



Water Reporting Summary – Condamine–Balonne Catchment

15 December 2020

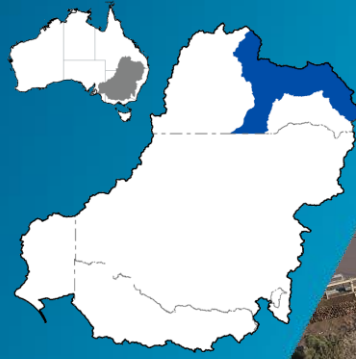
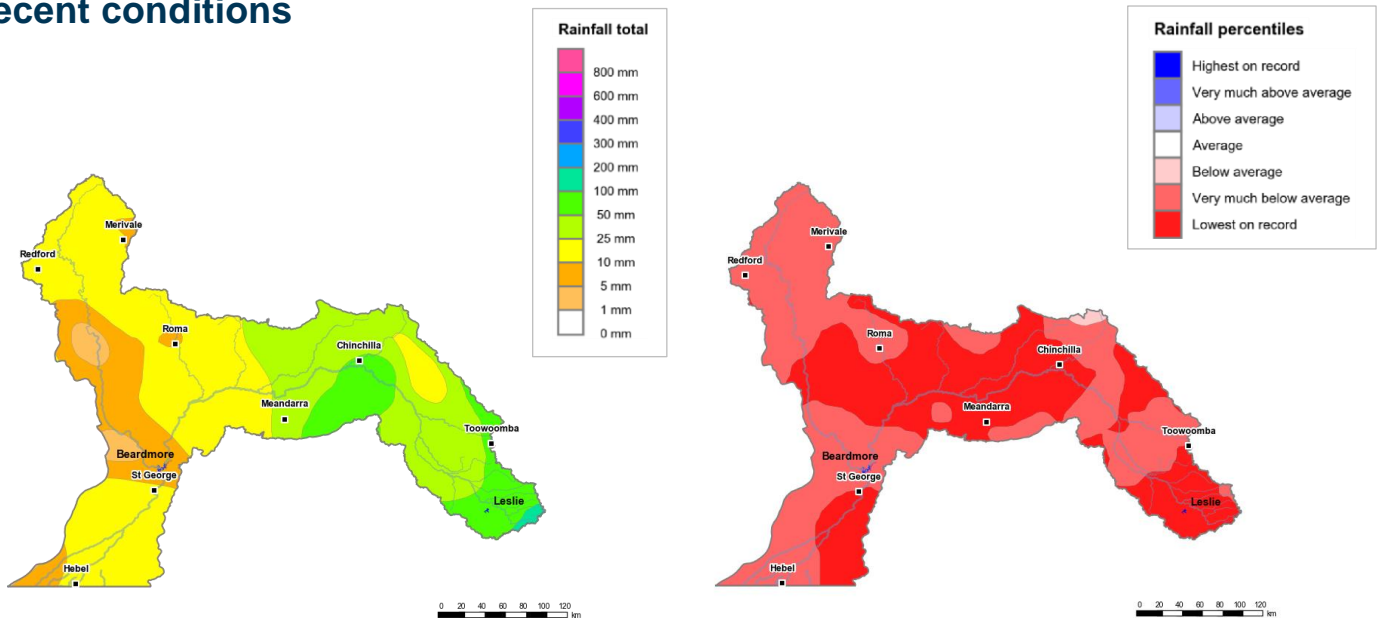


Photo: Beardmore Dam – Balonne Shire Council

Overview

- In the last month, most areas of the Condamine–Balonne catchment upstream of Meandarra received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall, with areas near Chinchilla, Leslie and Toowoomba receiving up to 100 mm. In contrast, other areas of the catchment mainly received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall, with areas near Beardmore, Roma and Merivale receiving less than 10 mm (Figure 1). As a result, the total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 26 mm over the last 30 days. This rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Condamine–Balonne catchment mainly very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- In the last 30 days, root zone soil moisture was very much below average in areas near Merivale and average to below average elsewhere in the Condamine–Balonne catchment. Recent rainfall has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for high priority entitlements in water supply schemes (WSS) in the Condamine–Balonne catchment opened the 2020–21 water year at 100%. Allocations for medium priority entitlements in the St George WSS are currently 39%, their highest level for this time of year since 2017. However, relatively low storage levels in the Chinchilla and Leslie storages have resulted in medium priority allocations for the Upper Condamine WSS and Chinchilla Weir WSS both currently at 0%, which has occurred three times in the last ten years (Figure 4 and Table 1).

