



Water Reporting Summary - Lachlan Catchment

15 September 2020



Overview

In the last month, most of the downstream areas of Lachlan catchment received less than 10 mm of rainfall, while the central areas received 10 to 25 mm. In contrast, areas upstream of Wyangala Dam received up to 100 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 18 mm. This patchy 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 patchy rainfall has helped maintain average root zone soil moisture conditions for most of the lower Lachlan catchment and above average soil moisture for most of the central and upper catchment for September to date. Wet soils combined with good rainfall in the upper Lachlan catchment has translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3). Consequently, Drought Stage 2 conditions have eased to the minimum Drought Stage 1 in the Lachlan catchment. The improvement in water resources has allowed allocations of 28% to be made to general security entitlement holders (NSW DPIE) (Figure 4). This is the first general security allocation for the last three years (Table 1).
- Allocation prices are similar to last month (\$150 per ML compared to \$160 per ML) but are well below their peak of \$1000 per ML in May 2020.

Recent conditions

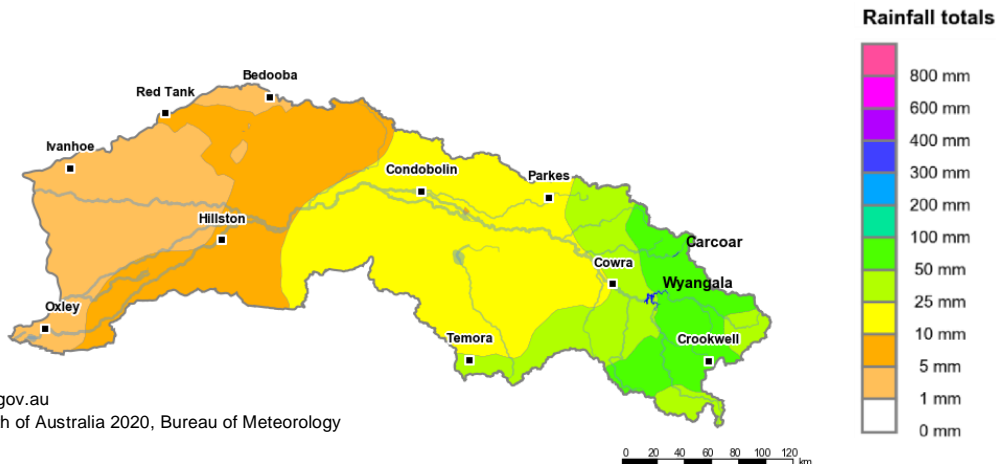


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (17 Aug to 15 Sept 2020)

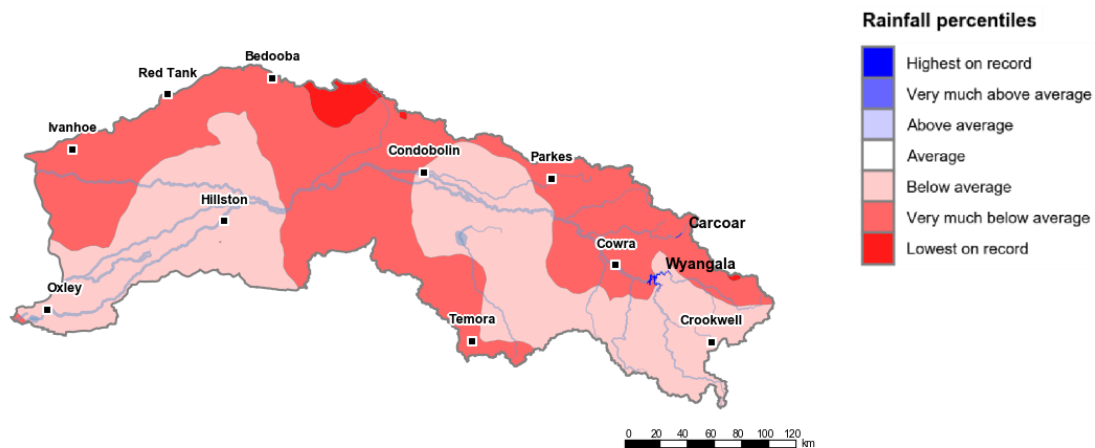


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Aug 2020)

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 September 2020

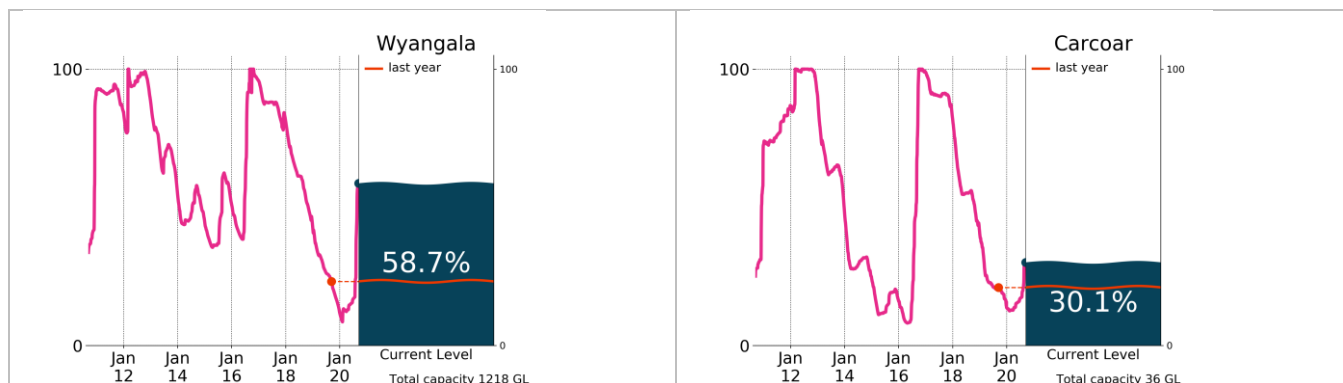


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

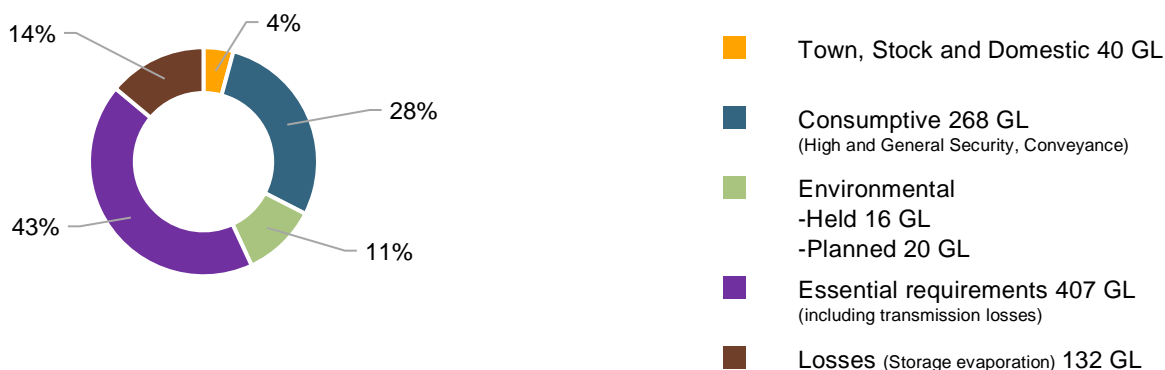


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020-22 water years (as at 4 September 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 4 September 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 September 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	\$150/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	28%	First allocations since 2017-18	\$1300/ML*	
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](#)

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) 2020.