



Water Reporting Summary – Murrumbidgee Catchment

15 February 2021



Overview

- In the last 30 days, most of the central and upper areas of the Murrumbidgee catchment received 100 to 200 mm of rainfall, with the catchment area of Blowering Dam receiving up to 300mm. Downstream areas near Griffith and Jerilderie received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall, while Balranald received less than 25mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 105 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 for most of the upper Murrumbidgee catchment, and average elsewhere in the catchment. The recent rainfall has translated into runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders have reached 100% (including carryover), which has occurred four times in the last ten years (Figure 4 and Table 1).
- Allocation prices are currently \$50 per ML, which is lower compared to January (\$98 per ML) and well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$600 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

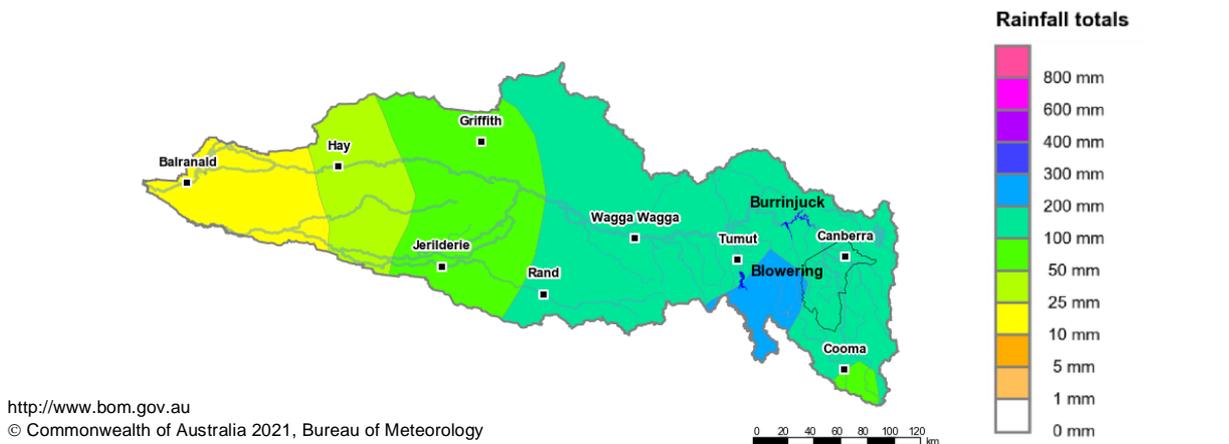


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (17 Jan to 15 Feb 2021)

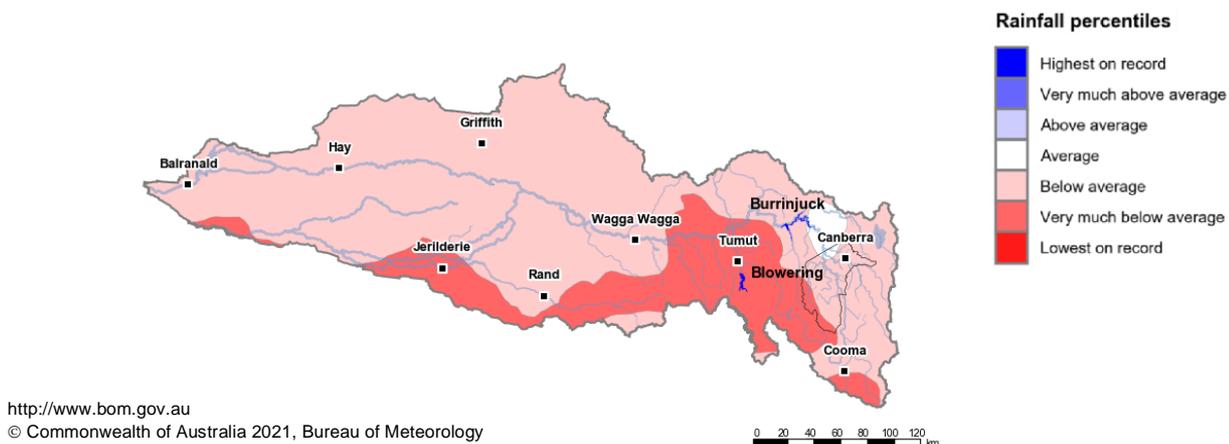


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Jan 2021)

