

7 May 2018

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

The Gwydir regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at 17.59 per cent of entitlement**. Rainfall was limited in the catchment during April, with Copeton Dam receiving just 26 mm during the month. There was no resource improvement to provide an increase in allocation.

All other categories of licence in the regulated river valley have already received their maximum allocation for the 2017/18 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Valley	100%	17.59%

Dam levels (as at 7 May)

Copeton Dam is approximately 27 per cent full – falling – holding around 382,000 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was about 47 per cent full.

Key facts

- The volume in Copeton Dam has decreased by 23,300 ML since the last assessment, mostly due to releases to meet downstream essential supply and general security demand.
- The forecast under the minimum inflow sequence indicates that, even though the essential supplies account balance will continue to degrade, with careful operation, all required deliveries we will be able to be made, with recovery of account balances starting in August 2019.
- If conditions remain dry, a block release strategy with 2-3 deliveries will be made to the Carole and Moomin Creeks, to water effluent streams throughout 2018/19. Deliveries to other reaches will likely be extended by making releases in conjunction with environmental flows.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting equal likelihood of above or below median rainfall conditions during May to July for the catchment. Similarly, day-time temperatures are also forecast to be equally likely to be above or below median during this period. However night temperatures are likely to be above median during this period.

The EL NIÑO–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) condition is neutral in the tropical Pacific Ocean and is expected to remain at neutral through this period. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also neutral at this time, with a possibility of a negative IOD developing during the winter months. Given the neutral conditions, there is no strong driver towards wetter or drier conditions for most of Australia.

Further information

The next allocation announcement for the Gwydir regulated river water source will be issued in **June 2018**.

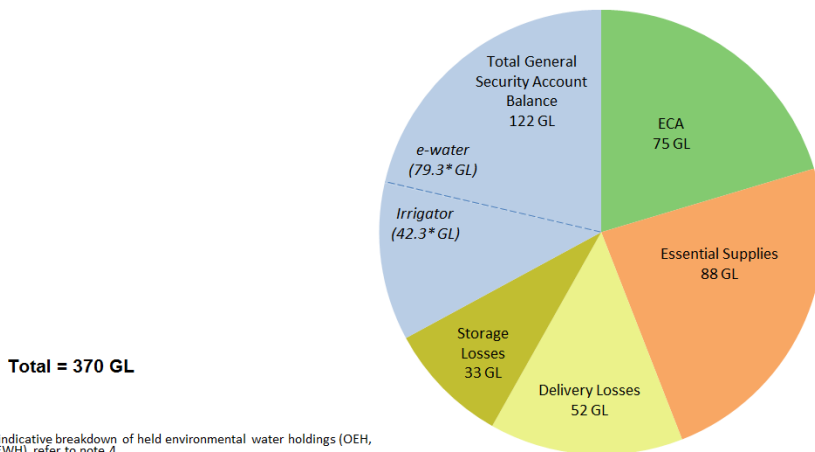
Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry - Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 30 April 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	369.58
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	33.04
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	87.53 (92.41% full)
ECA	75.33
Delivery Losses	52.12
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	121.55

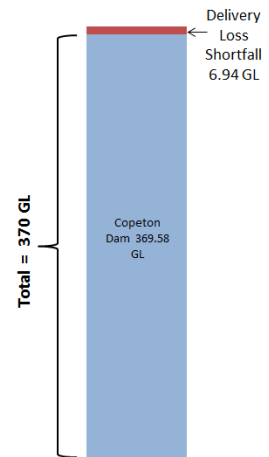
See notes below.

**Resource Distribution as at 30 April 2018
Gwydir Valley**



* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH), refer to note 4.

Supply Distribution



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 the total credited to accounts (not usage) and is estimated to be 79GL of GS and 1GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either individually or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental water holdings.

Gwydir resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 March 2018
- Current Assessment date: 30 April 2018

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		388.58
Dead storage	19.00	369.58
Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward)	34.19	335.39

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	89.65	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-2.10	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	0.00	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	0.00	
Current balance	87.55	247.84

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	75.33	
Orders from assessment period	0.00	
Current balance	75.33	172.51

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	133.59	
Orders from assessment period	-12.03	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	0.00	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	121.55	50.95

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	58.10	
Losses since last assessment	-5.98	

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.00	
Current balance	52.12	-1.17

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		6.68
Essential Supply Loss	10%	0.70
General Security + ECA Loss	90%	5.98

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	-1.17

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	33.04	34.19	-1.14	33.04
Essential Supplies	94.72	87.55	-0.03	87.53
Delivery Loss	256.35	52.12	0.00	52.12
ECA	90.00	75.33	0.00	75.33
General Security Irrigation	764.50	121.55	0.00	121.55
Uncommitted resources	-	-1.17	1.17	0.00
Total	-	369.58	0.00	369.58

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