Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Reporting Summary – Gwydir Catchment

1 December 2020

Overview

- In the last 30 days, the upper Gwydir, including the catchment areas for Copeton Dam, received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall. In contrast, central areas of the catchment near Upper Horton received 5 to 10 mm, while most of the lower catchment received less than 5 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 7 mm in the last 30 days. 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, root zone soil moisture was average to above average 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 continuing 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).

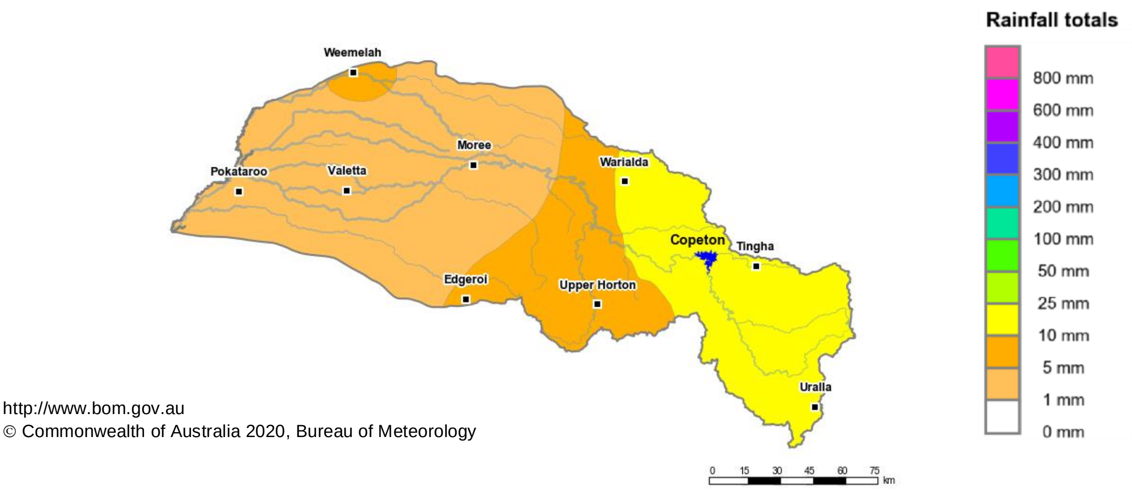


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (2 Nov to 1 Dec 2020)

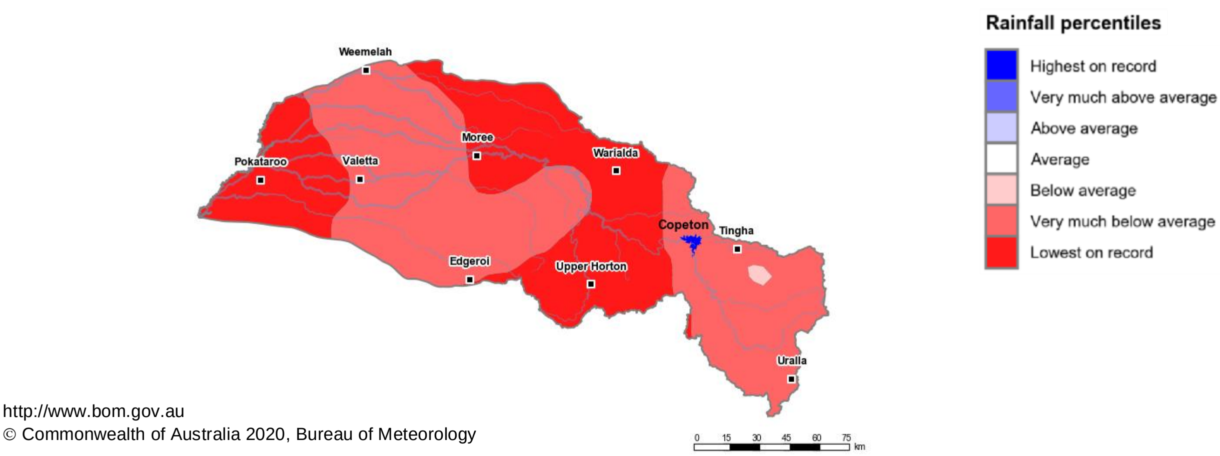
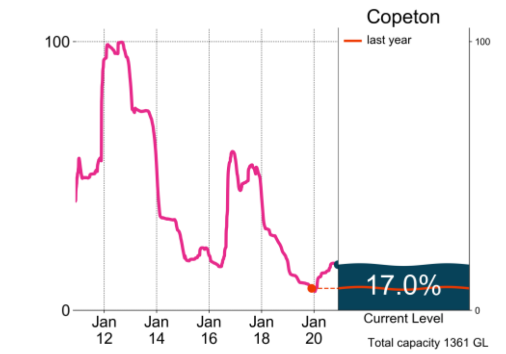


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Nov 2020)

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 1 December 2020



Total storage	231 GL
Accessible storage*	213 GL

* Accessible storage volume is the volume of water stored excluding dead storage (water stored below the level of the lowest outlet)

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

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard]

Who is the water for?

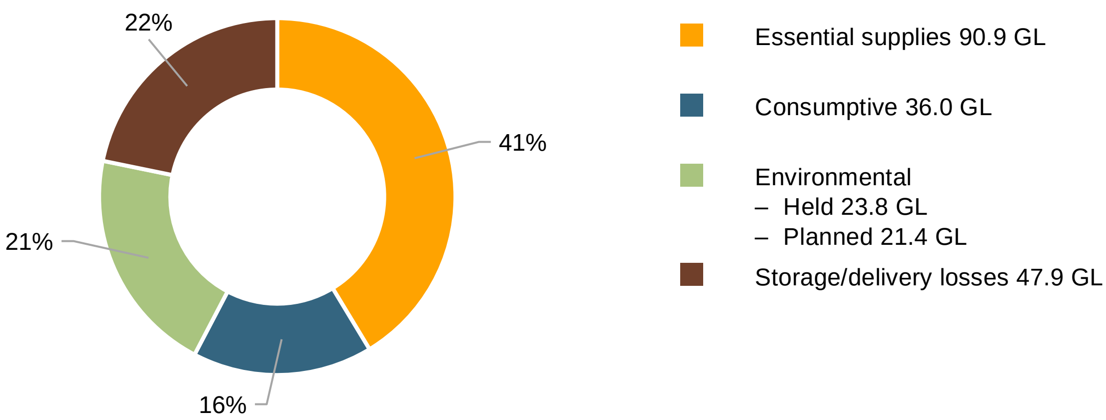


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 31 October 2020)

Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 31 October 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 1 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	n/a
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

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au