



Water Reporting Summary – Lachlan Catchment

15 October 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, there was widespread rainfall across the Lachlan catchment, with upstream areas including the Wyangala and Carcoar Dam catchments, and downstream areas near Ivanhoe and Hillston receiving 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. The rest of the catchment received between 25 and 50 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 47 mm in the last month, with most of this rain received in the last two weeks of September. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Lachlan catchment mainly below average or very much below average (Figure 2).
- The recent rainfall has helped maintain above average root zone soil moisture conditions for most of the Lachlan catchment. Wet soils, combined with good rainfall in the upper Lachlan catchment, have translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3). The improvement in water resources allowed allocations of 32% to be made to general security entitlement holders, an increase of 4% since September (NSW DPIE) (Figure 4). For this time of year, this is the highest allocation since 2016–17 (Table 1).
- Allocation prices are similar to last month (\$145 per ML compared to \$130 per ML) but are well below their peak of \$1000 per ML in May 2020 (Table 1).

Recent conditions

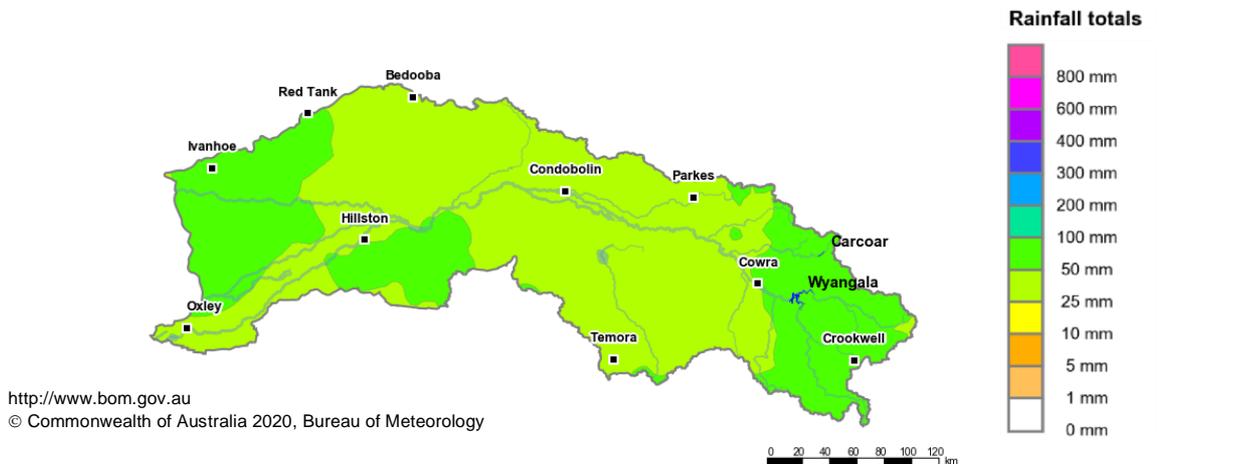


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Sept to 15 Oct 2020)

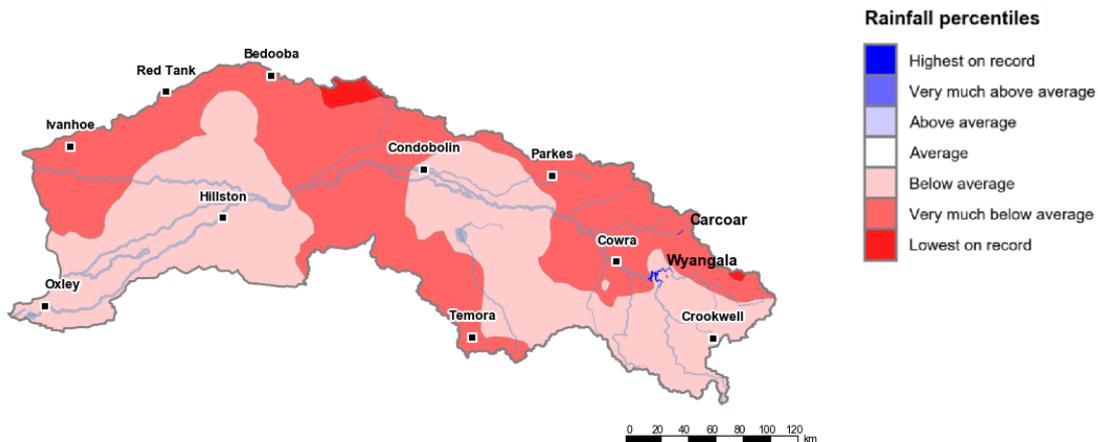


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Sept 2020)

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 storages?

Storage volume: Wyangala and Carcoar storages as at 15 October 2020

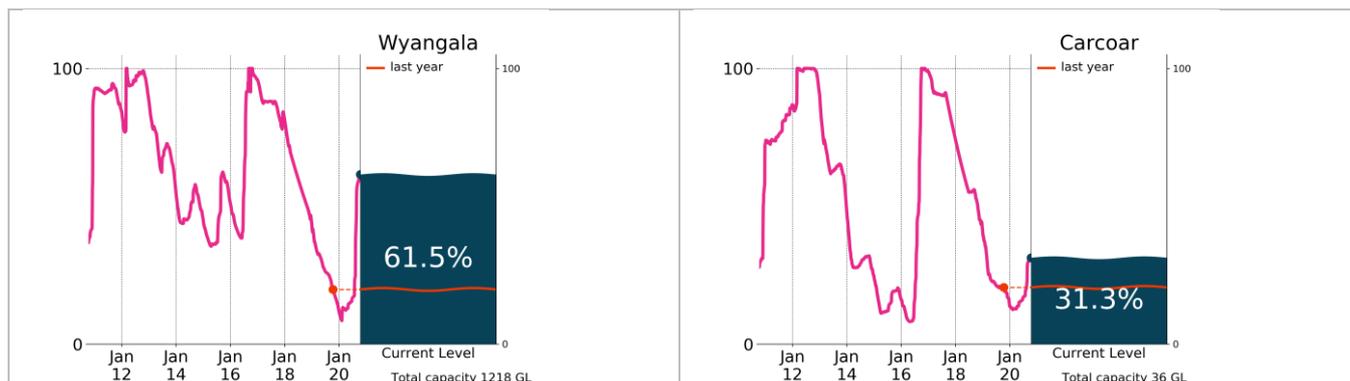


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

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 7 October 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 7 October 2020. 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 October 2020

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	\$145/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	\$4 500/ML*	
General Security	32%	Highest allocations this 2016–17	n/a	
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](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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