



Water Reporting Summary - Gwydir Catchment

16 March 2020



Overview

- In the last month, most of the Gwydir catchment received much needed rainfall. Up to 100 mm of rain fell over the upper and lower parts of the catchment, while the central parts received 100 to 200 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 105 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).
- With very dry catchment conditions, recent rainfall has not translated into higher inflows and storage volumes, with a continuation of Drought Stage 3 conditions for the Gwydir catchment. For Stage 3, there has been severe water shortages, with water delivery restricted to high priority demands (NSW DPIE). Consequently, there have been low or no allocations for some entitlement holders (Figure 3 and Table 1).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders are currently 0% which, for this time of year, has occurred four times in the last ten years for the Gwydir.

Recent conditions



Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

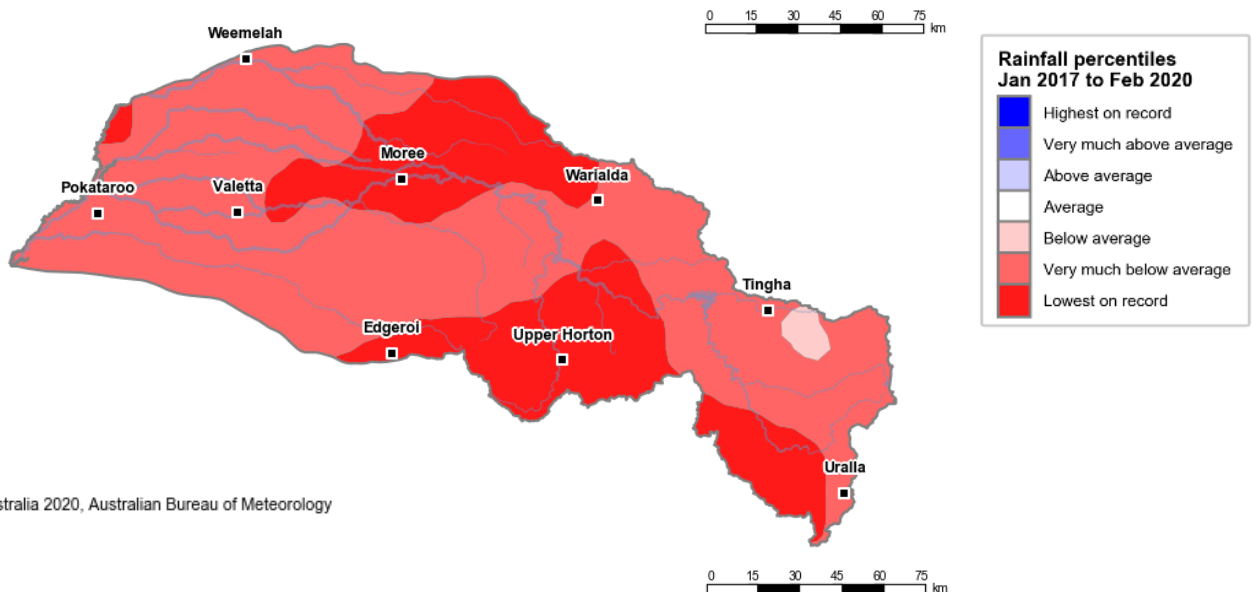


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average). Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages (as at 16 March 2020)?

Storage volume: Copeton storage

Total storage	167 GL
Accessible storage*	149 GL
%Full (total storage capacity)	12%
%Full (same time last year)	13%

*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](#)

Who is the water for?

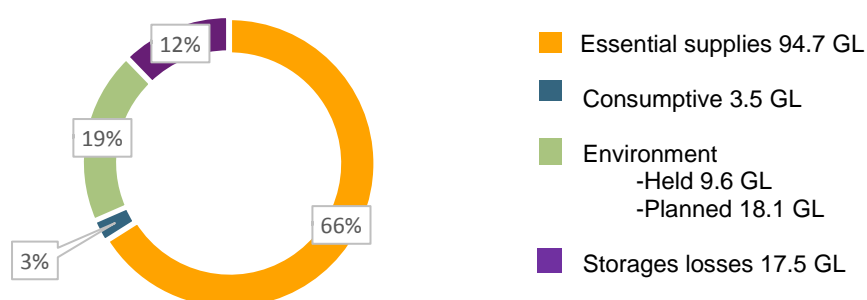


Figure 3: Volumes of water held in accounts for the 2019-20 water year (as at 29 February 2020)

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 29 February 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 (%) - Selected licence categories as at 16 March 2020

Licence category	Current announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)
Stock & Domestic, Local Utility	100%	Same as most years
Gwydir High Security	100%	Same as most years
Gwydir General Security	0%	Has occurred in four out of the last ten years
Average Carryover (General Security)	3%	22% last year

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

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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