



7 April 2017

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update – to end March 2017

Allocations

DPI Water has announced an allocation **increase of 1.92 per cent to general security licence holders in the Gwydir Valley**, bringing the total for the 2016/17 water year to **74.79 per cent of entitlement**.

Rainfall over the Copeton Dam catchment in late March delivered useful storage inflows and downstream tributary flows that have assisted this allocation increase.

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%	74.79%

Dam levels (as at 5 April)

Copeton Dam is 46 per cent full – rising – holding about 638,400 megalitres (ML).

Key facts

- The storage volume in Copeton Dam increased by around 14,000 ML during March. This time last year the storage was 16.2 per cent full.
- Operations during recent weeks focused on releasing sufficient water from the storage to meet system demands and delivery targets at key locations, while also aiming to conserve water for next season.
- If the storage falls to low levels and block releases again become necessary, water users will be consulted beforehand about their water needs to ensure that deliveries are properly prioritised and targeted for maximum efficiency.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, April is more likely to have above average rainfall in the eastern and central portions of the catchment with average rainfall more likely in the western portion. April daytime temperatures are forecast to be below average.

The overall three month forecast from April to June indicates near average rainfall and daytime temperatures in the east of the catchment, transitioning to below average rainfall and warmer than average daytime temperatures in the western portion of the catchment.

Although the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral, climate models suggest El Niño conditions are likely to develop during winter. However, the Bureau instructs caution as models have lower accuracy at this time of year in forecasting El Niño.

Media contact: James Muddle M 0407 103 507

www.water.nsw.gov.au

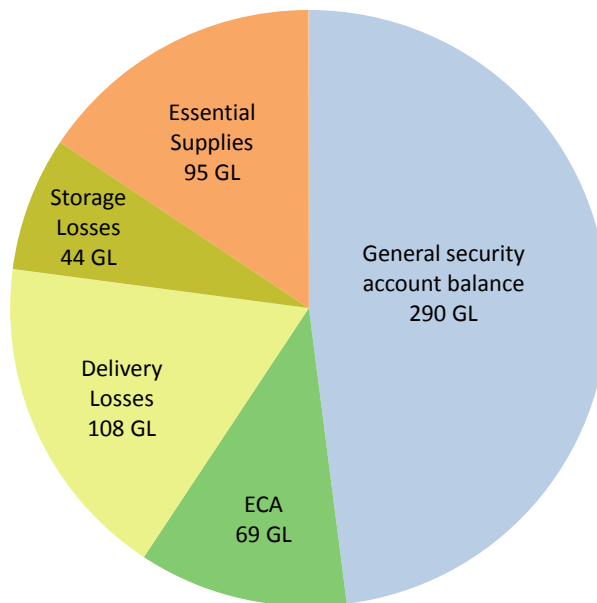
El Niño is often, but not always, associated with below average winter-spring rainfall over eastern Australia and warmer than average winter-spring maximum temperatures over the southern half of Australia.

Gwydir Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution as at 01 April 2017	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	605.72
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	44.05
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	94.72 (100% full)
ECA	68.68
Delivery Losses	107.76
General Security Account Balance	290.51

**See notes below.*

**Resource Distribution as at 01 April 2017
Gwydir Valley**



Total = 606 GL

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 into the storage.

Further information

The next monthly Water Allocation Statement for the Gwydir regulated river water source will be issued on **Monday 8 May 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

- Previous Assessment date: 28 February 2017
- Current Assessment date: 31 March 2017

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		624.72
Dead storage	19.00	605.72
Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward)	43.50	562.21

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	94.72	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-2.18	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	-0.50	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	-0.15	
Current balance	91.89	470.32

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	67.81	
Orders from assessment period	0.00	
Current balance	67.81	402.51

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	282.27	
Orders from assessment period	-2.09	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	0.50	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	280.67	121.83

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	104.02	
Losses since last assessment	-1.04	
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.15	
Current balance	103.14	18.70

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		1.76
Essential Supply Loss	41%	0.72
General Security + ECA Loss	59%	1.04

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	18.70

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	44.05	43.50	0.55	44.05
Essential Supplies	94.72	91.89	2.83	94.72
Delivery Loss	256.35	103.14	4.62	107.76
ECA	90.00	67.81	0.87	68.68
General Security Irrigation	764.50	280.67	9.83	290.51
Uncommitted resources	-	18.70	-18.70	0.00
Total	-	605.72	0.00	605.72

Recommendations (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	9.83	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0192	ML per unit share