



Water Reporting Summary - Gwydir Catchment

15 April 2020



Overview

- In the last month, most of the Gwydir catchment received between 50 to 100 mm of rainfall, with up to 200 mm falling in the Upper Horton area (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 76 mm in the last 30 days. However, this recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Gwydir catchment being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has significantly improved soil moisture conditions, with root zone soil moisture in most of the Gwydir catchment being very much above average or the highest 1% on record in April to date. The recent wetting of the catchment has resulted in some runoff and inflows to Copeton Dam (Figure 3). Drought Stage 3 conditions have been eased to Drought Stage 2 for the Gwydir catchment. In Drought Stage 2, there has been limited water resources and multiple years of low flows (NSW DPIE).
- Recent improved conditions have not been sufficient to fully offset the long term dry conditions, so announced allocations for general security entitlement holders remain at 0%, with limited water trading activity (Figure 4 and Table 1).

Recent conditions

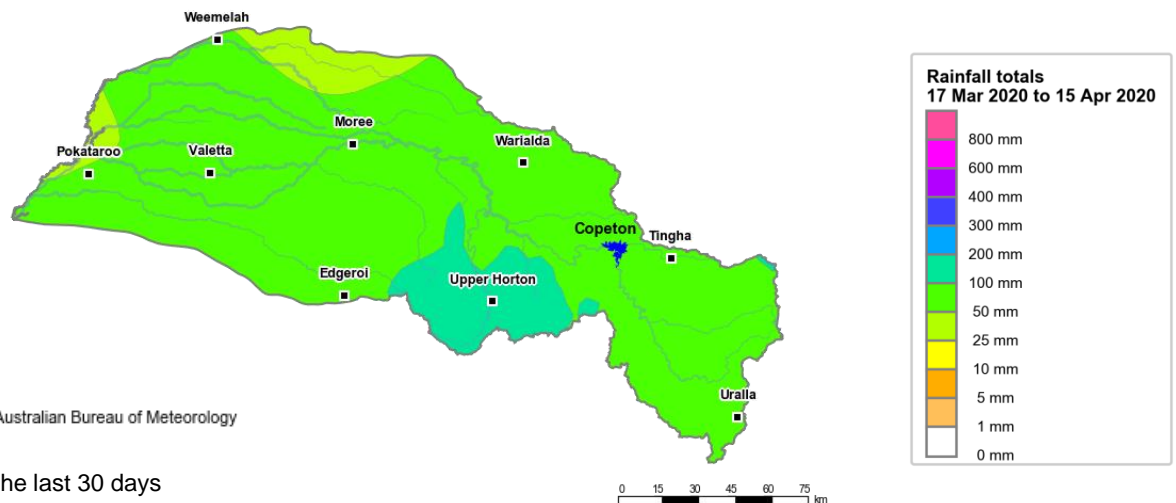


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

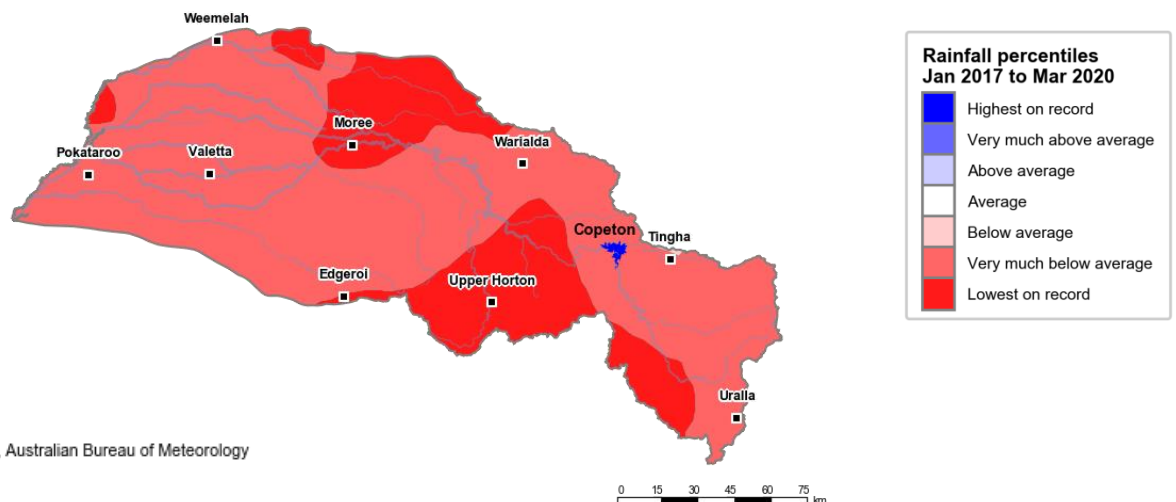


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average). Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages (as at 15 April 2020)?

Storage volume: Copeton storage

Total storage	184 GL
Accessible storage*	165 GL

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

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

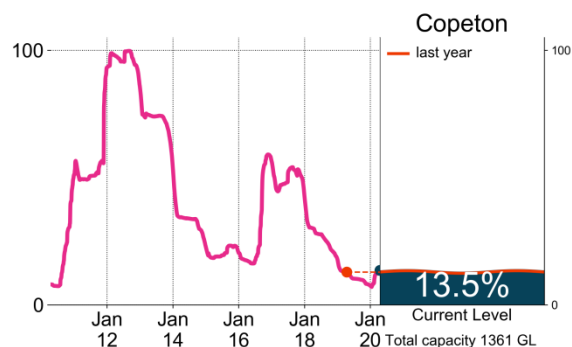


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Who is the water for?

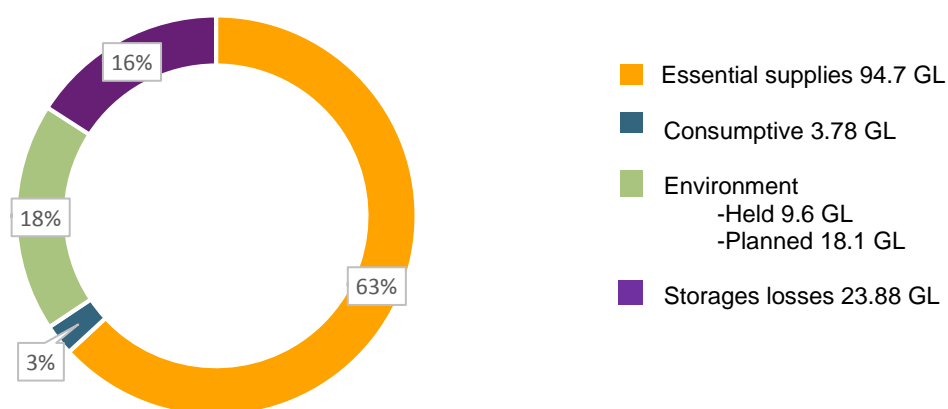


Figure 4: Volumes of water held in accounts for the 2019-20 water year (as at 31 March 2020)

Source: [Water Allocation Statement- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated, but not necessarily available, for various purposes as at 31 March 2020. Due to Drought Stage 3 conditions, the extremely limited available water is being directed towards essential supplies such as critical human needs. Water allocation figures shown here differ to those on WaterNSW's [Water Insights](#), which shows estimated water available over a two-year planning period (2019 to 2021).

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) and market prices- Selected licence categories as at 15 April 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	\$100/ML*
Gwydir High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
Gwydir General Security	0%	Has occurred in four out of the last ten years	\$3,100/ML*	
Average Carryover (General Security)	3%	22% last year	n/a	

*indicative based on limited trade data

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

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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