

9 June 2016

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update – to end May 2016

Allocations

There is **no increase** in water allocation for water users at this time. Despite some patchy rain in the last week of May, there has been very little inflow to storages and no overall resource improvement.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir valley	100%	5.28%

Key facts

- Critical needs are secure for the 2016/17 water year.
- A block release strategy will continue to be used to maximise the opportunity for water delivery, particularly while conditions remain dry.
- Water user groups will continue to be consulted about their needs and targeted deliveries to ensure priority needs can be met despite drought conditions.

Dam levels (end of May)

Copeton Dam is currently 16 per cent full, holding 220,700 megalitres, which is its lowest level since September 2010 when the Millennium Drought ended.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) June to August 2016 outlook indicates that well above average rainfall is likely across most of the region. Cooler than average winter days are likely in the western portion of the catchment, with closer to average daytime temperatures in the east. Nights are favoured to be warmer than average.
- The tropical Pacific has now returned to neutral levels, marking the end of the 2015–16 El Niño. The breakdown period of the El Niño cycle typically sees warmer nights across much of Australia. By July, modeling suggests the Pacific may reach borderline La Niña conditions, which is contributing towards the above average rainfall outlook.

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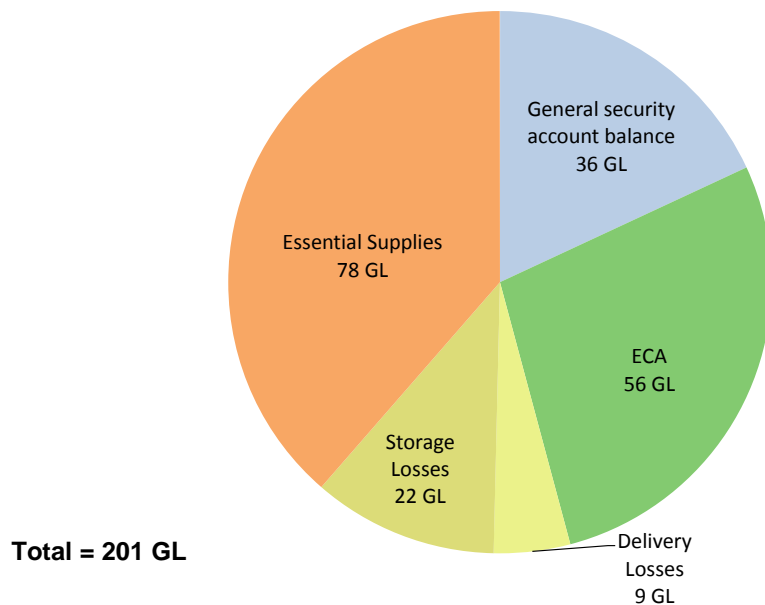
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Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 Jun 2016) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	201.70
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	22.24
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	77.86 (82% full)
ECA	56.02 (62% full)
Delivery Losses ⁽⁴⁾	9.18 (33% of budget)
General Security Account Balance	36.40
New Allocation from this Assessment	Nil

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution June 2016 Gwydir Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource (201 GL) – is total active storage at Copeton Dam at the 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: 30 April 2016
- Current Assessment date: 31 May 2016

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		220.71
Dead storage	19.00	201.71
Storage Loss Committed (projected 2 years)	22.90	178.80

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	82.67	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-3.10	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	-1.32	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	-0.40	
Current balance	77.85	100.95

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	58.10	
Orders from assessment period	-2.08	
Current balance	56.02	44.93

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	36.20	
Orders from assessment period	-1.12	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	1.32	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	36.40	8.53

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	10.64	
Losses since last assessment	-1.85	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.40	
Current balance	9.18	-0.65

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		2.98
Essential Supply Loss	38%	1.13
General Security + ECA Loss	62%	1.85

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	-0.65

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
		GL	GL	
Storage Loss	22.24	22.90	-0.66	22.24
Essential Supplies	94.72	77.85	0.01	77.86
Delivery Loss	256.35	9.18	0.00	9.18
ECA	90.00	56.02	0.00	56.02
General Security Irrigation	764.50	36.40	0.00	36.40
Uncommitted resources	-	-0.65	0.65	0.00
Total	-	201.71	0.00	201.71

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