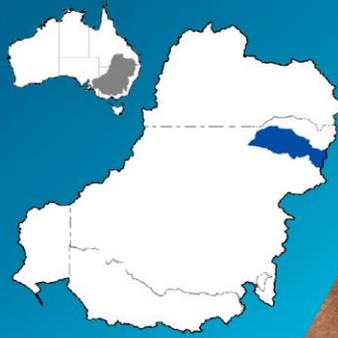




Water Reporting Summary - Gwydir Catchment

15 May 2020



Overview

- In the last month, most of the Gwydir catchment received less than 25 mm of rainfall, although some areas received up to 50 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 18 mm in the last 30 days. However, this recent patchy 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).
- Rainfall received during April and May has resulted in average or above average root zone soil moisture conditions for most of the Gwydir catchment. The recent wetting of the catchment has translated into some runoff and inflows to Copeton Dam, but Drought Stage 2 conditions continue for the Gwydir catchment (Figure 3). In Drought Stage 2, there has been limited water resources and multiple years of low flows (NSW DPIE).
- Recent improved conditions have allowed the first general security allocations (1.9%) since February 2018. There remains limited water trading activity (Figure 4 and Table 1).

Recent conditions

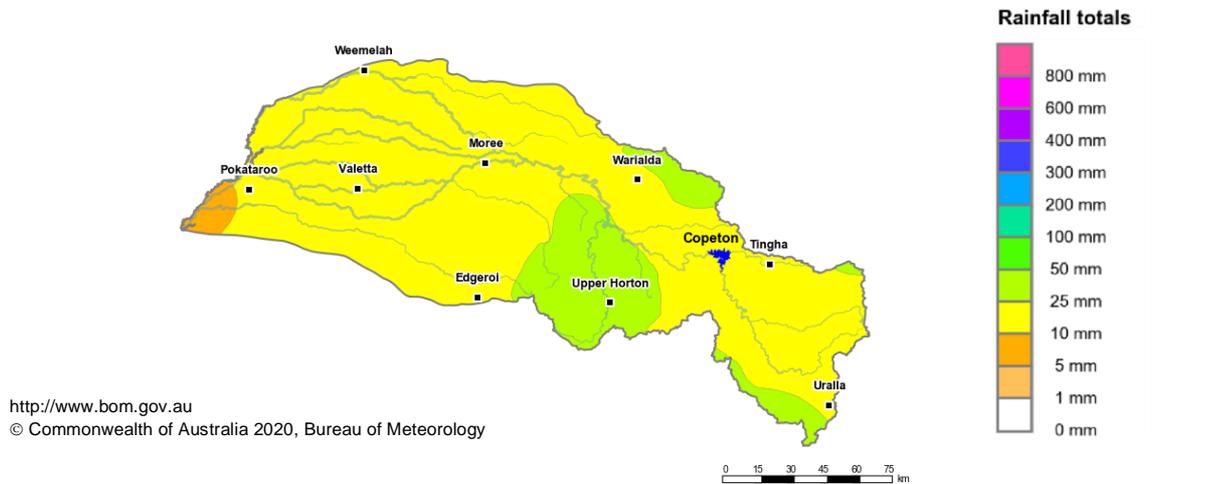


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 April to 15 May 2020)