Recent conditions



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

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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: Beardmore, Leslie, Chinchilla and Jack Taylor storages as at 15 December 2020

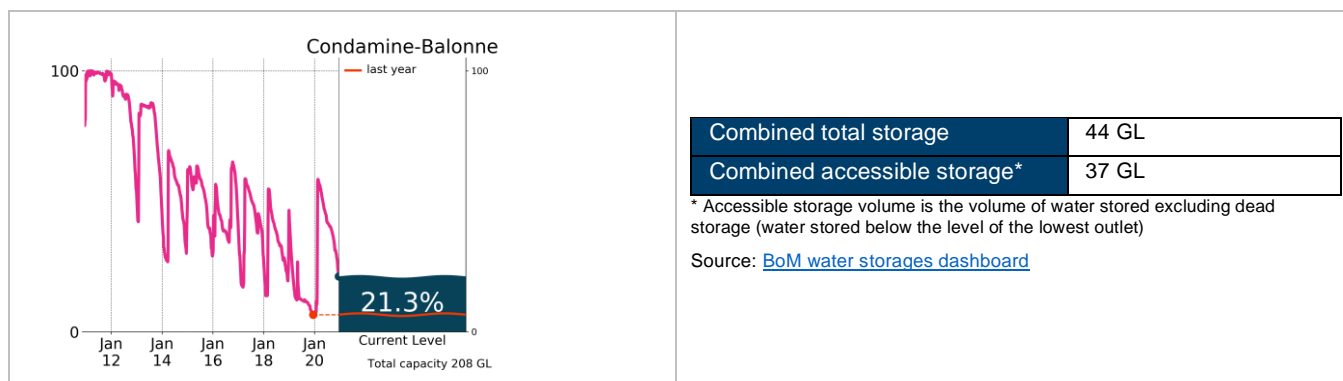


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water in storages for?

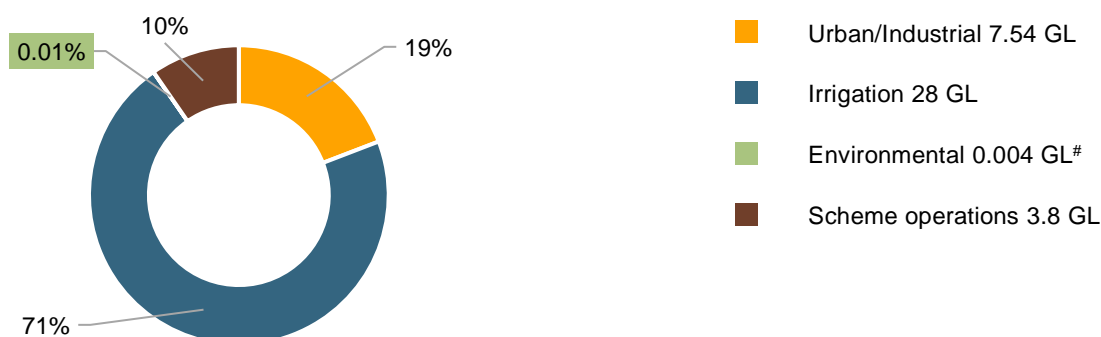


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year, supplemented schemes (last updated 1 July 2020)

Environmental allocations represent water allocations held by the CEWO only as at October 2020 and do not include environmental pass flow requirements in the operation of infrastructure throughout the catchment.

Source: [Sunwater](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated in supplemented schemes for various purposes as at 1 July 2020. It does not include unsupplemented entitlements. The information also 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 (%) – selected licence categories (last updated 1 July 2020)

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)
St George WSS Medium Priority (Bulk Share)*	39%	Highest for this time of year since 2017
Upper Condamine WSS High Priority A & B	100%	Same as most years
Upper Condamine WSS Medium Priority	0%	Opening allocation of 0% has occurred three times in the last ten years
Chinchilla Weir WSS High Priority	100%	Same as most years
Chinchilla Weir WSS Medium Priority	0%	Opening allocation of 0% has occurred three times in the last ten years

* Announced Allocation applies to Bulk Share accounts only. The majority of water allocations are managed on a continuous accounting basis (capacity share)

Source: [Sunwater](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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