



Water Reporting Summary – Murrumbidgee Catchment

15 October 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, most of the lower Murrumbidgee catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall. Some central areas of the catchment, between Wagga Wagga and Canberra, received 50 to 100 mm, while areas near Blowering Dam received up to 200 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 57 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 (Figure 2).
- Root zone soil moisture was above average in areas near Burrinjuck Dam, Canberra and north of Griffith, and average elsewhere in the Murrumbidgee catchment. As a result of wet soils in the storage catchments, the recent rainfall has translated into runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Allocations for general security entitlement holders are currently 54% which, for this time of year, is the highest since 2016–17 (Figure 4 and Table 1). Allocation prices have decreased since the start of the 2020–21 water year (currently \$160 per ML compared to \$280 per ML in July), and are well below their peak of \$750 per ML in January 2020 (Table 1).

Recent conditions

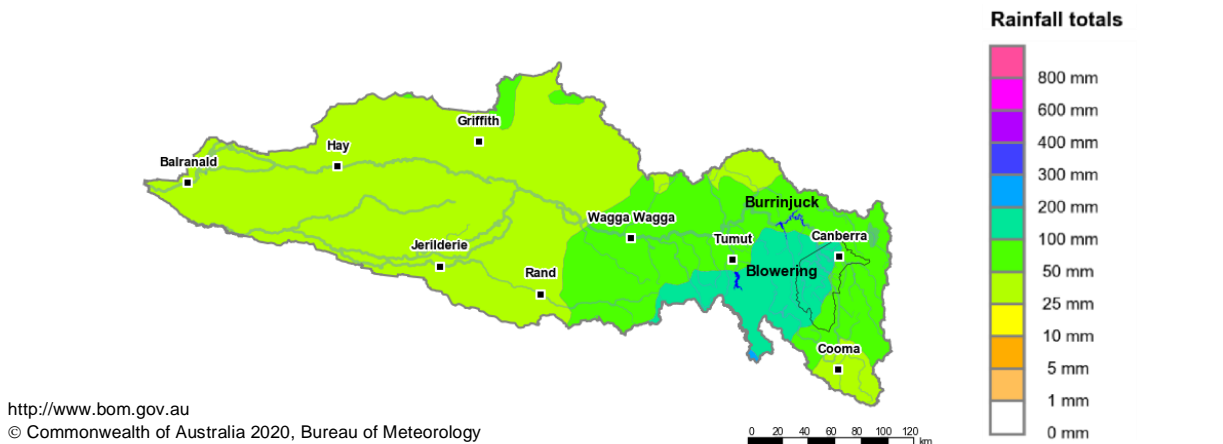


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Sept to 15 Oct 2020)

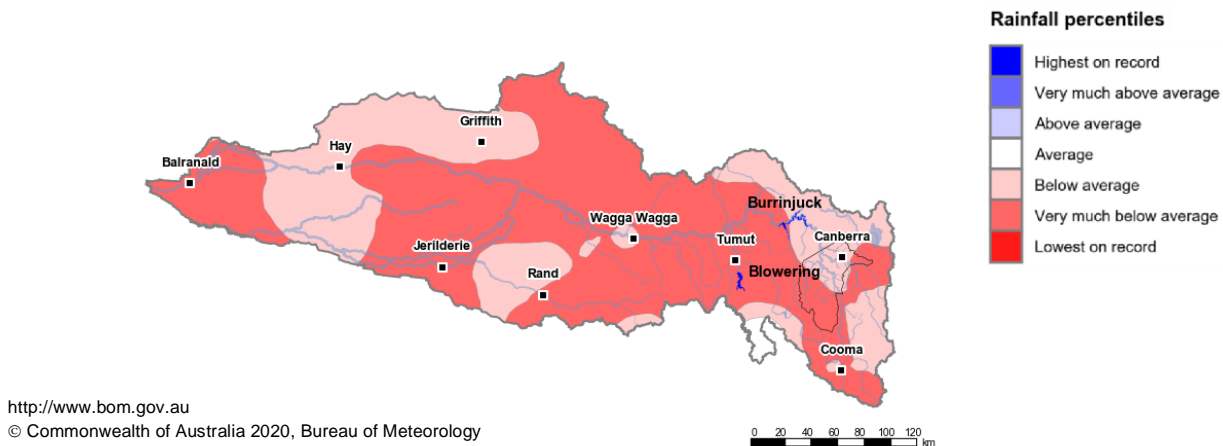


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (January 2017 to Sept 2020)

