

11 October 2018

## Gwydir Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

**General security allocation remains unchanged at 0 per cent of entitlement** as there has been no resource improvement. Rainfall was average to below average in the catchment. Net inflow into Copeton Dam was negative, meaning there was more evaporative loss from the storage than inflow during September.

The severe conditions have resulted in evaporation and delivery losses being higher than budget in September, contributing to the shortfall of 23,730 ML.

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 October)

Copeton Dam is 21.5 per cent full – falling – currently holding about 307,900 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was about 50 per cent full.

#### Key facts

- The volume in Copeton Dam has decreased by about 20,800 ML in September 2018.
- In excess of 30,000 ML of ECA water has been delivered since July which has been flowing through Millewa and Gingham gauges.
- Flow into the Mallowa Wetland during September and this month was provided by water from accounts held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.
- Essential requirements are secured for the next two years.
- If dry conditions continue, contingency measures will be needed and delivery of water will be through block releases to protect the longevity of essential requirements.

## Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's forecasts indicate drier than average conditions around eastern Australia over the October to December period. Day and night-time temperatures are also likely to be above median during this period.

The Bureau's latest El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook issued on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 states that El Niño has been raised to the ALERT level. There is approximately a 70 per cent chance of El Niño occurring in 2018. Furthermore, a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) may have started. The combination of these two events in spring increases the possibility of a dry and warm end to the year.

The outlook suggests that the chance of drought affected regions in NSW recovering in the next few months is low.

For further details:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary>

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

## Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir regulated river will be provided in early November 2018.

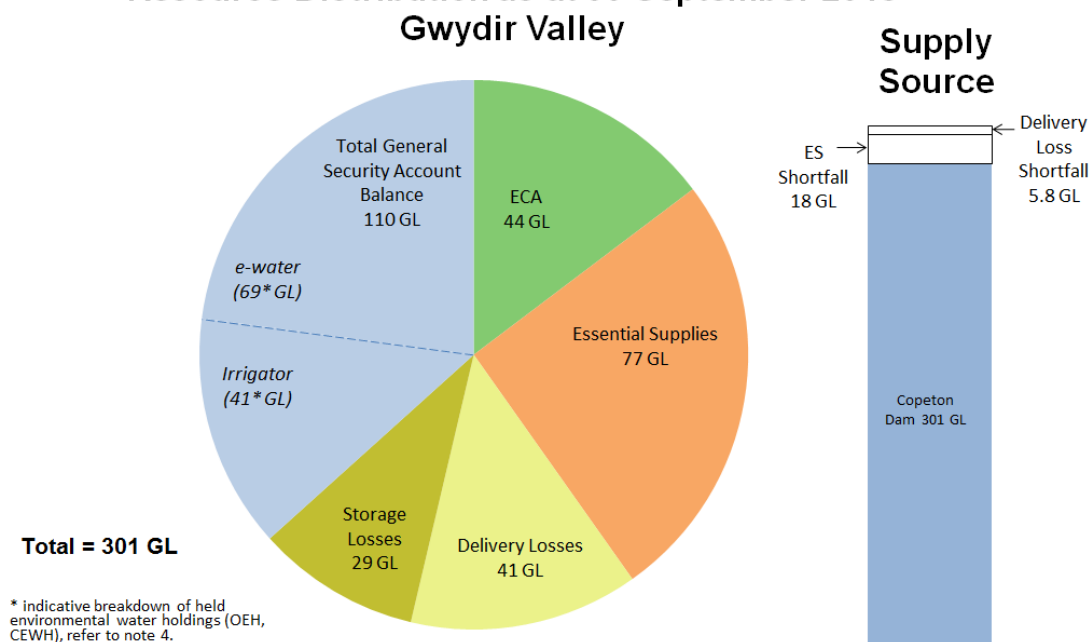
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 30 September 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	301.25
<b>less</b>	
Storage Losses <sup>(2)</sup>	29.07
Essential Supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	76.76
ECA	44.33
Delivery Losses	40.66
General Security Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	110.44

See notes below.

## Resource Distribution as at 30 September 2018



### 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 69GL of GS and 0GL 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 30 September 2018

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	29.07	30.34	-1.27	29.07
Essential Supplies	94.72	75.66	1.10	76.76
Delivery Loss	46.43	40.66	0.00	40.66
ECA	-	44.33	0.00	44.33
General Security Irrigation	-	110.44	0.00	110.44
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	-0.17	0.17	0.00
Total	-	301.25	0.00	301.25

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