



Water Reporting Summary – Macquarie–Castlereagh Catchment

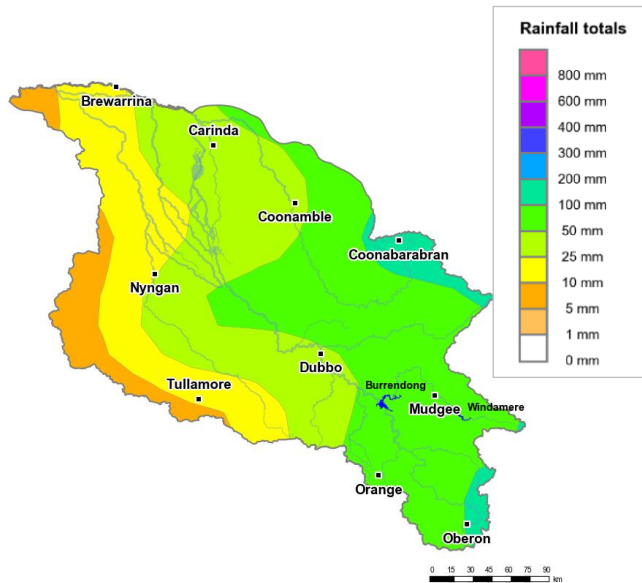
15 March 2021



Overview

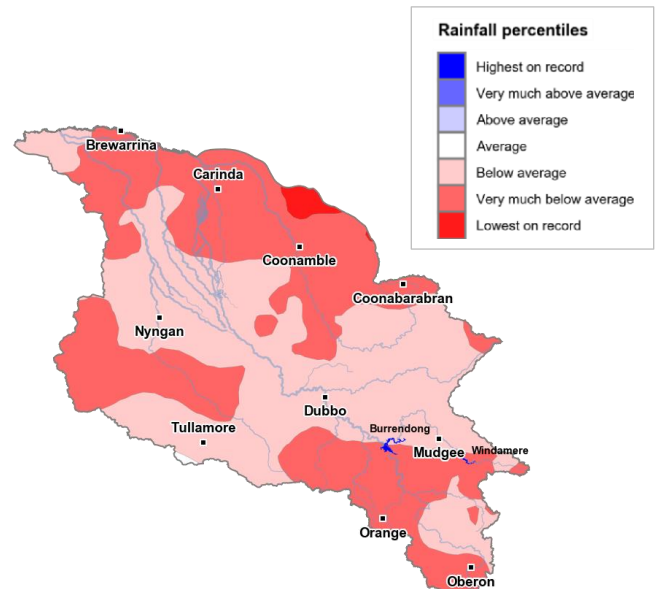
- In the last 30 days, there has been widespread rainfall in the eastern parts of the Macquarie–Castlereagh catchment, including the catchment areas for Burrendong and Windamere Dams, receiving 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. Areas near Coonabarabran and Oberon received up to 200 mm of rain fall. The western part of the catchment received limited rainfall, including the area stretching from Brewarrina to Tullamore which received less than 25 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 47 mm, more than half of which occurred in the second week of March. 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 below average or very much below average (Figure 2).
- The recent rainfall has helped to improve root zone soil moisture conditions with above average moisture for most of catchment, apart from northern areas of the catchment around Coonamble with average soil moisture. 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 are currently 34%. 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, and a little higher than prices paid at the same time last year (Table 1).

Recent conditions



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



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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: Burrendong and Windamere storages as at 13 March 2021

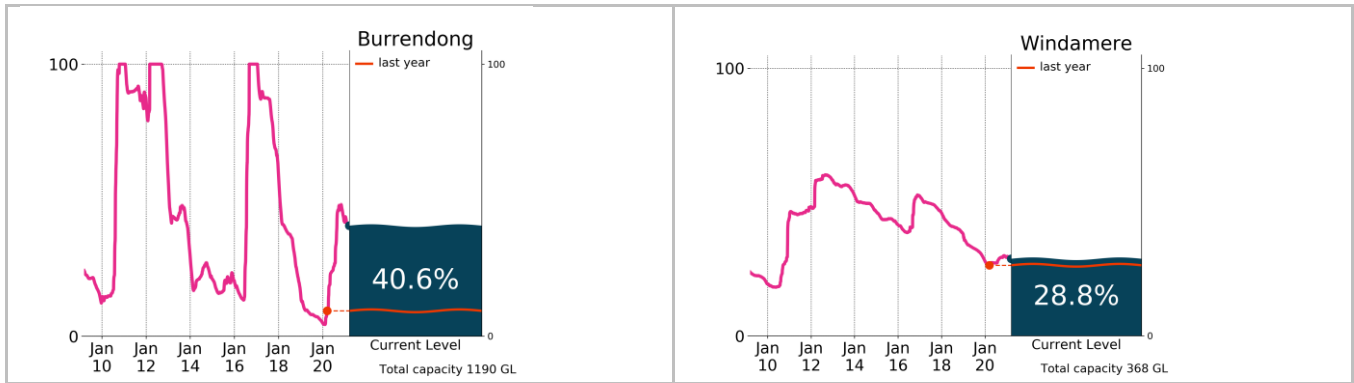


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

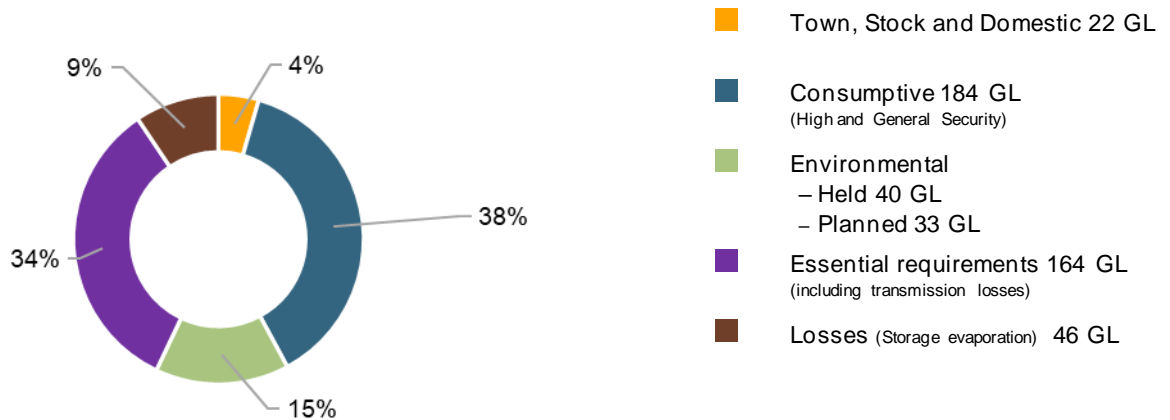


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–22 water years (as at 10 March 2021)

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 10 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	\$200/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	34%	Highest allocation since 2017–18	\$2 000/ML*	
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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