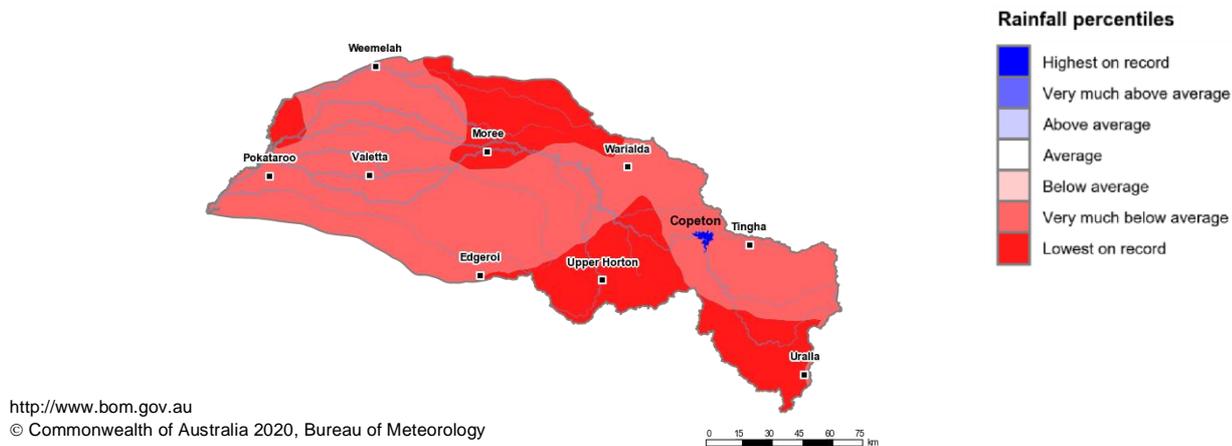


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Apr 2020)

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 storages?

Storage volume: Copeton storage as at 15 May 2020

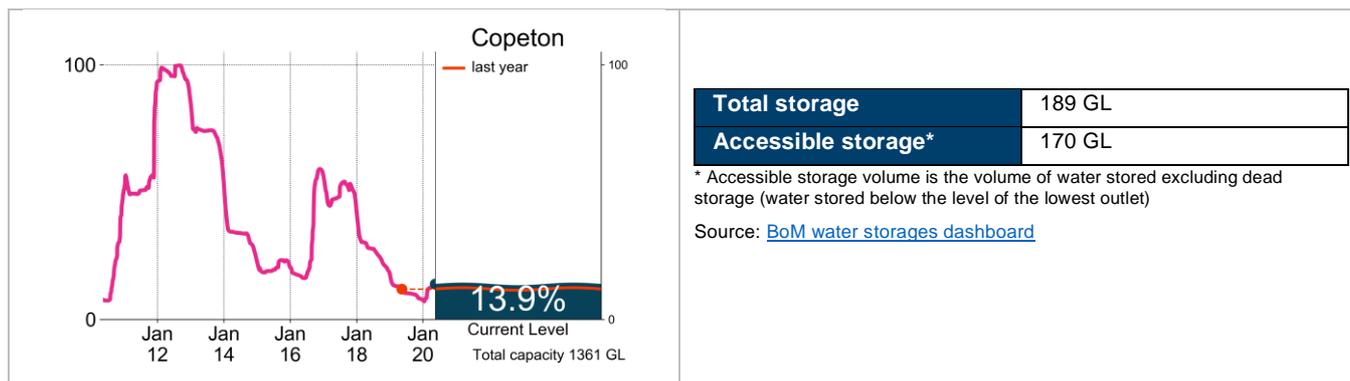


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Who is the water for?

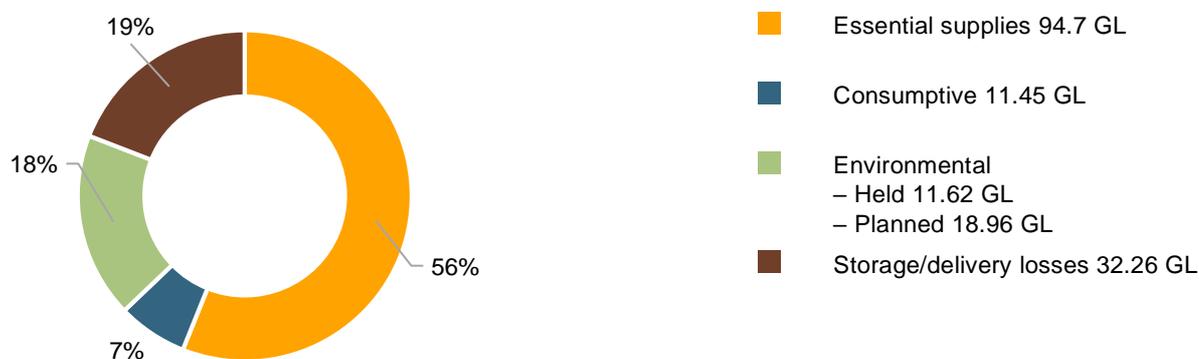


Figure 4: Volumes of water held in accounts for the 2019-20 water year (as at 30 April 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated, but not necessarily available, for various purposes as at 30 April 2020. In Drought Stage 2, there are limited water resources available. 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 May 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	1.9%	With carryover, lowest available water since 2004-05	n/a	
Average Carryover (General Security)	3%	22% last year	n/a	

Source: [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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