



Water Reporting Summary - Macquarie-Castlereagh Catchment

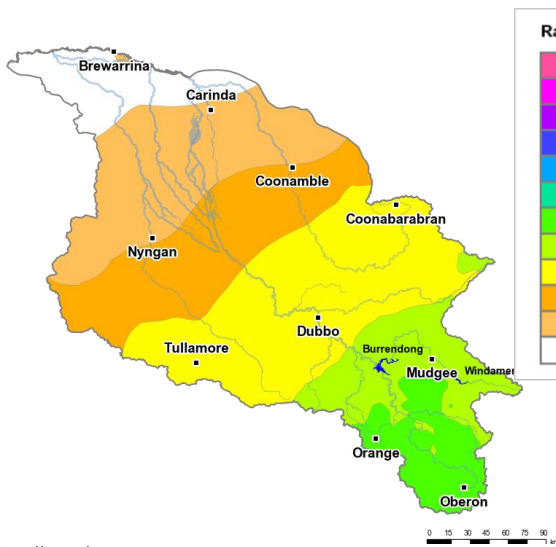
15 September 2020



Overview

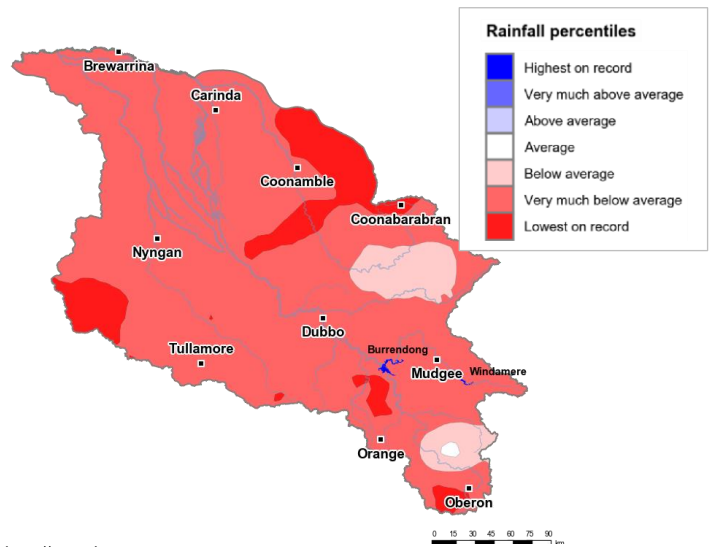
- In the last 30 days, most downstream areas of the Macquarie-Castlereagh catchment received less than 5 mm of rainfall, with the area downstream of Carinda receiving no rain. In contrast, central areas received 10 to 25 mm while areas around Burrendong and Windamere Dams received up to 50 mm of rainfall and areas near Orange and Oberon received up to 100 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 16 mm. This patchy rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Macquarie-Castlereagh catchment being mainly very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- The recent patchy rainfall has helped to maintain average to above average root zone soil moisture conditions and has translated into some runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3). Drought Stage 2 conditions have eased to the minimum Drought Stage 1 for the Macquarie-Castlereagh catchment. The improvement in water resources has allowed allocations of 12% to be made to general security entitlement holders, the first general security allocations since August 2017 (NSW DPIE) (Figure 4 and Table 1).
- Following a period of limited water trading in the last two months, allocation prices are currently \$150 per ML (Table 1).

Recent conditions



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



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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: Burrendong, Windamere storages as at 15 September 2020

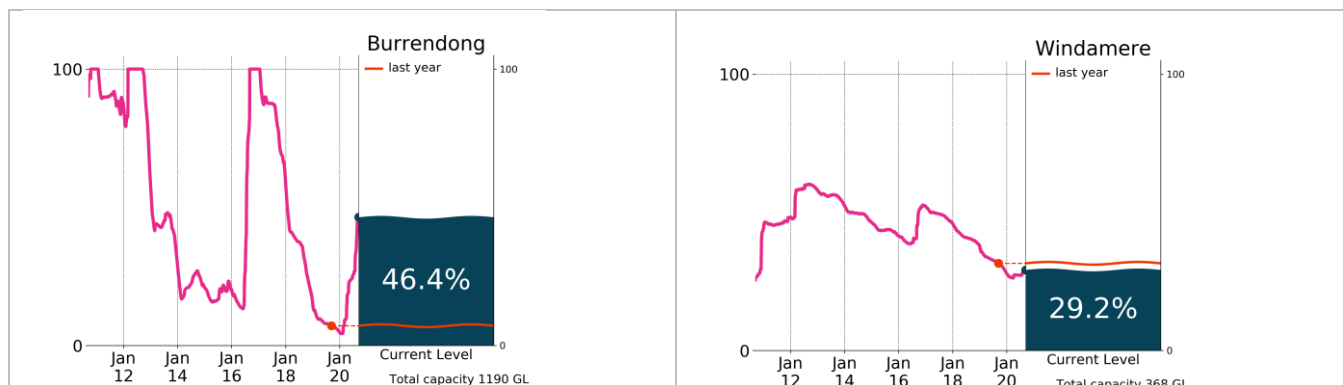


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

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 8 September 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes from the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated river sources within the Macquarie-Castlereagh catchment as at 8 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	\$200/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	12%	First allocations since August 2017	\$1,850/ML*	
Average Carryover (General Security)	8% currently available	1.6 % 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



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