



Water Reporting Summary – Murrumbidgee Catchment

15 March 2021



Overview

- In the last 30 days, the central and upstream areas of the Murrumbidgee catchment, including the catchment areas of Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams, received 25 to 100 mm of rainfall. Downstream areas from Tumut to Griffith and Jerilderie received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall, while areas west of Griffith received less than 10 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 21 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. However, there are parts of the catchment north of Canberra where recent rainfall has offset the rainfall deficiency experienced over the last four years (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has contributed to maintaining above average root zone soil moisture for most of the upper Murrumbidgee catchment, and average elsewhere except for small areas in the northwest having below average soil moisture. The recent rainfall has not translated into significant 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 are similar to prices paid last month (\$48 per ML) and well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$500 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

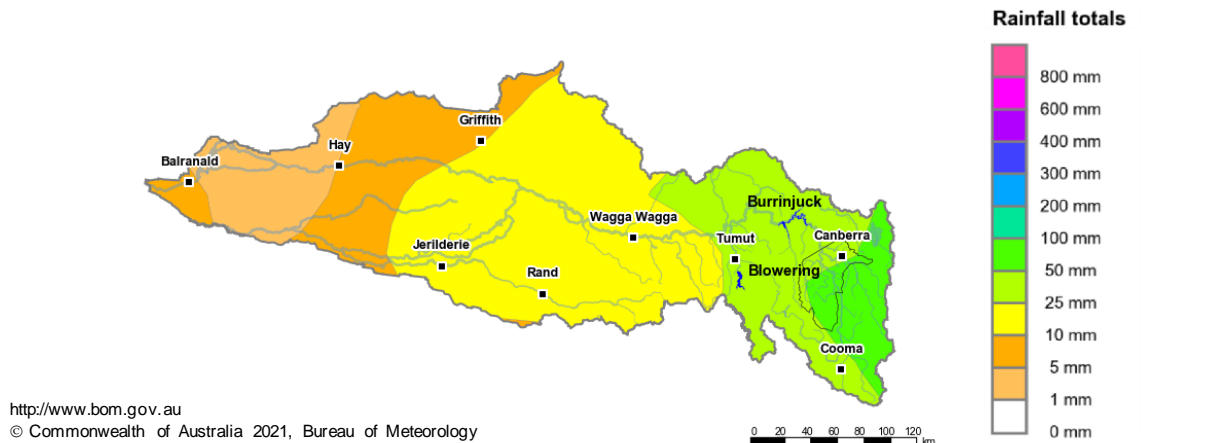


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (14 Feb to 15 March 2021)

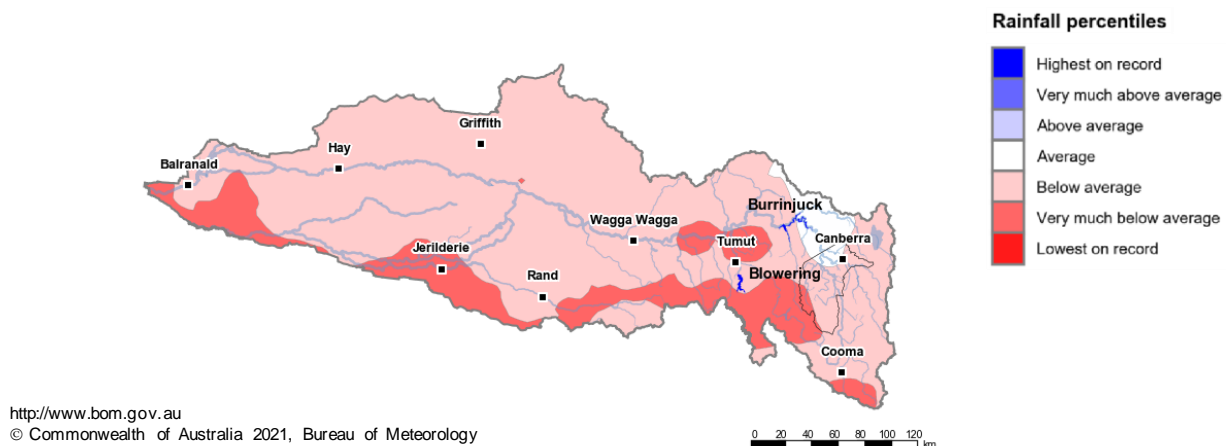


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Feb 2021)

