



Water Reporting Summary – Macquarie–Castlereagh Catchment

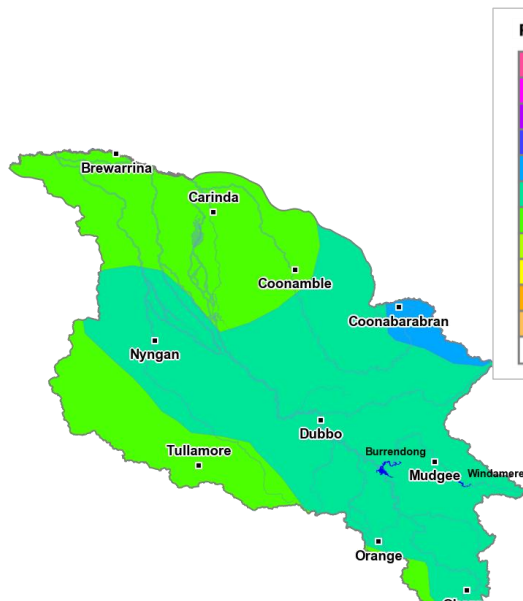
15 January 2021



Overview

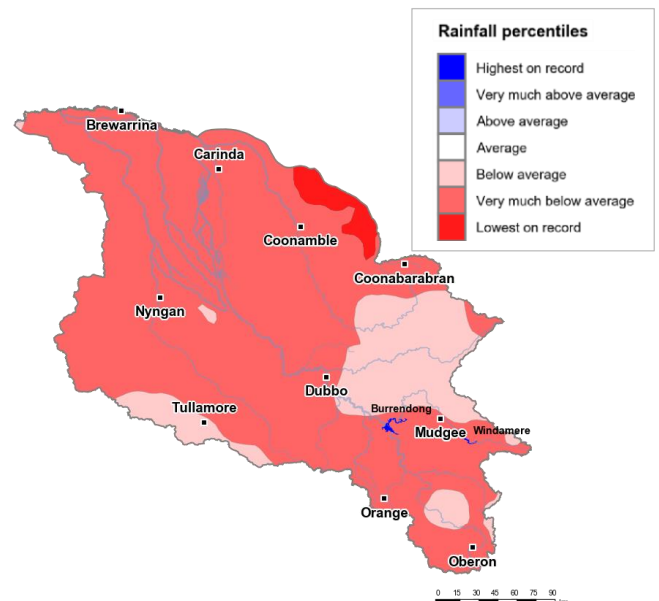
- In the last 30 days, most of the central and upstream areas of the Macquarie–Castlereagh catchment received 100 to 200 mm of rainfall. Areas near Coonabarabran received up to 300 mm while southern and downstream areas of the catchment received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 113 mm, with 40% of this rainfall received in the first week of the month. Rainfall in the last month is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Macquarie–Castlereagh catchment mainly being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- The recent rainfall has helped to improve root zone soil moisture conditions to above average in the lower catchment and very much above average in the upper catchment. However, rainfall in the last month has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders increased by 5% to 28%. For this time of year, these are the highest allocations since 2017–18 (Table 1) (NSW DPIE).
- Allocation prices are currently \$200 per ML which is the same as prices paid last month but much lower than prices paid at the same time last year (\$1000 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions



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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (17 Dec 2020 to 15 Jan 2021)



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Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Dec 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: Burrendong and Windamere storages as at 15 January 2021

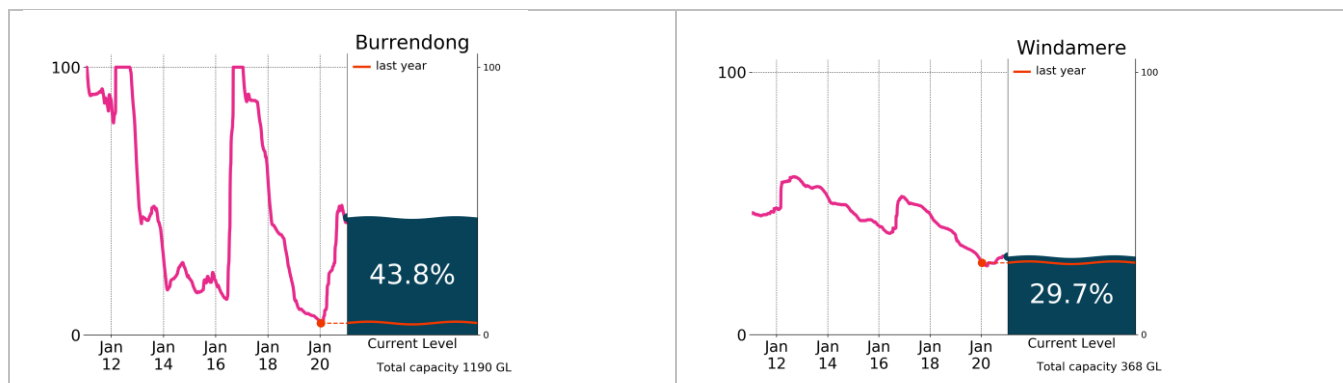


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years
 Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

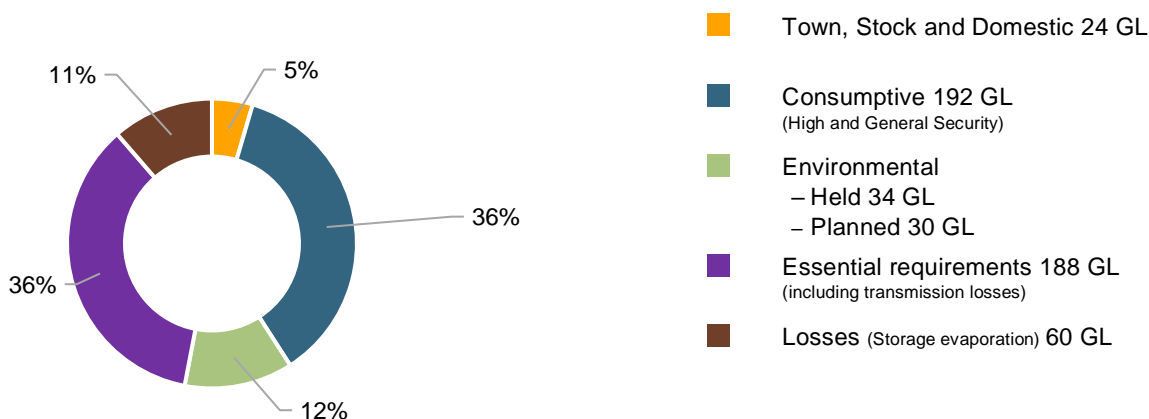


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–22 water years (as at 15 January 2021)
 Source: [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes from the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated river sources within the Macquarie–Castlereagh catchment 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 January 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	\$200/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	28%	Highest allocation since 2017–18	n/a	
Average Carryover (General Security)	8% currently available	1.6 % 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



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