

Operations Update



Gwydir Valley Flows

19 December 2020

Some intense rainfall in the Gwydir catchment in recent days has produced high river flows downstream of Copeton Dam.

On the 16th and 17th December the Upper Horton area received close to 200mm of rain resulting in high flows in the Gwydir River. The Mehi / Moomin system has also received inflows from Tycannah and Gurley Creeks from this rainfall event. Inflows into Copeton Dam were negligible. Updated river flow information can be viewed at <https://waterinsights.waternsw.com.au/11985-gwydir-regulated-river/river-data>

The intense rainfall produced flows and river heights that increased very quickly. The peak flows in the Gwydir River at Pallamallawa and downstream of Tareelaro Weir were around 30,000ML/day with the bulk of these flows moving through the Gwydir River system over a period of approximately 30 hours.

When high flows like these occur, the gates at the river structures such as Tareelaro Weir and Boolooroo Weir are lifted clear of the water to ensure the wellbeing of the structures. This means that the majority of the water then naturally flows towards the Gingham / Lower Gwydir including natural flow breakouts from the river.

Under these types of flow events, as much water as possible is diverted to the Mehi and Carole systems however the physical limitations of the structures means that the distribution of water and therefore access to supplementary water is also limited.

Supplementary access has been made available in accordance with the Water Sharing Plan which outlines that no more than 50% of the supplementary water event volume may be permitted to be taken. For details of announcements see <https://www.waternsw.com.au/supply/regional-nsw/supplementary>

Some smaller flows from the Mehi and Carole / Gil Gil are likely to flow into the Barwon-Darling however it is too early to provide any estimates of these flows at this time. WaterNSW will provide further information on this on Monday 21st Dec.

As a result of this rainfall event, releases from Copeton Dam were ceased. WaterNSW will recommence releases from Copeton Dam when and as required (likely to be before Christmas without further rainfall) to deliver the remaining water orders under the block release strategy.

WaterNSW will continue to monitor water resources and weather conditions and will adjust planned delivery patterns in response to changes in conditions as required.

More information

Please visit our website for more information at <https://www.waternsw.com.au/supply/regional-nsw/operations-updates>. For more information, phone us on **1300 662 077** or email us at Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au.

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