Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Reporting Summary – Lachlan Catchment

15 February 2021

Overview

- In the last 30 days, there has been widespread rainfall across the Lachlan catchment, with central and upstream areas, including the catchments for Wyangala and Carcoar Dams receiving 100 to 200 mm of rainfall. Areas near Hillston received 50 to 100 mm, while other downstream areas mostly received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 113 mm in the last month, nearly half of which occurred in the last week of January. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Lachlan catchment mainly below average (Figure 2).
- The recent rainfall has helped to improve root zone soil moisture conditions with above average moisture across most of the Lachlan catchment. Recent rainfall, combined with wet soils, has translated into some runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3). Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders remain at 38% (Figure 4) (NSW DPIE). For this time of year, these are the highest allocations since 2016–17 (Table 1).
- Allocation prices are currently $120 per ML, which is similar to prices in January but are well below prices paid at the same time last year ($530 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

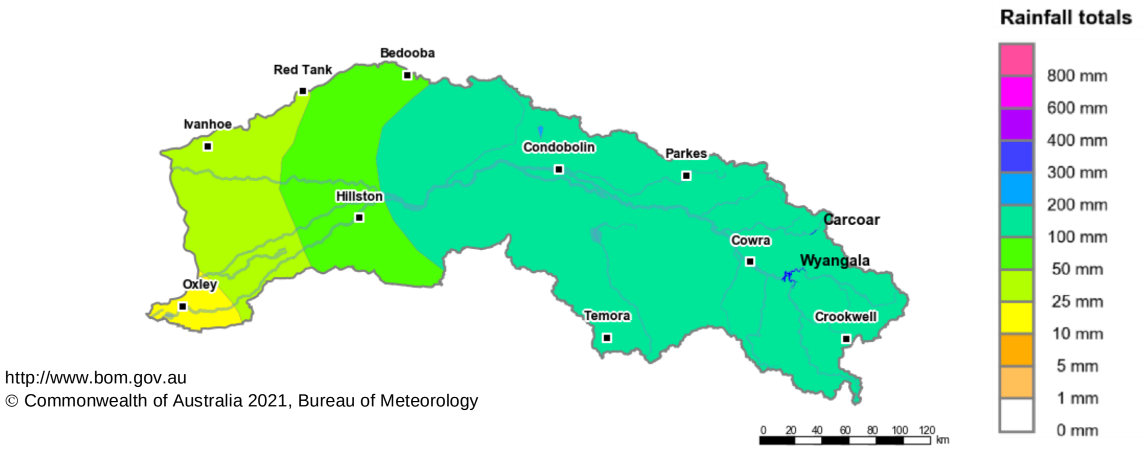

Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (17 Jan to 15 Feb 2021)

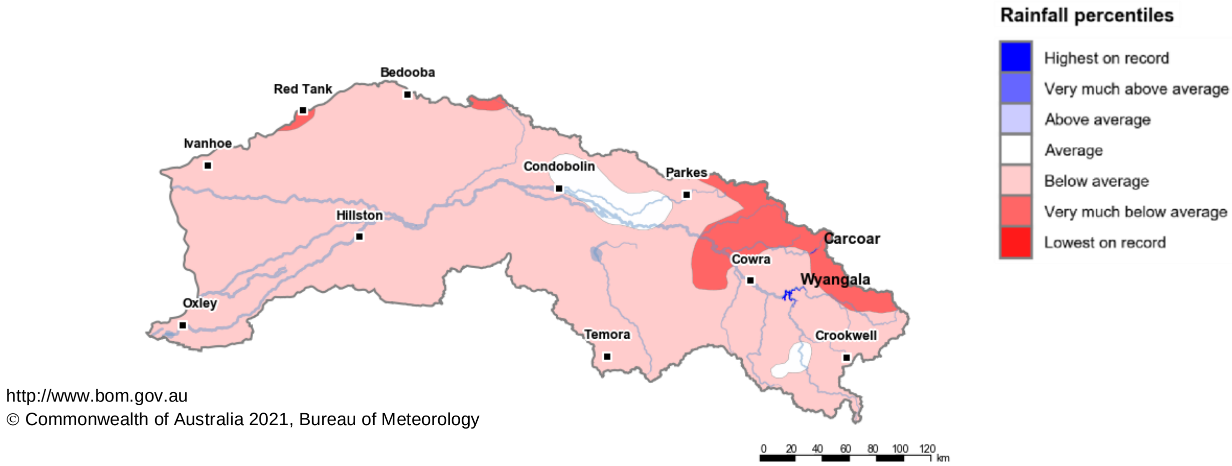

Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Jan 2021)

