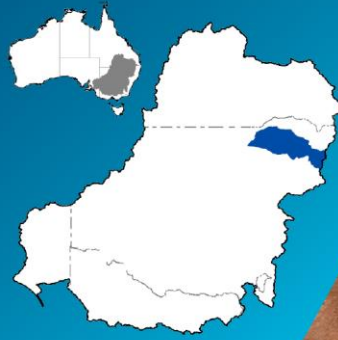




# Water Reporting Summary – Gwydir Catchment

1 March 2021



## Overview

- In the last 30 days, there has been widespread rainfall across the Gwydir catchment, with most central and upstream areas, including the catchment area for Copeton Dam, receiving 100 to 200 mm of rainfall. Downstream areas received 50 to 100 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 113 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, rainfall has resulted in a wetter catchment with above average root zone soil moisture for most of the upper Gwydir catchment, and average soil moisture elsewhere in the catchment. Recent rainfall has translated into some runoff and inflows to Copeton Dam (NSW DPIE).
- General security allocations are currently 15.68% which are the highest allocations for the last three years. Improvements in water availability (Figure 4) has encouraged some water trading with current allocation prices of \$225 per ML (Table 1).

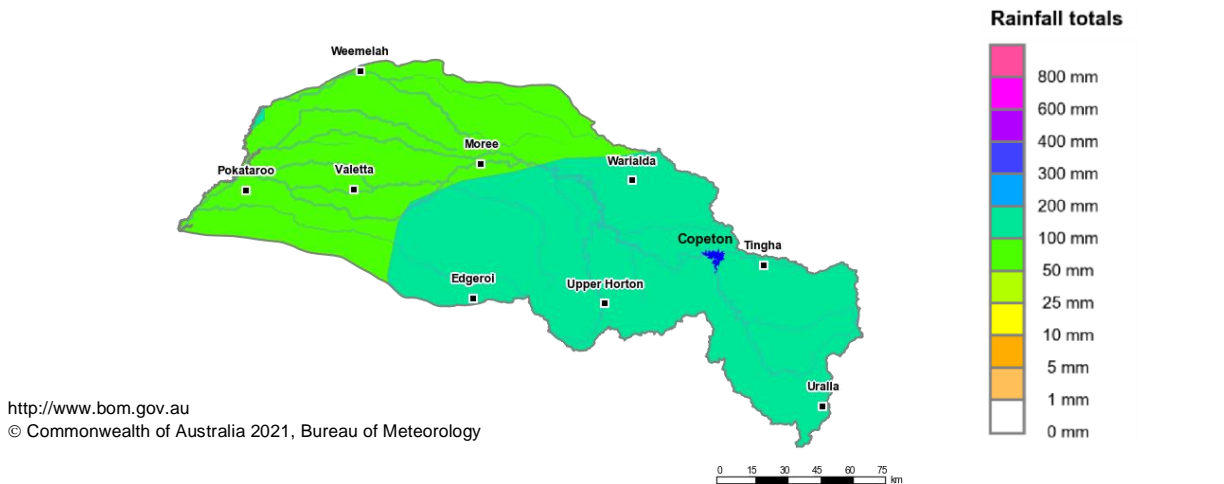


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (31 Jan to 1 March 2021)

