



Water Reporting Summary – NSW Border Rivers Catchment

15 December 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, there has been widespread rainfall across the NSW Border Rivers catchment with upstream areas, including the catchment area for Pindari Dam, receiving 100 to 200 mm of rainfall. Central areas of the catchment received 50 to 100 mm, while most downstream areas near Boomi and Mungindi received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). As a result, the total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 87 mm over the last 30 days, with most of this rainfall received in the last two weeks. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the NSW Border Rivers catchment mainly being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- Rainfall over the last 30 days has maintained average root zone soil moisture conditions across most of the NSW Border Rivers catchment. However, the recent rainfall has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3) with Drought Stage 2 conditions continuing for the NSW Border Rivers catchment. In Drought Stage 2 (emerging drought or drought recovery), there has been limited water resources and multiple years of low flows (NSW DPIE). As a result, there remain relatively low or no allocations for some entitlement holders and water trading has been limited (Figure 4 and Table 1).
- Announced allocations for general security A and B class entitlements are currently at 64.6% and 0%, respectively. For class A entitlements, for this time of year, this is the highest allocation since 2017–18.

Recent conditions



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

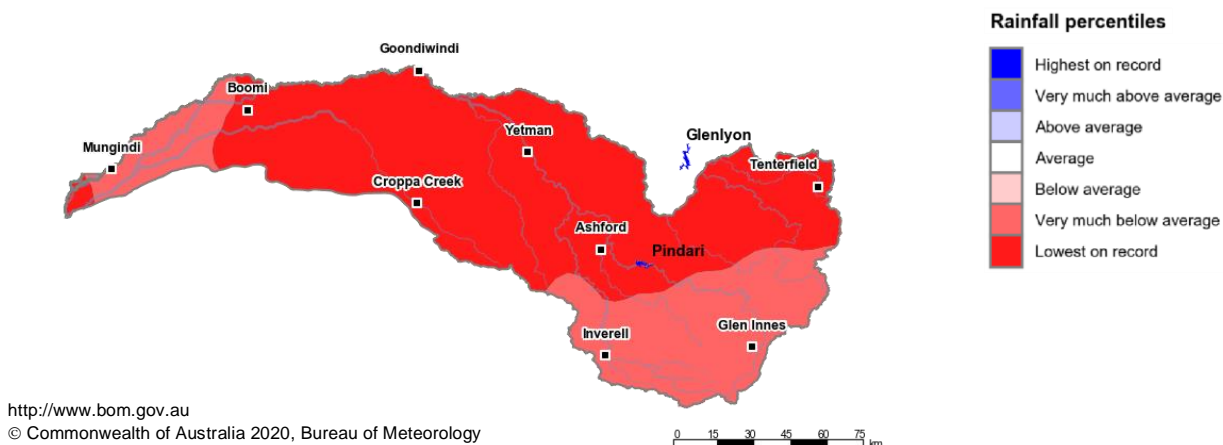


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Nov 2020)

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?

Combined total storage (NSW share*): 73 GL (as at 15 December 2020)

*Pindari storage and New South Wales' 57% share of Glenlyon storage

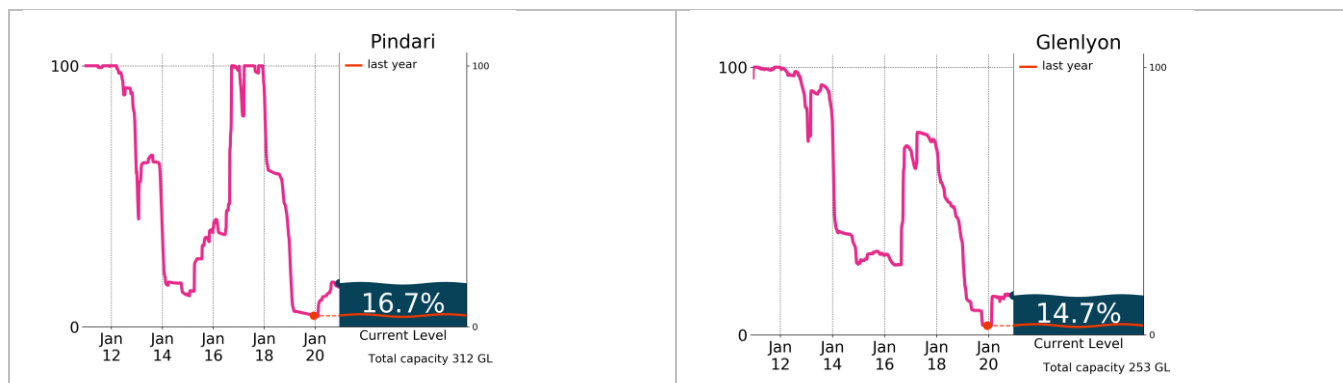


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

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

Who is the water for?

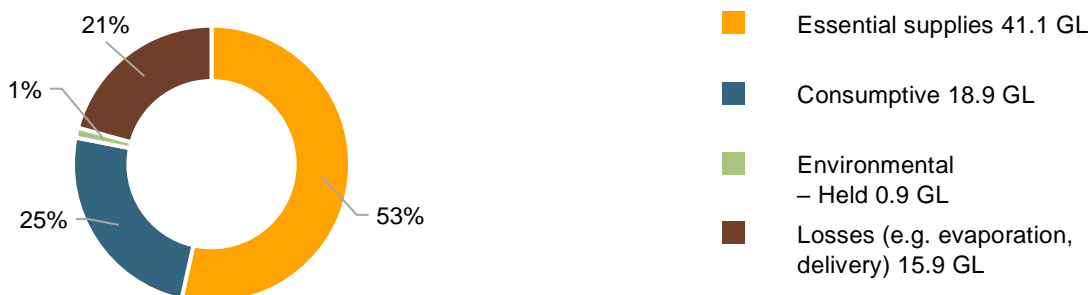


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (as at 1 September 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 1 September 2020. 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 December 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	\$400/ML*
NSW Border Rivers High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
NSW Border Rivers General Security – A	64.6%	Highest since 2017-18	n/a	
NSW Border Rivers General Security – B	0%	0% has occurred in four out of the last ten years	n/a	
Average Carryover (General Security)	1% General Security – A 2% General Security – B	1% last year 2% last year	n/a	

*Indicative - limited trade data

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



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