

10 January 2019

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

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

Rainfall for December was mostly below average in the catchment, with Copeton Dam receiving just 26 mm of rain. Conditions remained generally hot and dry, with too little 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 10 January)

- Copeton Dam is 15.1 per cent full – falling – currently holding 222,000 megalitres (ML).
This time last year the storage was about 39.8 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. The measures include, block releases to deliver small volumes of water that are available to the Moomin and Carole distributary streams. Final deliveries are being brought forward to late January - early February to save some additional water.

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 29,928 ML in December 2018.
- The ongoing dry conditions have resulted in a shortfall in the delivery loss account of 14,850 ML and a shortfall in the essential supply account of 17,260 ML.
- There were no ECA deliveries in December.
- If dry conditions continue then the delivery loss account may empty in February, meaning more inflow will be needed before general security allocation can be increased.
- Essential requirements are secure for the next two years.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for January to March, issued on 20 December 2018, shows conditions are likely to be drier than average for western parts of the catchment, while there are no clear indications of drier or wetter conditions for the eastern and headwater parts of the catchment. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño ALERT and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event, which was present late in 2018, has ended. Ocean surface temperatures have reduced to neutral ENSO levels, but remain above average. Atmospheric ENSO indicators continue to remain 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 February 2019.

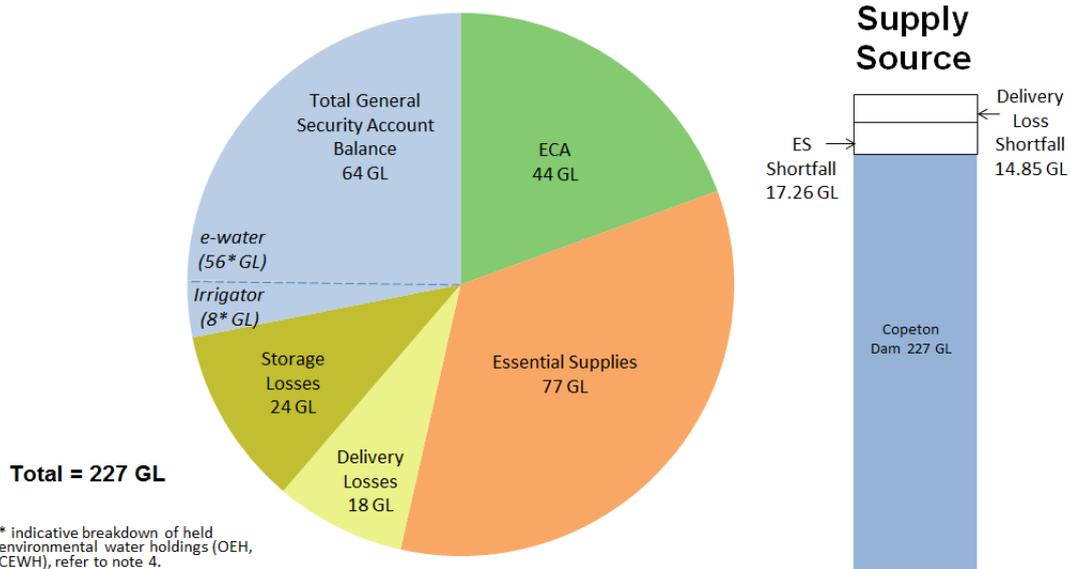
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 December 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	226.93
less	
Storage Losses ⁽²⁾	24.11
Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾	77.46
ECA	44.03
Delivery Losses	17.51
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	63.83

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 31 December 2018 Gwydir Valley



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 56GL 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 December 2018

Volumes in GL	Budget	Current	Additional	Balance
Storage Loss	24.11	26.20	-2.09	24.11
Essential Supplies	94.72	72.95	4.51	77.46
Delivery Loss	32.36	17.51	0.00	17.51
ECA	-	44.03	0.00	44.03
General Security Irrigation	-	83.83	0.00	63.83
Additional Resources for Sharing	-	2.42	-2.42	0.00
Total	-	226.93	0.00	226.93

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