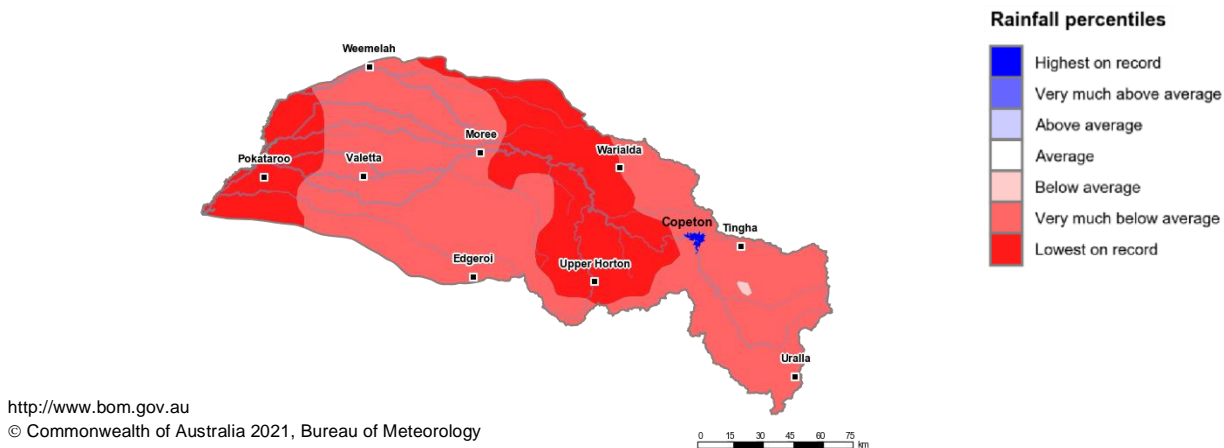


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Feb 2021)

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 28 February 2021

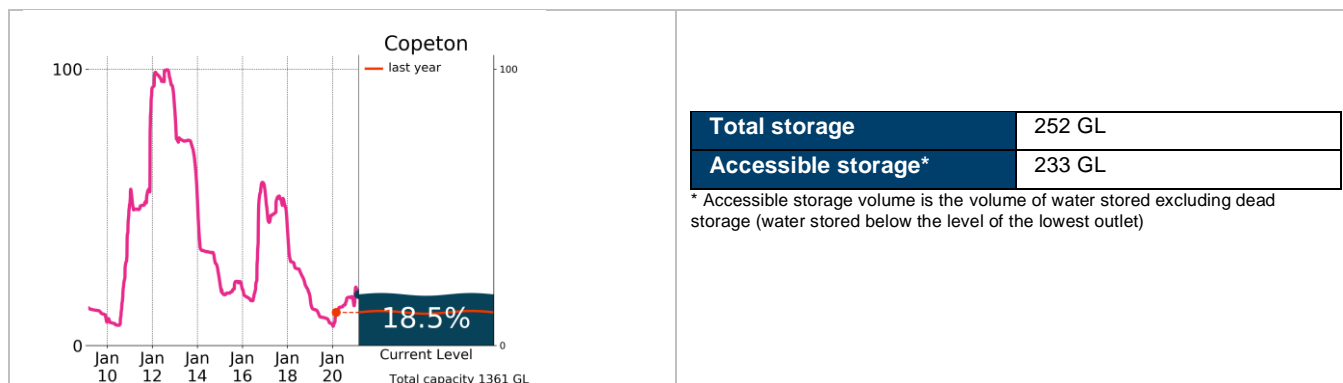


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

## Who is the water for?

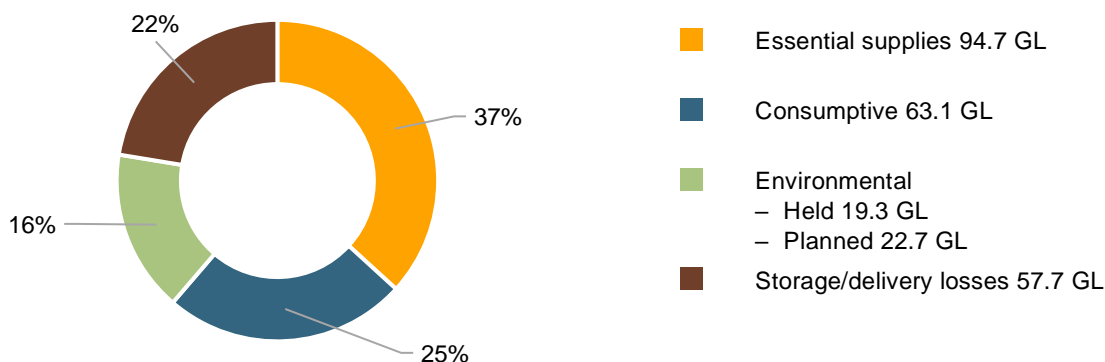


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 5 February 2021)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 5 February 2021. 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 March 2021

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	\$225/ML*
Gwydir High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
Gwydir General Security	15.68%	Highest allocations in last three years	\$3 780ML*	
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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