

8 August 2019

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation and availability update

Allocations

General security water allocations for the Gwydir regulated river water source remain **unchanged at zero per cent** of entitlement.

Rainfall in July was below to very much below average across the catchment, with just 6mm of rain falling at Copeton Dam.

There has been 30.7 gigalitres (GL) of inflow into Copeton Dam since the last general security allocation 18 months ago in early February 2018. **This is now the lowest 18-month inflow on record**, with the previous lowest being 36 GL in 1995.

| 2019-20 | High Security | General Security | Drought Stage |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| Gwydir Valley | 100% | 0% |  Stage 3 |

Dam levels (as at 7 August)

Copeton Dam is 9 per cent full – steady – currently holding about 138,000 ML. This time last year the storage was 25.2 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. Currently, the Gwydir Valley is at Stage 3 criticality. Generally, as the drought deepens, tougher measures are needed to protect critical human needs. Management action in the Gwydir Valley will focus on ensuring water is available for critical needs for as long as possible.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

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

Key facts

- Copeton Dam storage volume has decreased by 1.2 GL in July 2019.
- Evaporation and transmission losses have remained very high since the last allocation 18 months ago, reflecting the drying river system.
- There is a 38.6 GL resource shortfall before further allocations can be considered.
- Apart from essential supply delivery (0.8 GL), there was a general security (mostly e-water) release in July 2019, of 6.1 GL. Releases have totalled 9.5 GL across June and July.
- The delivery loss account is empty and the essential supply reserve will need to support the delivery of critical water.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook suggests a drier than average August to October three-month period, with temperatures likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral. El Niño levels very likely to remain at ENSO neutral for the remainder of 2019. Indications are that The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) will become the more dominant in influencing Australia's weather in the coming months.

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

Further information

This is the first water allocation statement for the 2019-20 water year. The next water allocation statement for the Gwydir regulated river will be available in early September 2019.

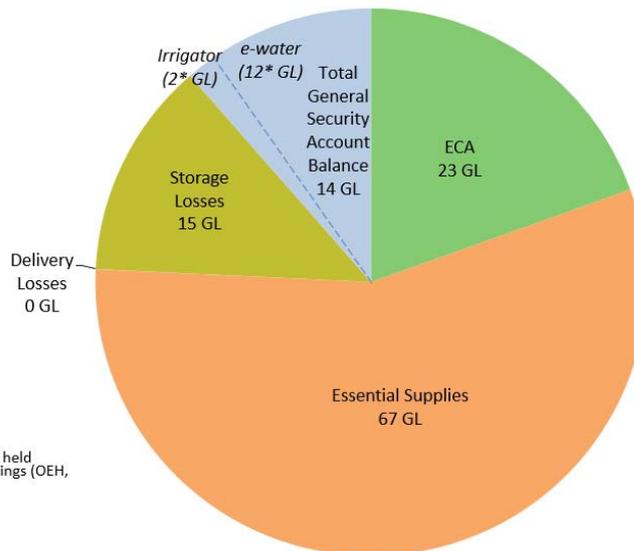
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

| Resource Distribution (as at 31 July 2019) | Volume (GL) | Volume (GL) |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Available Resource ⁽¹⁾ | | 119.5 |
| <i>less</i> | | |
| Storage Losses ⁽²⁾ | 15.3 | |
| Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾ | 67.3 | |
| ECA | 23.3 | |
| Delivery Losses ⁽⁵⁾ | 0.0 | |
| General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾ | 13.6 | |
| <i>equals</i> | | |
| Water available for allocation | | 0.0 |

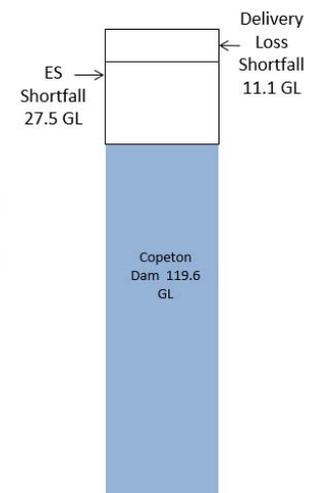
See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 31 July 2019 Gwydir Valley



Total = 119 GL
* Indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH), refer to note 4.

Supply Source



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 11.6GL of GS and 5.8GL 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) Delivery Losses - this account reflects the water needed to deliver general security water. 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. The account balance remains unchanged despite delivering water for GS & ECA since April 2019 due to 'at dam wall debit' accounting of the delivery.

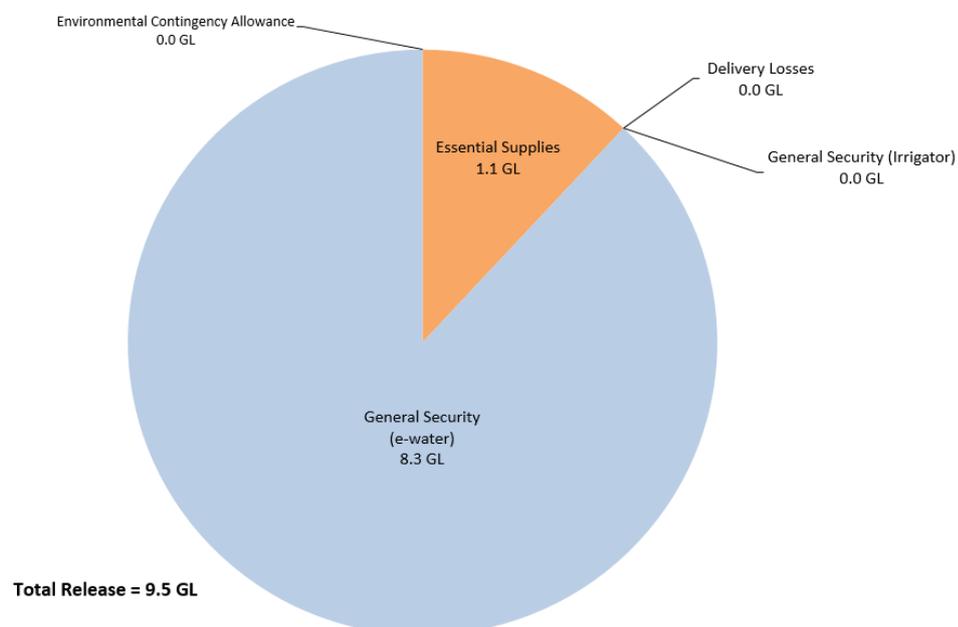
Resource Assessment as at 31 July 2019

| Volumes in GL | Budget | Current | Additional | Balance |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Storage Loss | 15.34 | 15.45 | -0.11 | 15.34 |
| Essential Supplies for next 24 months | 94.72 | 67.54 | -0.29 | 67.25 |
| Delivery Loss (256 GL max) | 11.09 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| ECA (90 GL max) | - | 23.33 | 0.00 | 23.33 |
| General Security (764.5 GL max) | - | 13.64 | 0.00 | 13.64 |
| Additional Resources for Sharing | - | -0.40 | 0.40 | 0.00 |
| Total | - | 119.56 | 0.00 | 119.56 |

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

Copeton Dam released 9.5 GL in June and July 2019 to meet the following requirements:

Release Distribution for June & July 2019



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