



Water Reporting Summary – Murrumbidgee Catchment

15 December 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, most downstream areas of the Murrumbidgee catchment received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall. Central areas of the catchment near Wagga Wagga received 25 to 50 mm. In contrast, parts of the upper Murrumbidgee, including the catchment areas for Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams, received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 33 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 or very much below average (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has helped to maintain above average root zone soil moisture in areas near Blowering Dam, Burrinjuck Dam and Canberra, and average elsewhere in the Murrumbidgee catchment. The recent rainfall has translated into runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders are currently 77% which, for this time of year, is the highest since 2016–17 (Figure 4 and Table 1).
- Allocation prices are currently \$95 per ML, which is higher than November (\$70 per ML) but well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$715 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

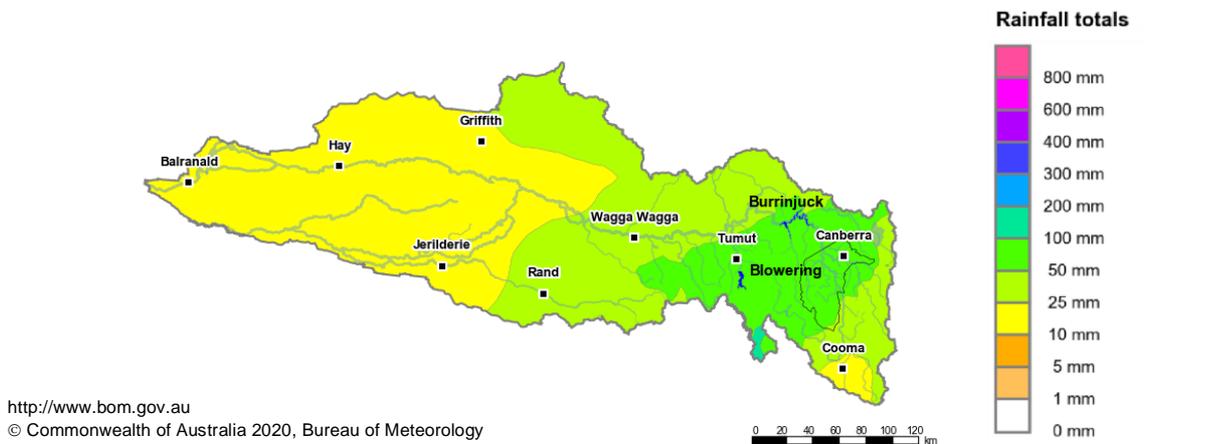


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Nov to 15 Dec 2020)

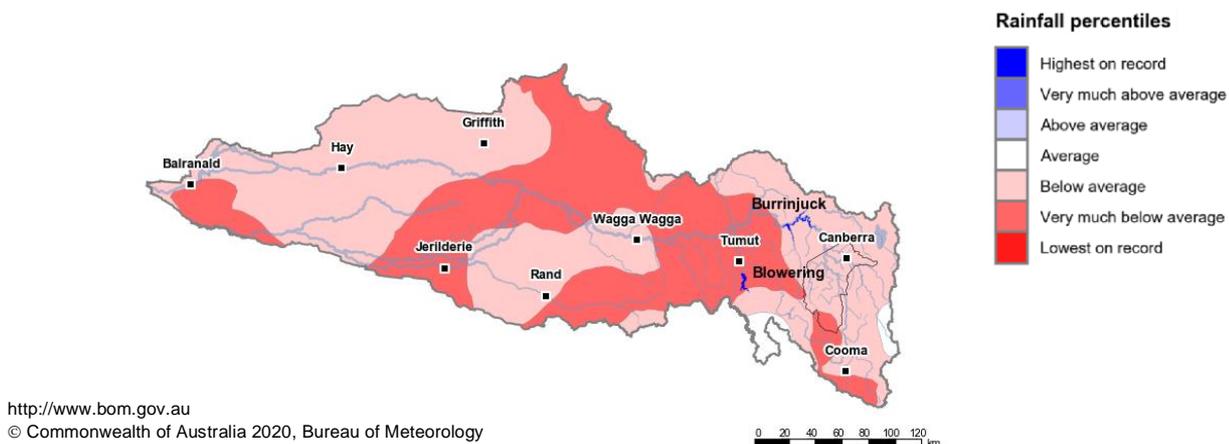


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Nov 2020)

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?

Storage volume: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages as at 15 December 2020

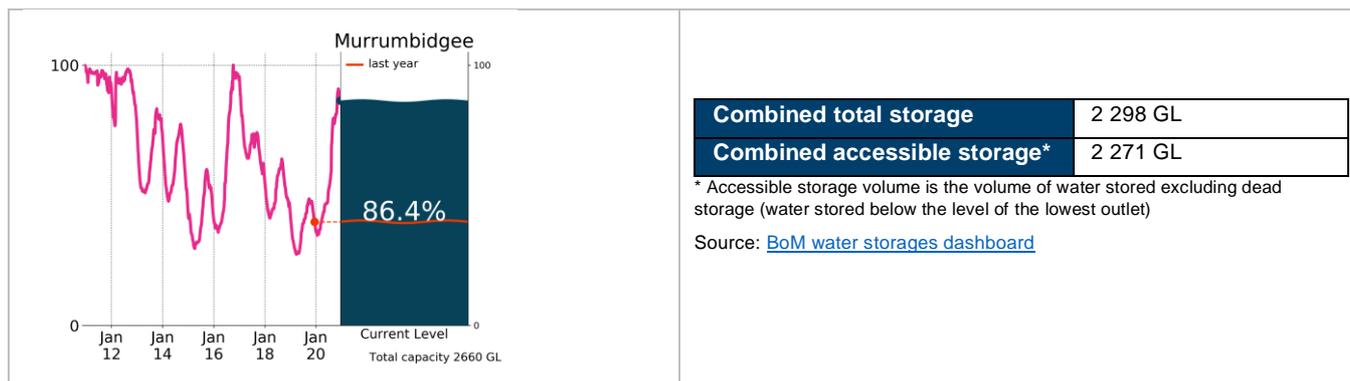


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years.

Who is the water for?



Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (as at 15 December 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 15 December 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	100%	Same as most years	n/a	\$95/ML
High Security	95%	Same as most years	\$7 444/ML*	
General Security	77%	Highest allocation for this time of year since 2016–17	\$2 130/ML*	
Average Carryover (General Security)	18%	10% higher than the previous year	n/a	

*Indicative - limited trades

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

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



With the exception of logos, photography and data referenced as being from other organisations, this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence. The terms and conditions of the licence are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>. Attribution for this publication should be: © Commonwealth of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology) 2020.