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: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages as at 13 March 2021

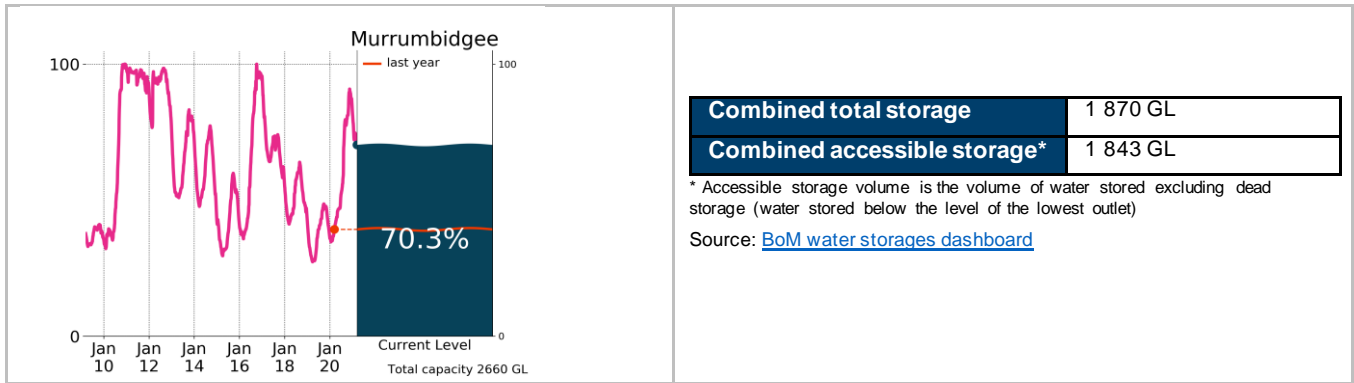


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years.

Who is the water for?

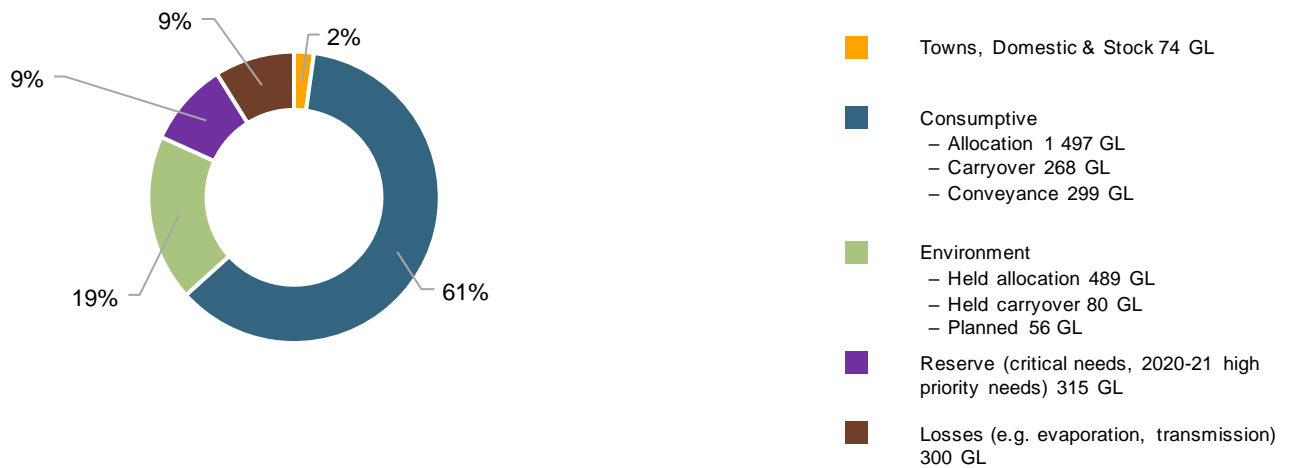


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 15 January 2021)

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 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	\$50/ML
High Security	100%	Same as most years	\$7000/ML	
General Security	100%	100% has been reached four times in the last ten years	\$2175/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.