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: Wyangala and Carcoar storages as at 13 February 2021

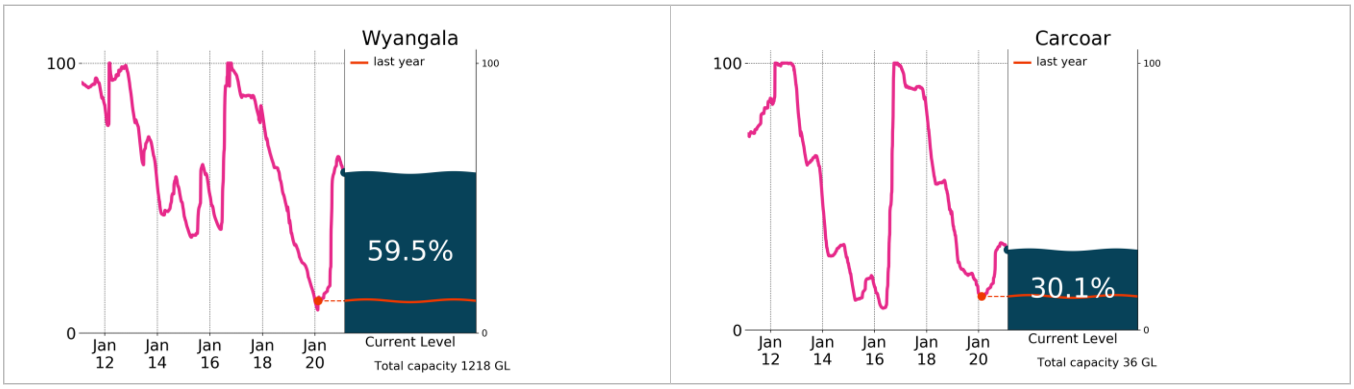

Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years
Source: [BoM water storages dashboard]

Who is the water for?

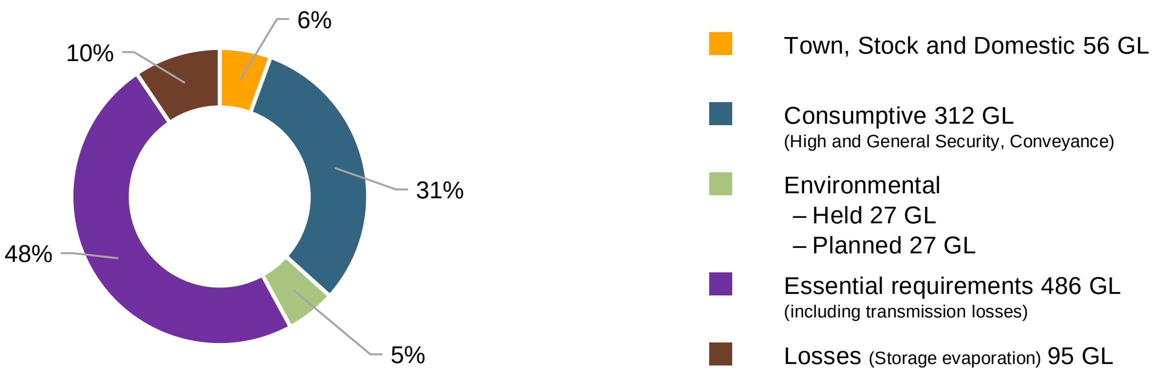

Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the December 2020 to May 2023 (as at 8 February 2021)
Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 8 February 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 February 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	$120/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	38%	Highest allocations for this time of year since 2016–17	$1 000/ML*	
Average Carryover (General Security)	6%	14.9% available last 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