

7 March 2018

## Gwydir Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

The Gwydir regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at 17.59 per cent of entitlement**. Rainfall was limited in the catchment during February, with Copeton Dam receiving just 40mm of total rainfall during the month. As a result, there were insufficient inflows into the catchment to provide an increase in allocation.

All other categories of licence in the regulated river valley have already received their maximum allocation for the 2017/18 water year.

	High Security	General Security
Gwydir Valley	100%	17.59%

#### Dam levels (as at 6 March)

Copeton Dam is approximately 29 per cent full – falling – holding around 413,000 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was about 44 per cent full.

#### Key facts

- The volume in Copeton Dam has decreased by 35,660 ML since the last assessment, mostly due to releases to meet downstream general security and essential supply demand, as well as a lack of substantial inflows.
- Demand has now reduced and no major demand is expected through autumn and winter, apart from some environmental watering actions in April.

#### Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting average rainfall conditions during March to May for the catchment. Daytime and night temperatures are likely to be average during this period.

The weak and short-lived LA NIÑA is continuing to break-down and it is expected that by mid-autumn, neutral EL NIÑO–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions will prevail. Historically, the LA NIÑA break-down has resulted in drier conditions across eastern Australia during autumn.

Australian climate patterns are being influenced by the long-term increasing trend in global air and ocean temperatures, in addition to the natural drivers such as the El Niño–Southern Oscillation and the Indian Ocean Dipole.

#### Further information

The next allocation announcement for the Gwydir regulated river water source will be issued on **Monday 9 April 2018**.

Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry - Water website - [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**Media contact: James Muddle M 0407 103 507**

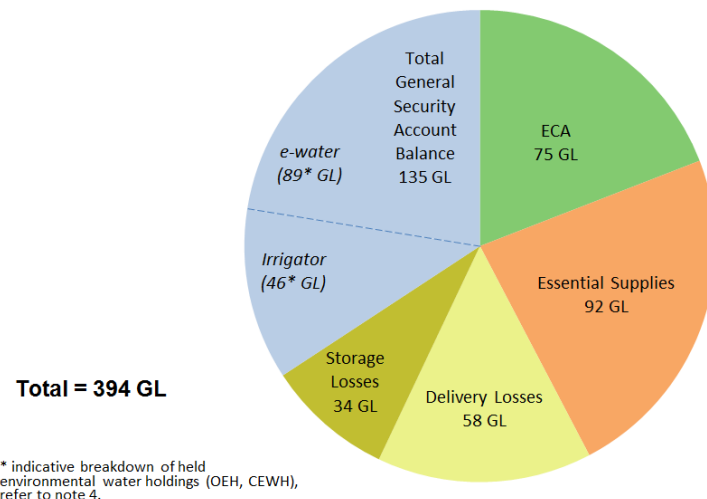
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (as at 28 February 2018)</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	394.18
<b>less</b>	
Storage Losses <sup>(2)</sup>	34.36
Essential Supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	91.48 (96.6% full)
ECA	75.33
Delivery Losses	58.10
General Security Account Balance <sup>(4)</sup>	134.91

See notes below.

### Resource Distribution as at 28 February 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) – as a trial, reporting of held environmental 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 the total credited to accounts (not usage) and is estimated to be 89GL of GS and 1GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either individually or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental water holdings.

## Gwydir resource assessment

- Previous Assessment date: 31 January 2018
- Current Assessment date: 28 February 2018

<b>Storage volume</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Storage Balance (GL)</b>
Total		413.18
Dead storage	19.00	394.18
Storage Loss Committed - projected 2 years (brought forward)	36.19	357.99

<b>Essential Supplies</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	94.72	
Used and associated loss since last assessment	-5.59	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to General Security	0.05	
Transfer to General Security delivery loss account	0.01	
Current balance	89.19	268.80

<b>Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	75.33	
Orders from assessment period	0.00	
Current balance	75.33	193.47

<b>General Security Irrigation</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	154.62	
Orders from assessment period	-19.66	
Allocation Assignments from High Security to Low Security	-0.05	
Reconciliation of accounts	0.00	
Current balance	134.91	58.56

<b>Delivery Loss</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Brought forward	68.98	
Losses since last assessment	-10.87	

<b>Delivery Loss</b>	<b>Committed Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Remaining Balance (GL)</b>
Credit from Essential Supplies (for Allocation Assignments to GS)	-0.01	
Current balance	58.10	0.46

<b>Apparent Losses since last assessment</b>	<b>% of loss</b>	<b>GL</b>
Total		12.86
Essential Supply Loss	15%	1.99
General Security + ECA Loss	85%	10.87

<b>Resources available for sharing</b>	<b>GL</b>
Total	<b>0.46</b>

<b>New balances</b>	<b>Limit</b>	<b>Commitments</b>		<b>Balance</b>
		<b>Current</b>	<b>Additional</b>	
	GL	GL	GL	GL
Storage Loss	34.36	36.19	-1.82	34.36
Essential Supplies	94.72	89.19	2.28	91.48
Delivery Loss	256.35	58.10	0.00	58.10
ECA	90.00	75.33	0.00	75.33
General Security Irrigation	764.50	134.91	0.00	134.91
Uncommitted resources	-	0.46	-0.46	0.00
Total	-	394.18	0.00	394.18

<b>Recommendations (General Security)</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Unit</b>
Incremental Increase CREDITED	0.00	GL
Available Water Determination	0.0000	ML per unit share