

7 May 2019

Gwydir Valley

Water allocation and availability update

Allocations

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

Rainfall in April was below to very much below average across the catchment, with Copeton Dam receiving just 1 mm of rainfall.

There has been just 29.2 gigalitres (GL) of inflow into Copeton Dam since the last general security allocation in February 2018. This is the second lowest inflow on record, exceeded only by 23GL over a similar period in 1919.

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

Dam levels (as at 5 May)

Copeton Dam is 11.1 per cent full – falling slowly – currently holding about 168,000 ML. This time last year the storage was about 27.2 per cent full.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Gwydir Valley is in Stage 2 drought, as contingency measures are needed to manage the water shortage.

As the drought is deepening, tougher measures are needed to protect critical human needs, and the criticality level is expected to escalate to Stage 3. Management action 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 6.9 GL in April 2019.
- Evaporation and transmission losses have remained above budget this water year, reflecting the drying river system and contributing to the 47.3 GL resource shortfall.
- Apart from essential supplies 0.9 GL, there was general security (mostly e-water) and environmental water (ECA) deliveries in April 2019, of 3.5 GL and 2.7 GL respectively.
- The delivery loss account is empty and the essential supply reserve is supporting the delivery of water.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook suggests a drier than average May, however, the three month period for May to July suggests no clear indication of drier or wetter than average conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook is at El Niño ALERT. There is a 70 per cent chance of El Niño conditions developing in 2019. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral and indications are that it will remain neutral for the remainder of autumn.

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

Water availability outlook for 2019-20

This forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used at one's own risk. This outlook for the likely 1 July 2019 water availability is conservatively based on assumed historical minimum inflows for the remainder of this water year and all of 2019-20.

- Critical human and stock needs are secured into the next water year.
- Water for towns, including Moree, is secure in 2019-20 with access to groundwater.
- Full allocation can be expected for towns, domestic and stock access licences, and high security entitlements.
- General security may not receive any additional allocation on 1 July 2019.
- If dry conditions continues some restrictions during 2019-20 on delivering account water, replenishment flows and minimum releases, or a combination of these, will be needed to secure critical human needs for 2020-21.

Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Gwydir regulated river will be provided on **Friday 7 June 2019**.

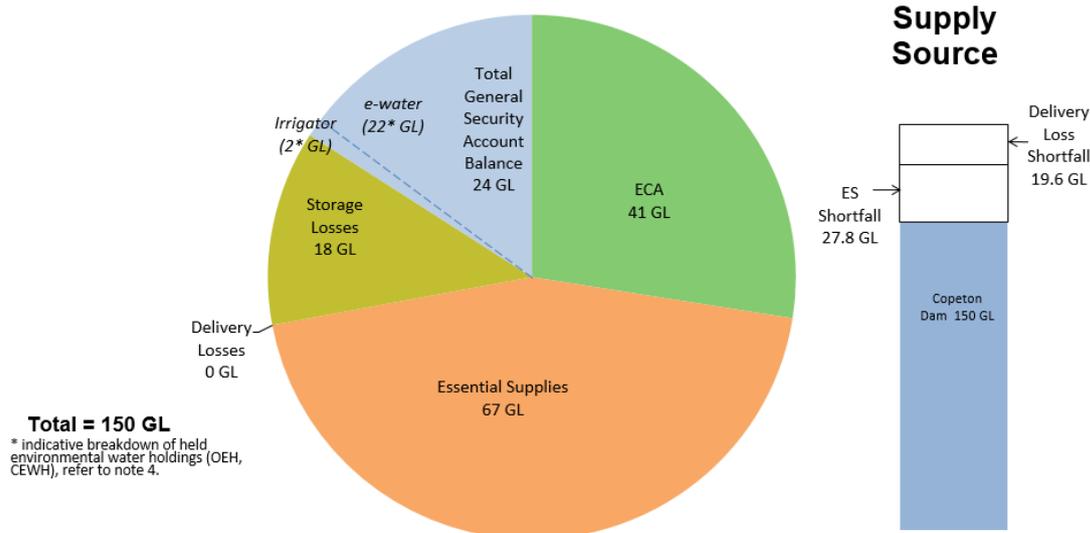
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

| Resource Distribution (as at 30 April 2019) | |
|---|-------------|
| | Volume (GL) |
| Available Resource ⁽¹⁾ | 150.2 |
| less | |
| Storage Losses ⁽²⁾ | 18.0 |
| Essential Supplies ⁽³⁾ | 67.0 |
| ECA | 41.3 |
| Delivery Losses ⁽⁵⁾ | 0.0 |
| General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾ | 23.9 |

See notes below.

Resource Distribution as at 30 April 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 24GL 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) 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 in April due to 'at dam wall debit' accounting of the delivery.

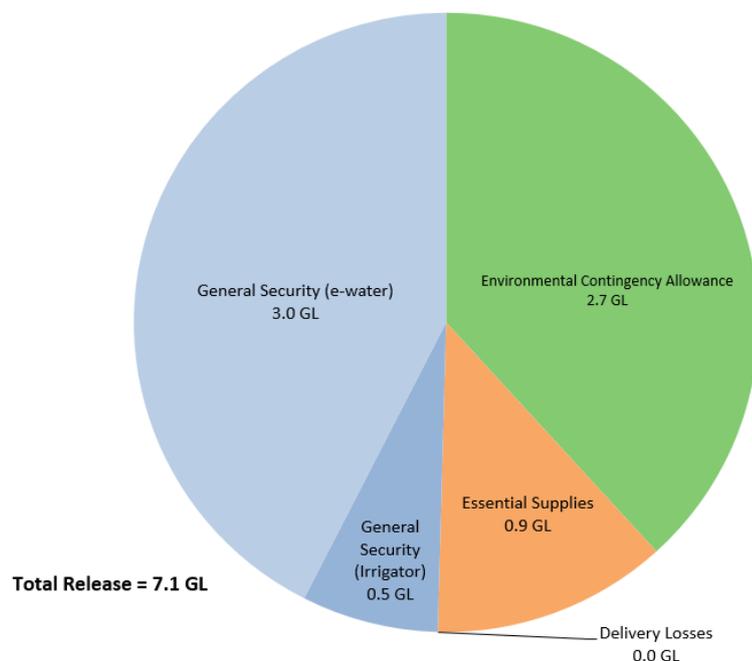
Resource Assessment as at 30 April 2019

| Volumes in GL | Budget | Current | Additional | Balance |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Storage Loss | 18.08 | 18.66 | -0.59 | 18.08 |
| Essential Supplies for next 24 months | 94.72 | 66.20 | 0.75 | 66.95 |
| Delivery Loss (256 GL max) | 19.56 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| ECA (90 GL max) | - | 41.33 | 0.00 | 41.33 |
| General Security (764.5 GL max) | - | 23.88 | 0.00 | 23.88 |
| Additional Resources for Sharing | - | 0.17 | -0.17 | 0.00 |
| Total | - | 150.24 | 0.00 | 150.24 |

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

Copeton Dam released 7.1 GL in April 2019 to meet the following requirements:

Release Distribution for April 2019



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