

8 November 2018

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Rainfall for October was average to above average in the catchment, but only small inflows were recorded in Copeton Dam. The catchment areas are dry due to lack of substantial rain and higher temperatures over the past few months. There are insufficient resources to allow any new allocations to general security licence holders, leaving the allocations **unchanged at zero per cent of entitlement**.

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 5 November)

Copeton Dam is 20 per cent full – falling – currently holding about 287,797 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was about 51.5 per cent full.

Key facts

- The volume in Copeton Dam has decreased by about 29,700 ML in October 2018.
- The ongoing dry conditions have resulted in high evaporation and delivery losses, contributing to the overall shortfall of 27,390 ML.
- An additional 300 ML of ECA water was delivered to Carole Creek, bringing the total ECA deliveries since July 2018 to 31,300 ML.
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office deliveries to Mallowa Creek offtake are continuing.
- To deliver remaining general security water, a continued block release strategy to Moomin Creek, Mehi River and Carole Creek is planned.
- With dry conditions continuing, cessation of the season will likely be in early/mid-February 2019.
- Essential requirements are secure for the next two years.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for November to January indicates that rainfall conditions are likely to be variable over this period, with a drier than average condition expected early in the period and no clear indication of drier or wetter than average conditions later in the period. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño ALERT and observations indicate that a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is likely underway. Models indicate that El Niño thresholds may be met during November, while the positive IOD event will dissipate. When combined, an El Niño and positive IOD event increase the chances of dry and warm conditions, particularly during spring.

For further details:

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

Further information

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

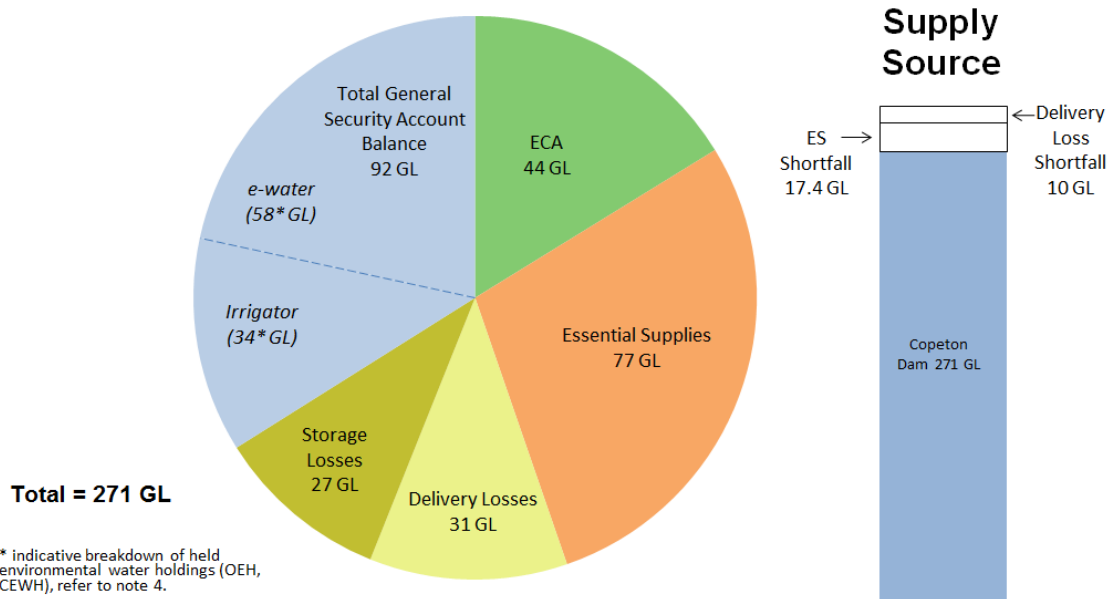
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 October 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	271.45
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	27.17
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	77.33
ECA	44.03
Delivery Losses	30.84
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	92.09

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 31 October 2018 Gwydir Valley



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

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 59GL 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 31 October 2018

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	27.17	29.07	-1.90	27.17
Essential Supplies	94.72	73.00	4.33	77.33
Delivery Loss	40.84	30.84	0.00	30.84
ECA	-	44.03	0.00	44.03
General Security Irrigation	-	92.09	0.00	92.09
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	2.43	- 2.43	0.00
Total	-	271.45	0.00	271.45

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