



Water Reporting Summary – Intersecting Streams Catchment

15 October 2020



Overview

- In the last month, most of the Intersecting Streams catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall. The exception was the centre of the catchment near Bourke and Wangamana which received 10 to 25 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 34 mm, with about half of this rain received in one day (20 September) but very little rainfall received in the last week. Rainfall in the last month is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Intersecting Streams catchment mainly very much below average and with some areas near Lightning Ridge being lowest on record (Figure 2).
- The rainfall over the last month has helped maintain above average root zone soil moisture for the western and northern areas of the Intersecting Streams catchment, and average soil moisture near Bourke. The recent rainfall has helped to wet the catchment but has not translated into significantly higher runoff and river flows (Figure 3).
- Water resources are shared between water users according to a water sharing plan, with entitlements on issue shown in Table 1. However, the ability of water users to take water is governed by entitlement conditions which are subject to river flow conditions.
- For the 2020–21 water year, there has been no water trading activity to date (Table 2).

Recent conditions

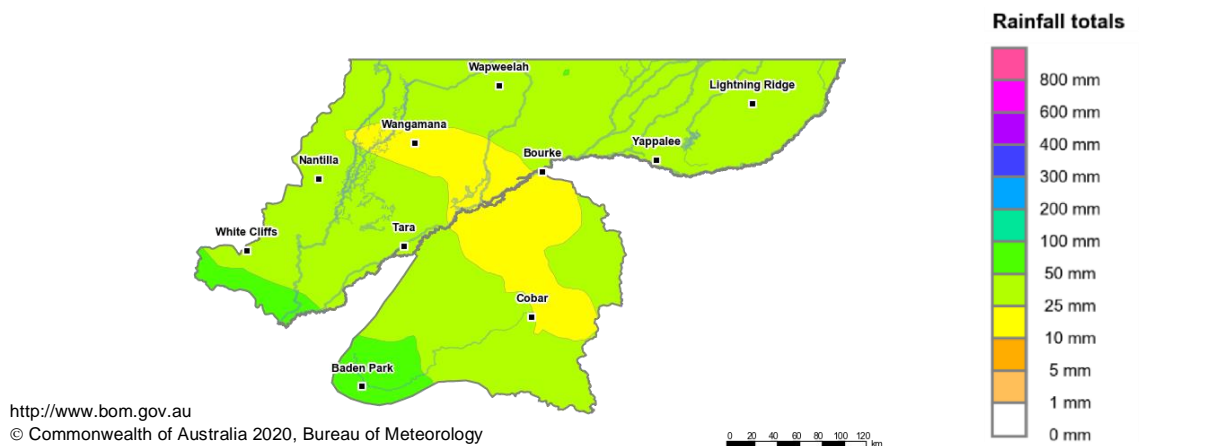


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Sept to 15 Oct 2020)

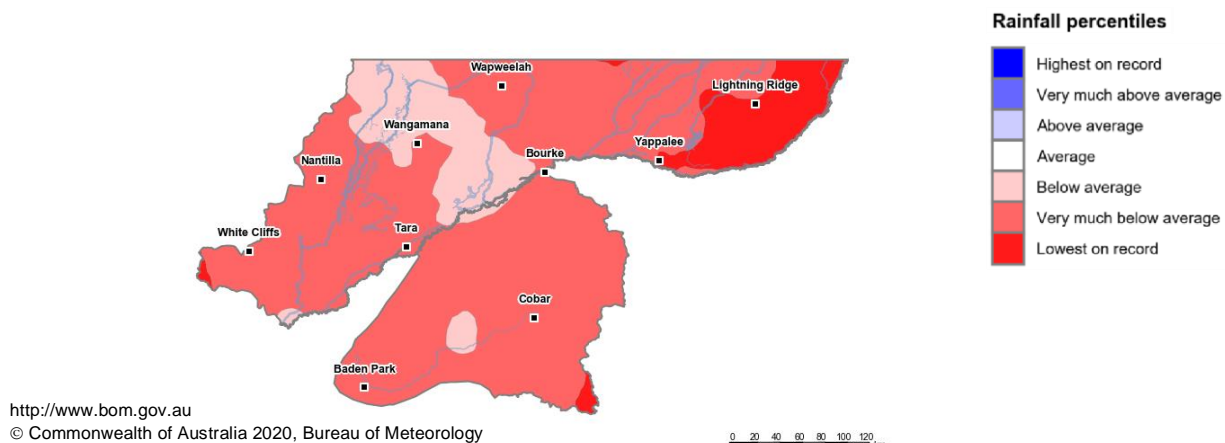


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Sept 2020)

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 river at selected gauges?

Warrego River at Boera Dam

Narran River at Angledool No.2

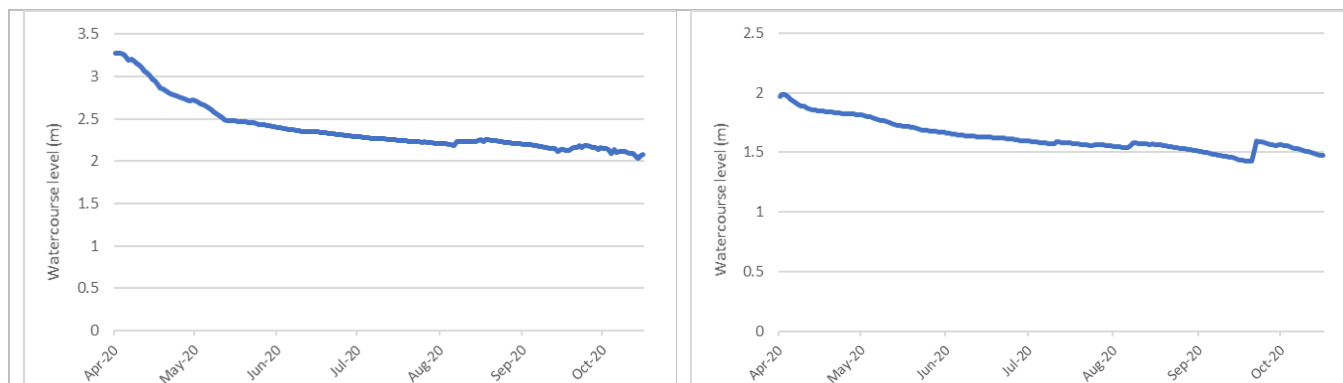


Figure 3: Water course levels for last 6 months at selected gauges in the Intersecting Streams catchment (as at 15 Oct 2020)
Source: [BoM Water Data Online](#)

Who is the water for?

As the Intersecting Streams catchment is an unregulated system, water is not stored for the purpose of supplying orders to downstream users. Water is shared between different users according to the *Water Sharing Plan for the Intersecting Streams Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011* (NSW DPIE). The plan includes categories of water licences or entitlements and the share of the water resource for each entitlement category (expressed as a nominal volume). Entitlements on issue as at 1 July 2020 are shown in Table 1. This does not necessarily represent water that is actually available to licence holders at a given point in time as each licence category has conditions that govern when water can be taken.

Table 1: Nominal volumes of water entitlements on issue, per licence categories (GL) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 1 July 2020)

Entitlement category	Entitlement share (Nominal GL)
Domestic & Stock	0.48
Unregulated River – Consumptive	17.4
Unregulated River – Environmental	17.8

Source: [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

Table 2: Water market prices – selected licence categories as at 15 October 2020

Licence category	Entitlement price (monthly median)
Unregulated River	n/a

Source: [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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