



Water Reporting Summary – Lachlan Catchment

15 March 2021



Overview

- In the last 30 days, most central and downstream areas of the Lachlan catchment received less than 25 mm of rainfall. North-eastern areas, including the catchment areas for Wyangala and Carcoar Dams, received up to 100 mm. In contrast, areas near Oxley and Condobolin received less than 5 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 19 mm in the last month, with more than three-quarters of this rain received in the second week of March. 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). However, recent rainfall has offset the rainfall deficiency over the last four years, with rainfall now considered average for areas near Condobolin and Crookwell for the period January 2017 to February 2021.
- The recent rainfall has continued to improve root zone soil moisture conditions with average to above average moisture across most of the Lachlan catchment. Recent rainfall has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3). Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders increased to 44% (Figure 4) (NSW DPIE). For this time of year, these are the highest allocations since 2016–17 (Table 1).
- Allocation prices are currently \$130 per ML, which is slightly higher than prices paid last month (\$120 per ML) but are well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$490 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

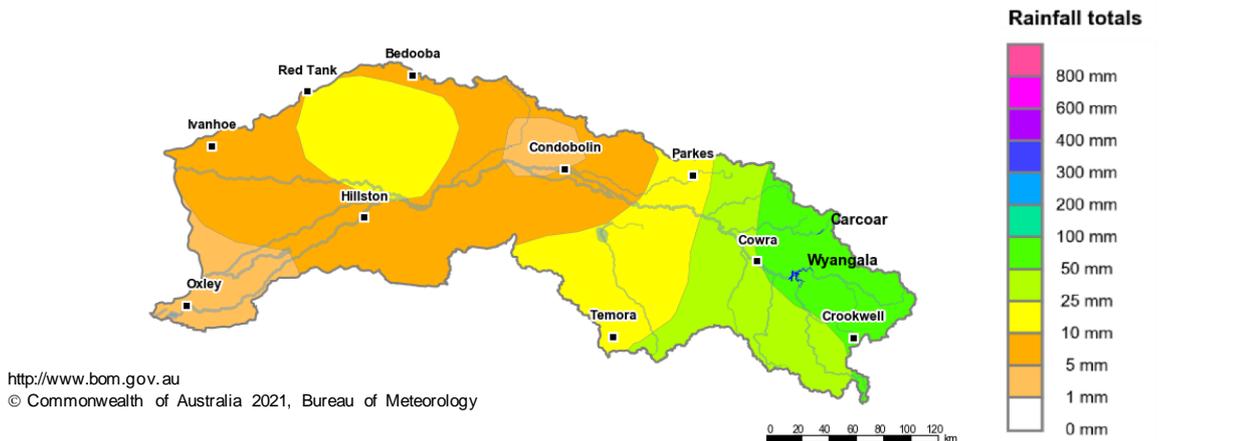


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (14 Feb to 15 March 2021)



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

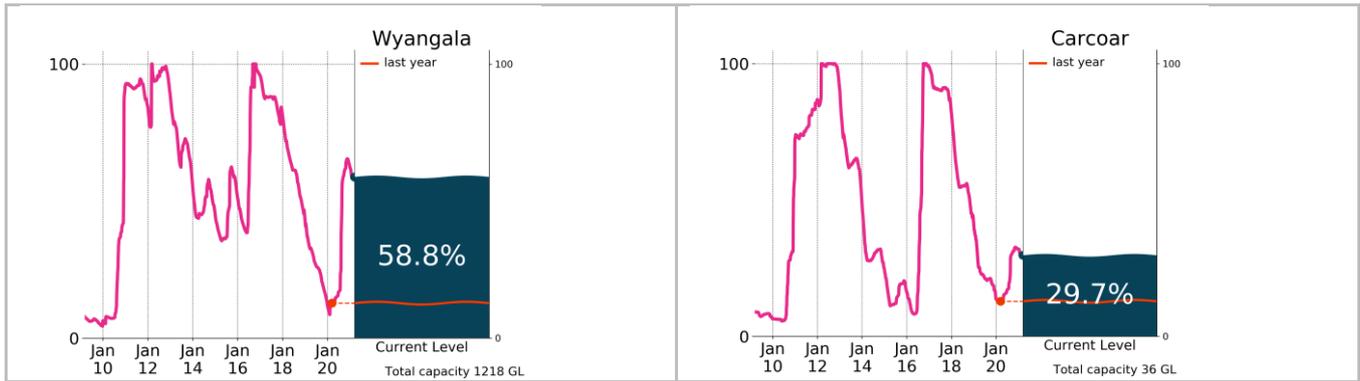


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

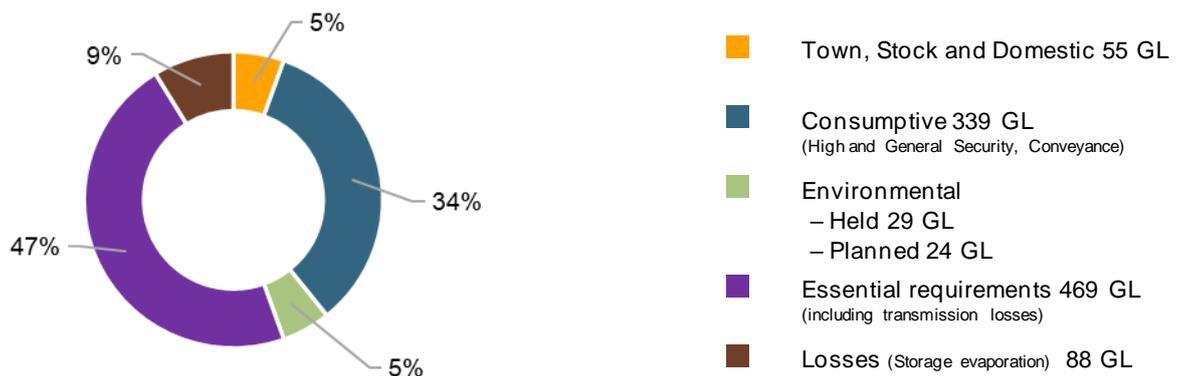


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the December 2020 to May 2023 (as at 8 March 2021)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 8 March 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 March 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	\$130/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	44%	Highest allocations for this time of year since 2016–17	\$1 250/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



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.