

7 September 2017

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Rainfall for August was below average in the storage catchment, but some small inflows were recorded in Copeton Dam. This has allowed an **increase of 0.57 per cent in allocation to general security entitlement holders in the Gwydir regulated river water source**. It brings the total general security allocation for the year to 11.59 per cent of entitlement.

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%	11.59%

Dam levels (as at 6 September)

Copeton Dam is approximately 52 per cent full – falling – holding approximately 722,000 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was 34 per cent full.

Key facts

- The early season Stimulus Flow environmental watering commenced from Copeton Dam on 25 August. The ‘stimulus flow’ is to promote native fish breeding and support habitat and flow connectivity.
- The event saw around 10,000 megalitres of water released from Copeton Dam using the ECA and Commonwealth Environmental Water holding accounts. The flows are being delivered along the main Gwydir River into the Mehi River, the Gwydir River below Boolooroo, Lower Gwydir, Gingham and into the Carole Creek.
- Releases for irrigation demand are likely to commence soon as the weather warms.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, the valley is likely to experience average to slightly above average rainfall during the September to November period, with warmer than average daytime temperatures also likely.

The Bureau of Meteorology advises that both of Australia's major climate drivers at this time of year, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), remain neutral. Secondary climate drivers are likely to be affecting this outlook. These include sea surface temperatures around the Australian coastline, as well as higher pressures to the south of the continent encouraging more easterly airflow across Australia.

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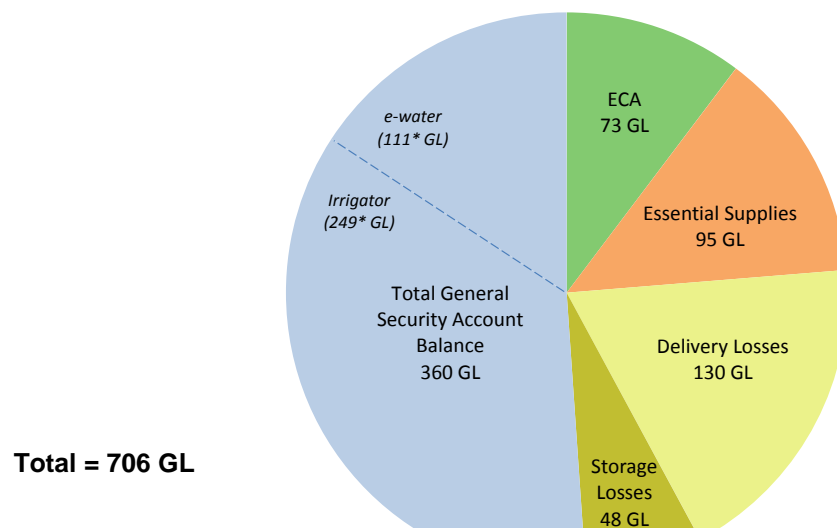
www.water.nsw.gov.au

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 August 2017)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	705.92
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	47.96
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	94.72 (100% full)
ECA	72.62
Delivery Losses	129.98
General Security Account Balance ^{(4),(5)}	360.64

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 31 August 2017 Gwydir Valley



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

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.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – as a trial, general security account water administered by environmental water holders has been identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only and, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, is estimated to be about 111 GL GS and 4 GL 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). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental holdings.

Further information

The next allocation announcement for the Gwydir regulated river water source will be issued on **Monday 9 October 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: 31 July 2017
- Current Assessment date: 31 August 2017

Storage volume	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Storage Balance (GL)
Total		724.92
Dead storage	19.00	705.92
Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward)	48.21	657.71

Essential Supplies	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	94.72	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-0.74	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	-1.81	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	-0.54	
Current balance	91.62	566.08

Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	75.36	
Orders from assessment period	-3.00	
Current balance	72.36	493.72

General Security Irrigation	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	362.99	
Orders from assessment period	-7.10	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	1.81	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	357.70	136.01

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Brought forward	131.51	
Losses since last assessment	-1.62	

Delivery Loss	Committed Volume (GL)	Remaining Balance (GL)
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	0.54	
Current balance	130.43	5.59

Apparent Losses since last assessment	% of loss	GL
Total		1.73
Essential Supply Loss	6%	0.10
General Security + ECA Loss	94%	1.62

Resources available for sharing	GL
Total	5.59

New balances	Limit	Commitments		Balance
		Current	Additional	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	47.96	48.21	-0.26	47.96
Essential Supplies	94.72	91.62	3.10	94.72
Delivery Loss	256.35	130.43	-0.45	129.98
ECA	90.00	72.36	0.26	72.62
General Security Irrigation	764.50	357.70	2.94	360.64
Uncommitted resources	-	5.59	-5.59	0.00
Total	-	705.92	0.00	705.92

Recommendations (General Security)	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	2.94	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0057	ML per unit share