery Loss	50.58	44.73	0.00	44.73
ECA	-	50.21	0.00	50.21
General Security Irrigation	-	118.40	0.00	118.40
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	0.56	-0.56	0.00
Total	-	322.14	0.00	322.14

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