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: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages as at 15 October 2020

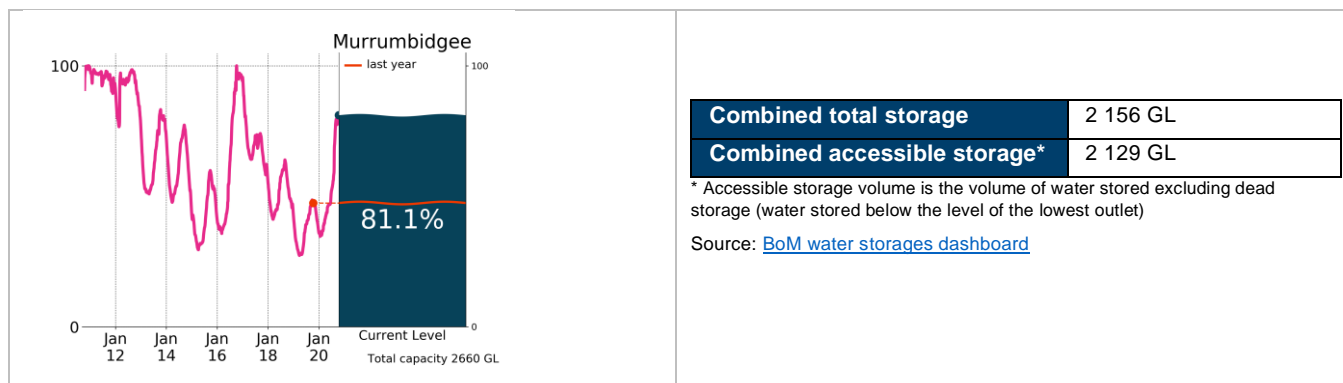


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years.

Who is the water for?

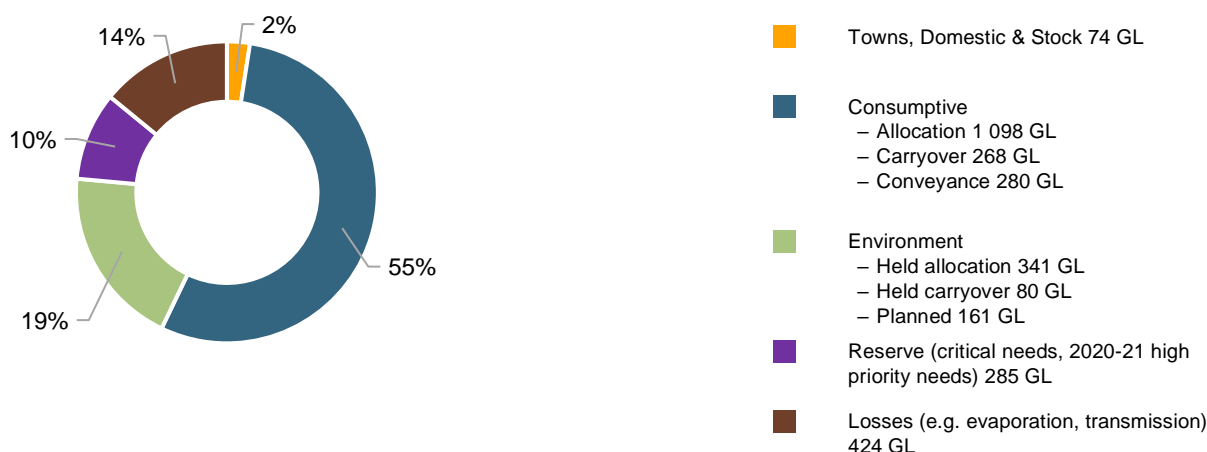


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (as at 15 October 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 15 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	\$160/ML*
High Security	95%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	54%	Highest allocation for this time of year since 2016–17	\$1 850/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](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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