



# Water Reporting Summary – Intersecting Streams Catchment

15 December 2020



## Overview

- In the last month, most of the north-western areas of the Intersecting Streams catchment received 1 to 5 mm of rainfall. The south-eastern areas of the catchment near Cobar, and north-eastern areas near Lightning Ridge received up to 25 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 5 mm. This limited rainfall in the last month is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Intersecting Streams catchment mainly very much below average and with some areas near Lightning Ridge being lowest on record (Figure 2).
- With limited rainfall over the last month, soils across the Intersecting Streams catchment have started to dry out with the central areas experiencing below average root zone soil moisture. Recent rainfall has not translated into significantly higher runoff and river flows. Streamflow levels have been slowly declining since flooding occurred during February and March, and are currently at similar levels as the same time last year (Figure 3).
- Water resources are shared between water users according to a water sharing plan, with entitlements on issue shown in Table 1. However, the ability of water users to take water is governed by entitlement conditions which are subject to river flow conditions.
- For the 2020–21 water year, there has been no water trading activity to date (Table 2).

## Recent conditions

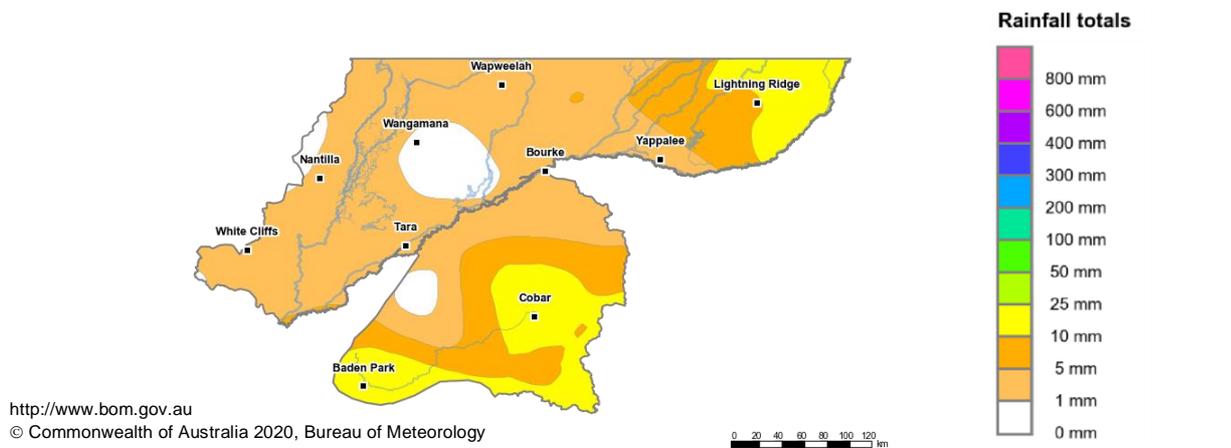


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Nov to 15 Dec 2020)

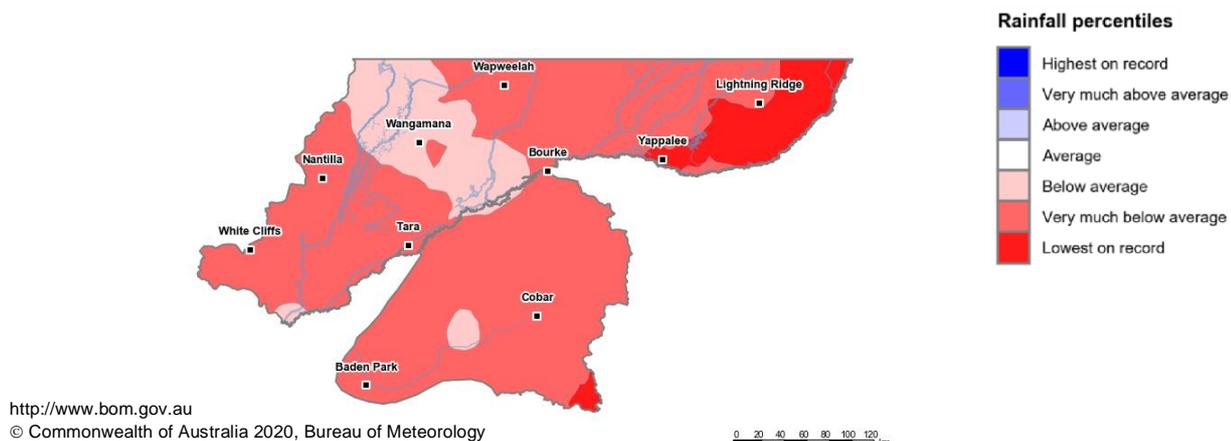


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Nov 2020)

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 river at selected gauges?

**Warrego River at Boera Dam**

**Narran River at Angledool No.2**

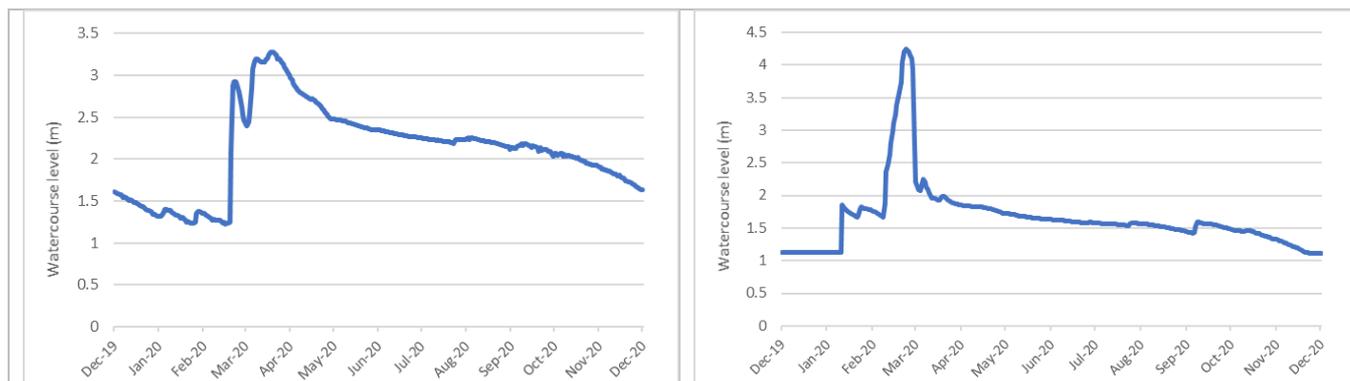


Figure 3: Water course levels for last 12 months at selected gauges in the Intersecting Streams catchment (as at 15 December 2020)

Source: [BoM Water Data Online](#)

## Who is the water for?

As the Intersecting Streams catchment is an unregulated system, water is not stored for the purpose of supplying orders to downstream users. Water is shared between different users according to the *Water Sharing Plan for the Intersecting Streams Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011* (NSW DPIE). The plan includes categories of water licences or entitlements and the share of the water resource for each entitlement category (expressed as a nominal volume). Entitlements on issue as at 1 July 2020 are shown in Table 1. This does not necessarily represent water that is actually available to licence holders at a given point in time as each licence category has conditions that govern when water can be taken.

Table 1: Nominal volumes of water entitlements on issue, per licence categories (GL) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 1 July 2020)

Entitlement category	Entitlement share (Nominal GL)
Domestic & Stock	0.48
Unregulated River – Consumptive	17.4
Unregulated River – Environmental	17.8

Source: [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

Table 2: Water market prices – selected licence categories as at 15 December 2020

Licence category	Entitlement price (monthly median)
Unregulated River	n/a

Source: [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

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For more information email [water@bom.gov.au](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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