

8 February 2019

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Allocations for the Gwydir regulated river water source **remain unchanged**.

Rainfall for January was mostly below average in the catchment, with Copeton Dam receiving just 26 mm of rain. Conditions remained generally hot and dry, with insufficient rain to boost resource availability.

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.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Valley	100%	0%	 Stage 2

Dam levels (as at 8 February)

Copeton Dam is 12 per cent full – falling – currently holding 183,000 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was about 31 per cent full.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduces a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Gwydir Valley is assessed to be in Stage 2 drought, as contingency measures are needed to manage the water shortage. These measures include ceasing deliveries for general security users earlier and intermittently releasing water to supply high security users. Furthermore until conditions improve, deliveries in the 2019-20 water year will require a full block release strategy to specific delivery points with a shortened regulated river.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Key facts

- The volume in Copeton Dam has decreased by 56.5 GL in January 2019.
- Evaporation and transmission losses have been persistently higher than budgeted in this water year, reflecting a drying river system.
- There were no ECA deliveries in January 2019.
- Domestic and stock replenishment water can be provided as soon as water availability and flow circumstances permit – for example in conjunction with the next reasonably sized natural storm/inflow event.

- The delivery loss account is now empty and the essential supply reserve is supporting the remaining account delivery.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for February to April shows no clear indication of drier or wetter conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño WATCH as key atmospheric and ocean indicators are neutral. There is an even chance of an El Niño event forming in autumn or winter. The Indian Ocean Dipole, which has little influence on the Australian climate from December to April, is neutral.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir regulated river will be provided on **Friday 8 March 2019**.

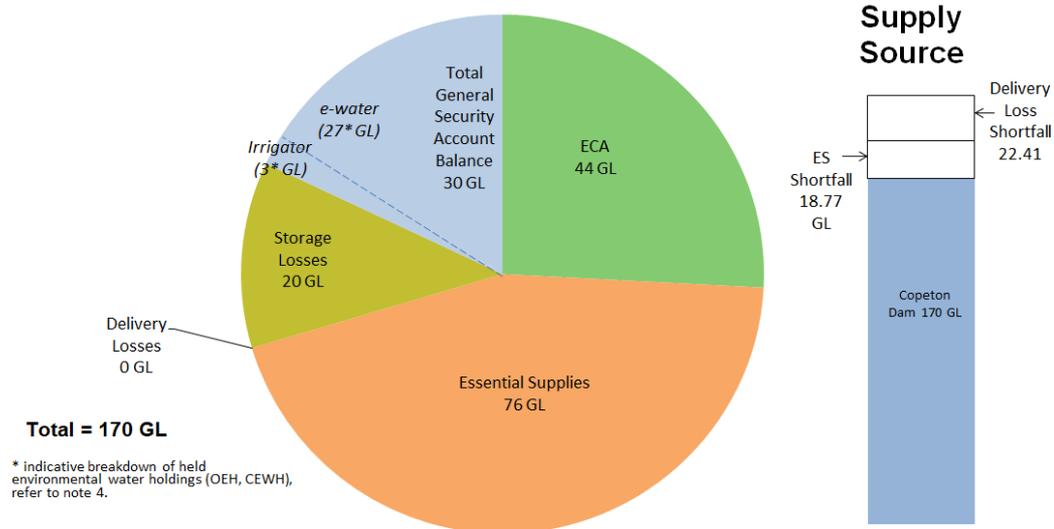
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 January 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	170.43
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	19.77
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	75.95
ECA	44.03
Delivery Losses ⁽⁵⁾	00.00
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	30.68

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 31 January 2019
Gwydir Valley



Notes:

- (1) Available Resource – is the total active storage at Copeton Dam at the time of assessment.
- (2) Storage Losses – evaporation based on forecast storage behaviour over 2 years at max historical rates.
- (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 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 27GL 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.
- (5) This account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water (delivery losses). Zero balance means that water must be borrowed to continue the delivery of general security water, in accordance with prior practice. The payback of any borrow will occur before further general security allocation increase.

Resource Assessment as at 31 January 2019

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	19.77	24.11	-4.34	19.77
Essential Supplies	94.72	70.95	5.00	75.95
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	22.41	00.00	0.00	00.00
ECA (90 GL max)	-	44.03	0.00	44.03
General Security Irrigation (764.5 GL max)	-	30.68	0.00	30.68
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	0.66	-0.66	0.00
Total	-	170.43	0.00	170.43

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

In January 2019 water was released from Copeton Dam to meet the following requirements:

Release Distribution for January 2019

