

7 November 2019

## Gwydir Valley

### Allocations

There is **no change** to allocations in the Gwydir regulated river water source. Rainfall in October was below average to very much below average across the Gwydir catchment, with Copeton Dam receiving just 1 mm of rainfall.

Since the last general security allocation in early February 2018 there has been just 32 gigalitres (GL) of inflow into Copeton Dam. **This is the lowest 21-month inflow volume on record.** The previous lowest inflow was 100 years ago, of 47 GL in the 21-months to October 1919.

The system shortfall has grown to 52 GL, meaning that inflows in excess of this volume will be required before normal regulated river operations can resume.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Valley	100%	0%	 Stage 3

### Dam levels (as at 5 November)

Copeton Dam is about 7.5 per cent full – falling – currently holding about 120 GL. This time last year the storage was about 20 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. Currently, the Gwydir Valley is at Stage 3 criticality. With inflows tracking below historical minimums, escalation to maximum Stage 4 drought criticality appears more likely. The need for water restrictions is being closely monitored to protect remaining Gwydir water supplies for critical needs.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events)

### Key facts

- Copeton Dam storage volume decreased by about 10 GL in October 2019, mostly in delivering essential supplies, general security e-water and environmental contingency (ECA) water.
- In late October and early November water has been released from Copeton Dam for basic landholder rights, including stock and domestic watering, as well as for riverine ecosystems.
- Evaporation and transmission losses have remained very high since the last allocation 21 months ago, reflecting a drying river system and contributing to the 52 GL resource shortfall.
- The general security and ECA delivery loss account is empty. Therefore, deliveries from these accounts must be debited at the dam wall, meaning owners 'pay' for their own water delivery.

- If extreme dry conditions continue, tougher drought contingency measures may be needed to secure critical human needs beyond this water year.

### Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for the November 2019 to January 2020 period suggests likely drier and warmer than average conditions.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral and the positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remains strongly positive. A positive IOD typically brings below average spring rainfall and warmer days to the southern and central parts of Australia. As the IOD is strongly positive, it is forecast to continue into early to mid-summer and decay more slowly despite the fact that it typically decays towards the end of the calendar year.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary](http://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 on Friday 6 December 2019.

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)

# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update

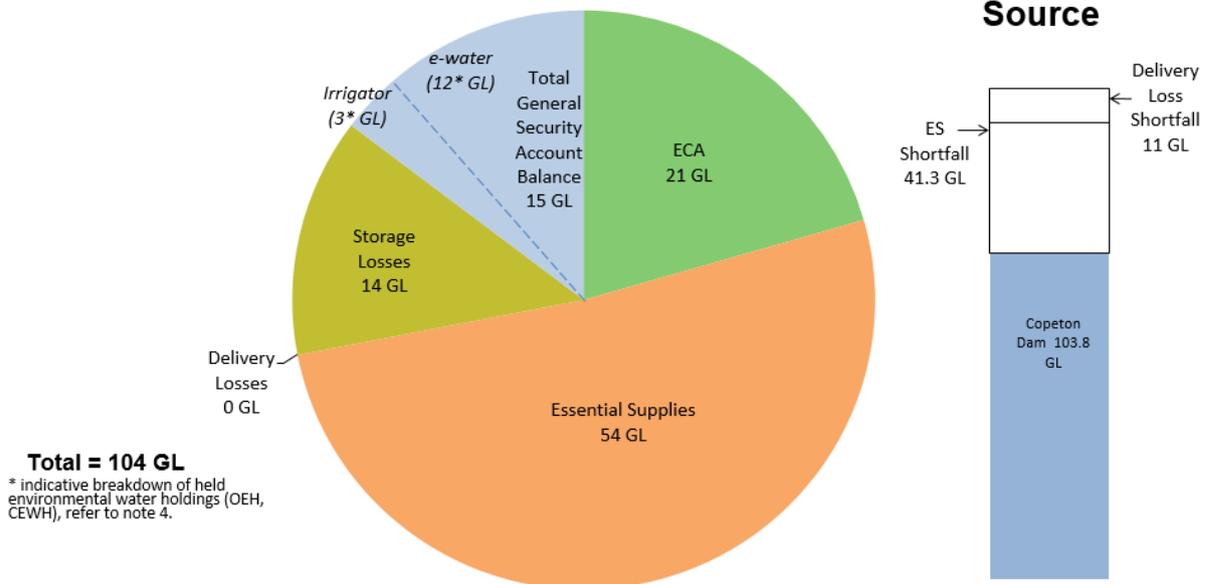


## Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 October 2019)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>		104.0
<i>less</i>		
Storage Losses <sup>(2)</sup>	13.9	
Essential Supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	53.5	
ECA	21.3	
Delivery Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	0.0	
General Security Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	15.3	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation		0.0

See notes below.

### Resource Distribution as at 31 October 2019 Gwydir Valley



### 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) 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 11.8 GL of GS and 2.8 GL of HS. 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.
- (5) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water. Zero balance means that water must be borrowed to continue the delivery of general security water, in accordance with prior practice. The payback of any borrow will occur before further general security allocation. However, in extreme situations as currently, 'dam wall debit' becomes necessary where water users are debited the ordered volume at the dam and a reduced volume is available at the point of off-take. Effectively water users are 'paying' their own delivery costs.

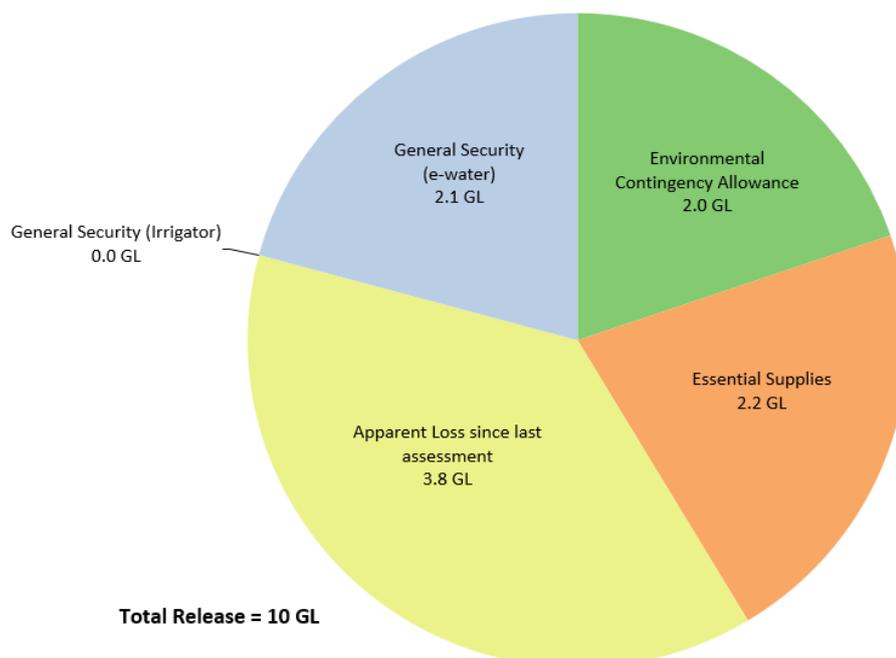
### Resource Assessment as at 31 October 2019

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	13.86	14.83	-0.97	13.86
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	53.93	-0.55	53.38
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	10.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
ECA (90 GL max)	-	21.33	0.00	21.33
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	15.26	0.00	15.26
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	-1.52	1.52	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103.83</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>103.83</b>

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

Copeton Dam released about 10 GL in October 2019 to meet 2.2 GL of essential supply, 2 GL of ECA, 2.1 GL of GS e-water and experienced an apparent loss of 3.8 GL associated with the release.

### Release Distribution for October 2019



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