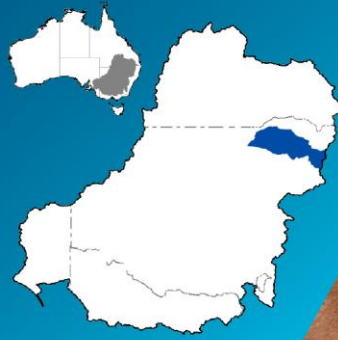




# Water Reporting Summary – Gwydir Catchment

15 December 2020



## Overview

- In the last 30 days, most of the upper Gwydir catchment, including the catchment area for Copeton Dam, received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. Areas of the catchment between Valetta and Moree, and near the Upper Horton received 25 to 50 mm, while downstream areas near Pokataroo received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 50 mm in the last 30 days, with nearly half of this rainfall received in one day (4 December). This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Gwydir catchment mainly being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- In the last month, rainfall has helped to maintain average root zone soil moisture across most of the Gwydir catchment. However recent rainfall has not translated into significant runoff and inflows to Copeton Dam. As a result, Drought Stage 2 conditions continue for the Gwydir catchment (Figure 3). In Drought Stage 2 (emerging drought or drought recovery), there has been limited water resources and multiple years of low flows (NSW DPIE).
- General security allocations remain at 5.07% which are the highest allocations for the last three years. Limited water availability has translated into limited water trading activity in the Gwydir catchment (Figure 4 and Table 1).

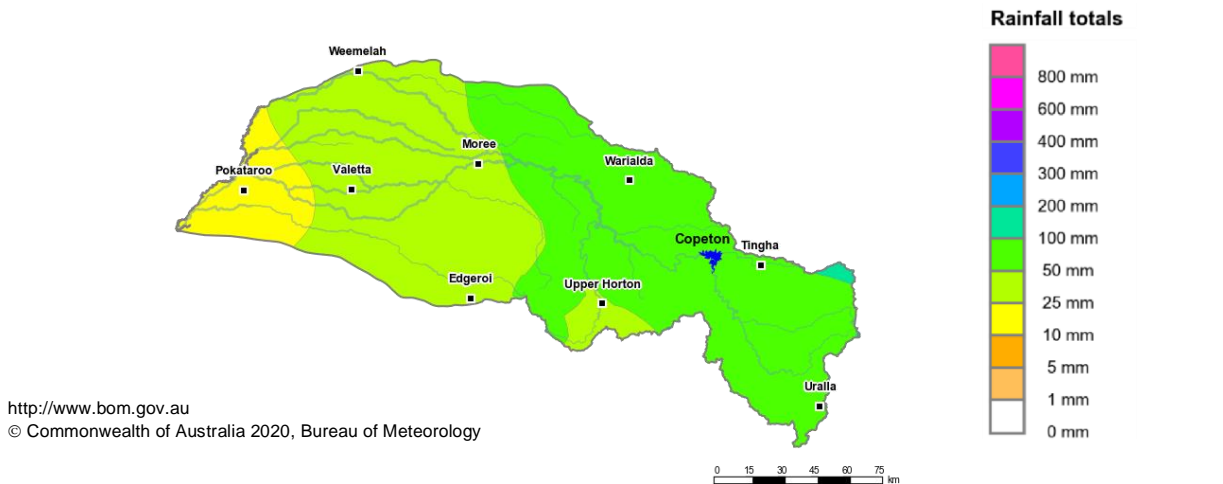


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Nov to 15 Dec 2020)

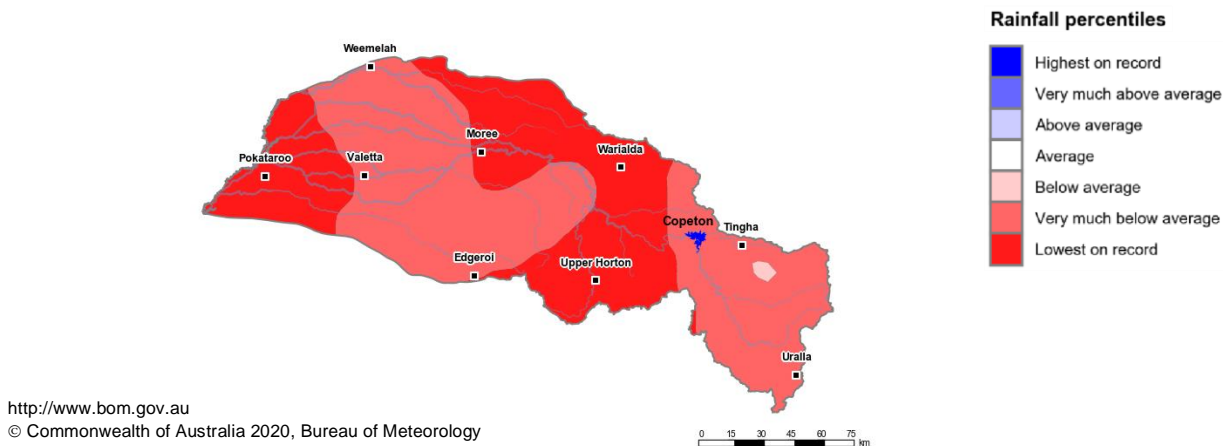


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Nov 2020)

Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

## How much water is in the storage?

Storage volume: Copeton storage as at 15 December 2020

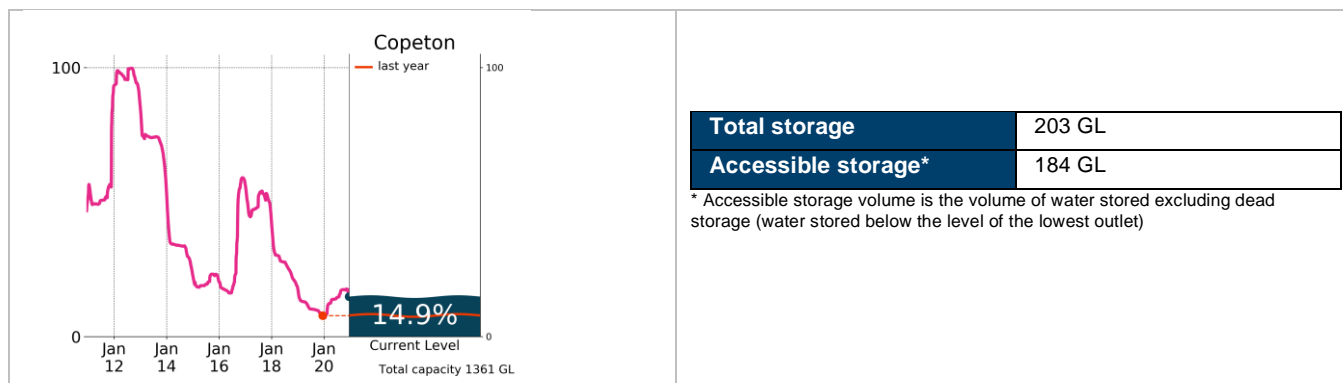


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

## Who is the water for?

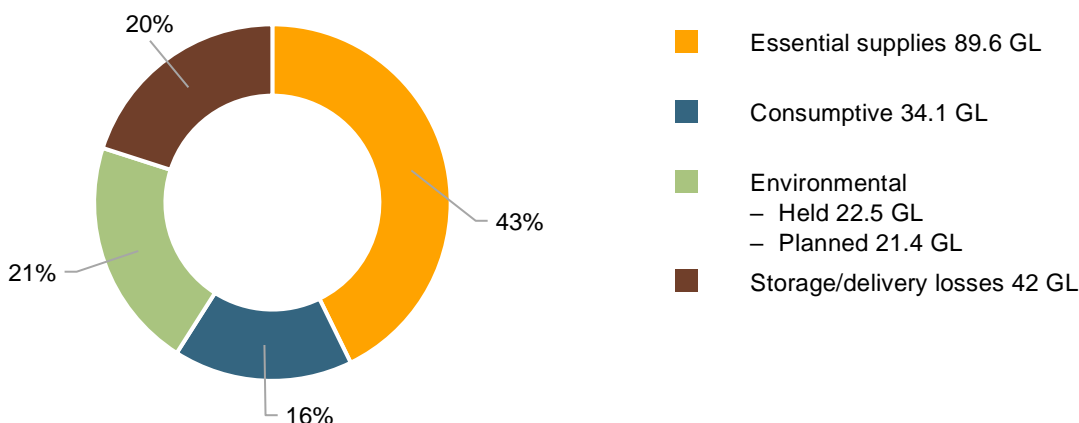


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 30 November 2020)

Source: [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 30 November 2020. It does not represent remaining available allocated water as it does not allow for water used, traded or new storage inflows (in excess of minimum assumptions).

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) and market prices – selected licence categories as at 15 December 2020

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement prices (monthly median)	Allocation price (median – last 7 days)
Stock & Domestic, Local Utility	100%	Same as most years	n/a	\$320/ML*
Gwydir High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
Gwydir General Security	5.07%	Highest allocations in last three years	n/a	
Average Carryover (General Security)	5%	3% last year	n/a	

\*Indicative - limited trades

Source: [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email [water@bom.gov.au](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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