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: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages as at 13 February 2021

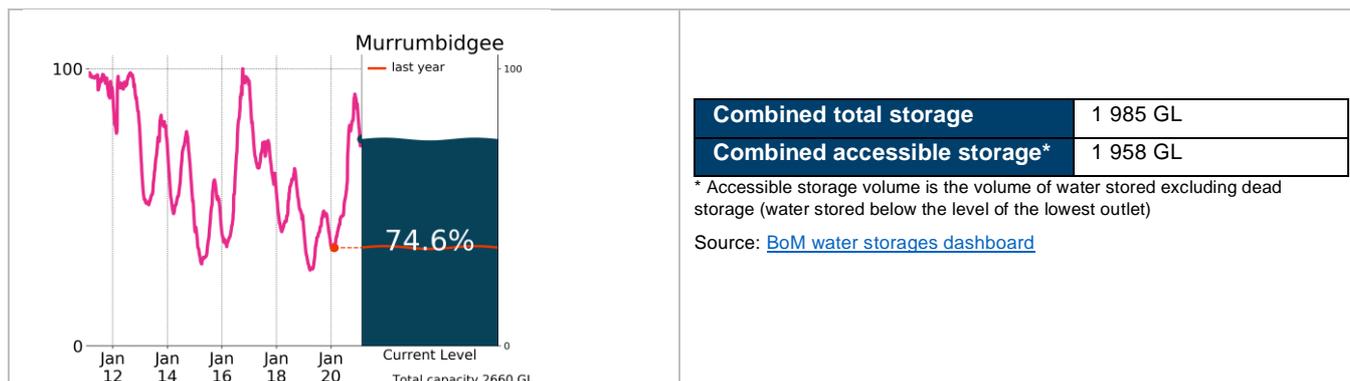


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years.

Who is the water for?

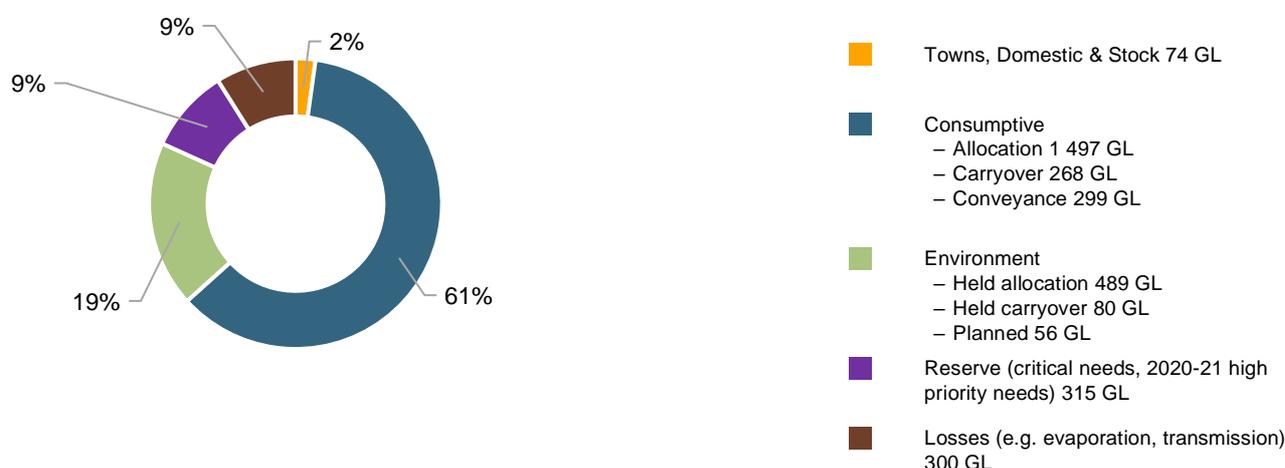


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 15 January 2021)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 15 January 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 | \$50/ML |
| High Security | 100% | Same as most years | \$6 800/ML* | |
| General Security | 100% | 100% has been reached four times in the last ten years | \$2 000/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) 2021.