

7 August 2020

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

Allocations


There is an **increase** in allocation of **1.7 per cent for general security** water users in the Gwydir regulated river water source. The allocation reflects total improvements since the last assessment.

The Environmental Contingency Allowance is also similarly credited in accordance with the water sharing plan rules.

The Gwydir catchment experienced scattered rainfall last month with Copeton Dam receiving around 34 mm. Inflow into the system in July was about 12.2 gigalitres (GL) with downstream tributary inflow of 1.9 GL. There was a net improvement in Copeton Dam of about 10 GL.

The continued improvement in rainfall and runoff into the Gwydir catchment has been enough to maintain full essential supply and delivery loss accounts. However, the system is still recovering with stored resources just 214 GL or about 14 per cent full. Block releases will continue to be used as an efficiency measure in delivering water orders.

Current allocations

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source	100%	1.7%	 Stage 2

Dam levels (as at 7 August 2020)

Copeton Dam is 14.6 per cent full – rising – currently holding about 214 GL. This time last year the storage was at 8.9 per cent full.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Gwydir regulated river water source is at Stage 2 criticality. However, the situation is being closely monitored and water users are advised to exercise caution in case dry conditions return.

Further information on drought stages can be found at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Key information

- Total inflows into Copeton Dam were about 12 GL in July 2020.
- Downstream tributary flows contributed about 1.9 GL in July 2020.
- Delivery budgets – the Delivery Loss and Essential Supply accounts, have fully recovered.

- Some inflows in July allowed for an increase in allocation for general security water users of 1.7 per cent for the first time in 2020-21 water year.
- Block releases will be utilised in 2020-21 to prudently manage deliveries of account water.
- High priority commitments are secure for 2021-22 under the block release strategy.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that the catchment is likely to experience wetter than average conditions. Daytime temperatures over this period are likely to be above average and nights are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau of Meteorology states that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are currently neutral. The ENSO Outlook is at La Niña WATCH, which indicates that the chance of La Niña forming in 2020 is around 50%— roughly twice the average likelihood. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is positive. In winter, a positive SAM typically reduces rainfall in southern parts of the country but can enhance rainfall in New South Wales and southern Queensland.

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

Further information

The next water allocation statement will be on Monday 7 September 2020.

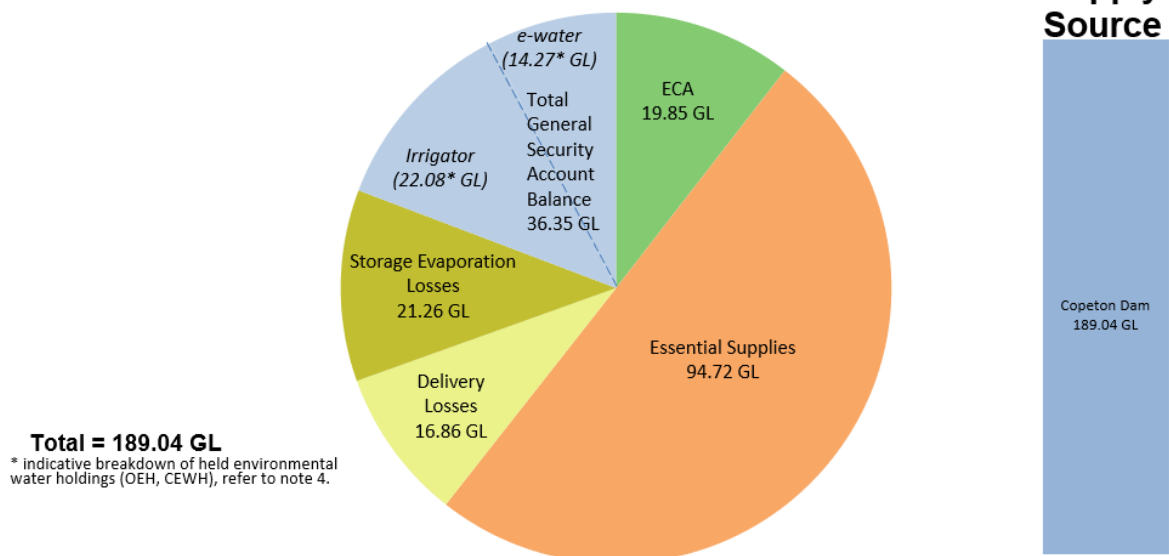
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 July 2020)	Volume (GL)
Copeton Dam active volume	189.04
<i>less</i>	
Storage Evaporation Losses ⁽¹⁾	21.26
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	94.72
Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)	19.85
Delivery Losses ⁽³⁾	16.86
General Security Held Environmental Water (HEW) Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	14.27
General Security Irrigator Account Balance	22.08

See notes below.

**Resource Distribution as at 31 July 2020
Gwydir Regulated River Water Source**



Notes:

- (1) Storage Losses – evaporation based on forecast storage behaviour over 2 years at maximum historical rates.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water.
- (4) Held environmental water (HEW) – water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portion of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart and table. The reporting of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. General Security HEW

estimated to be 14.27 GL and High Security HEW is estimated to be 5.757 GL. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW environment water holder and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

Resource assessment as at 31 July 2020

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Evaporation Loss	21.26	19.83	1.43	21.26
Essential Supplies for next 24 months	94.72	87.39	7.33	94.72
Delivery Loss (256 GL max)	16.86	14.01	2.85	16.86
ECA (90 GL max)	-	19.08	0.77	19.85
General Security (764.5 GL max)	-	27.68	8.67	36.35
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	21.05	-21.05	0.00
Total	-	189.03	0.00	189.03

General Security	Value	Unit
Incremental Increase CREDITED	8.67	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0170	ML per unit share

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