Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Reporting Summary – Murrumbidgee Catchment

15 April 2021

Overview

- In the last 30 days, the upstream areas of the Murrumbidgee catchment, including the catchment areas of Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams, received 100 to 200 mm of rainfall. Areas downstream of Tumut to Griffith and Jerilderie received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall, while areas west of Griffith to Hay received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall and further west 5 to 25 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 77.5 mm. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Murrumbidgee catchment mostly below average with patches of average and very much below average. However, there are parts of the catchment in the east, including parts of the ACT, where recent rainfall has offset the rainfall deficiency experienced over the last four years (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has contributed to maintaining very much above average root zone soil moisture for the upper part of the Murrumbidgee catchment, above average in the middle and average in the northwest. The recent rainfall has translated into some runoff and increased inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders have reached 100% (including carryover), which has occurred four times in the last ten years (Figure 4 and Table 1). Allocation prices are currently $45 per ML, which are similar to prices paid last month ($55 per ML) and well below prices paid at the same time last year ($400 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

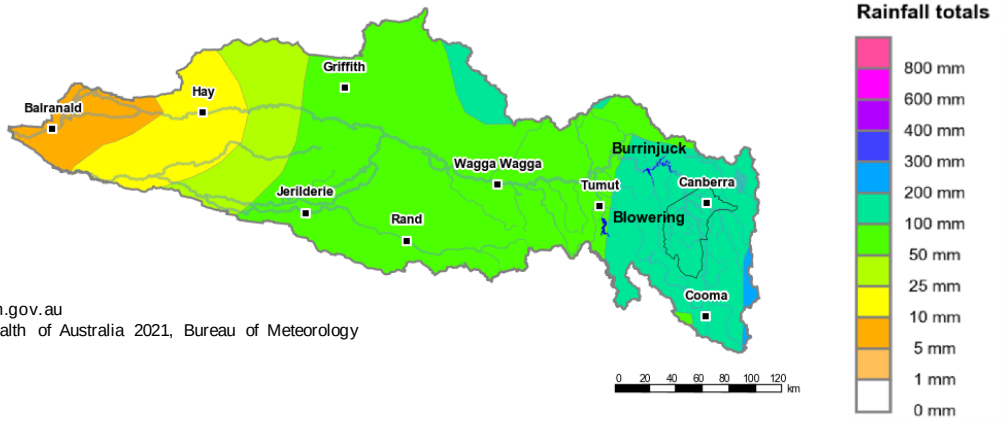

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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (17 March to 15 April 2021)

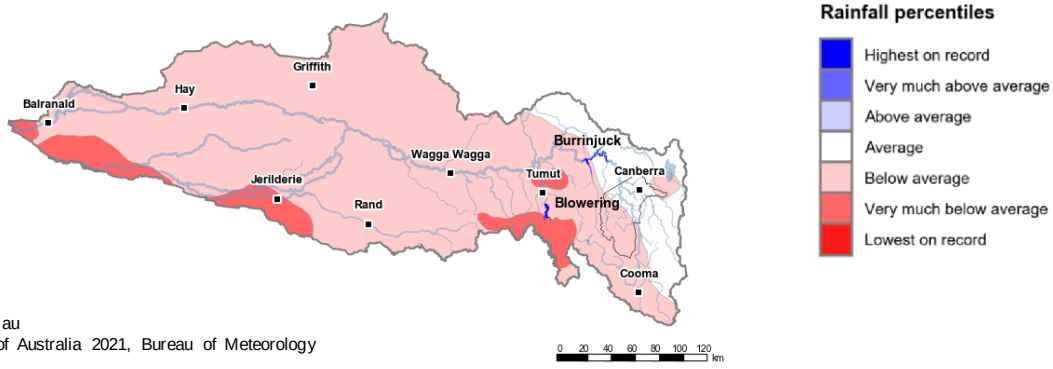

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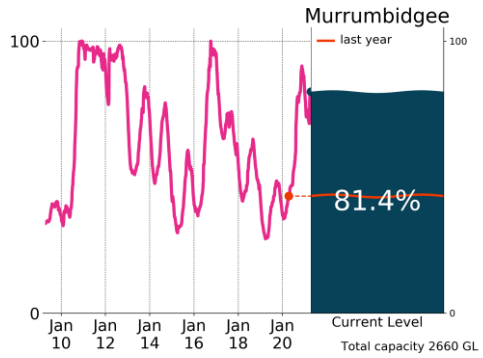
Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Mar 2021)
Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages?

Storage volume: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages as at 14 April 2021



Combined total storage	2 166 GL
Combined accessible storage*	2 139 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?

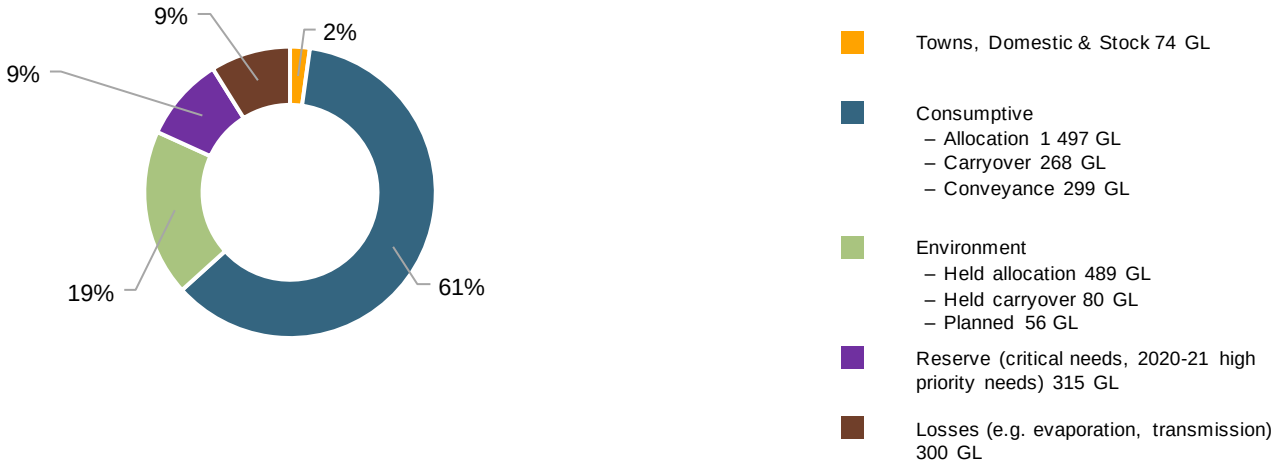


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 15 March 2021)
Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 15 March 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 15 April 2021

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement prices (monthly median)	Allocation price (median – last 7 days)
Stock & Domestic	100%	Same as most years	n/a	$45/ML
High Security	100%	Same as most years	$7000/ML	
General Security	100%	100% has been reached four times in the last ten years	$2079/ML	
Average Carryover (General Security)	18%	10% higher than the previous year	n/a	

Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and BoM water markets dashboard

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au