



Water Reporting Summary – Lachlan Catchment

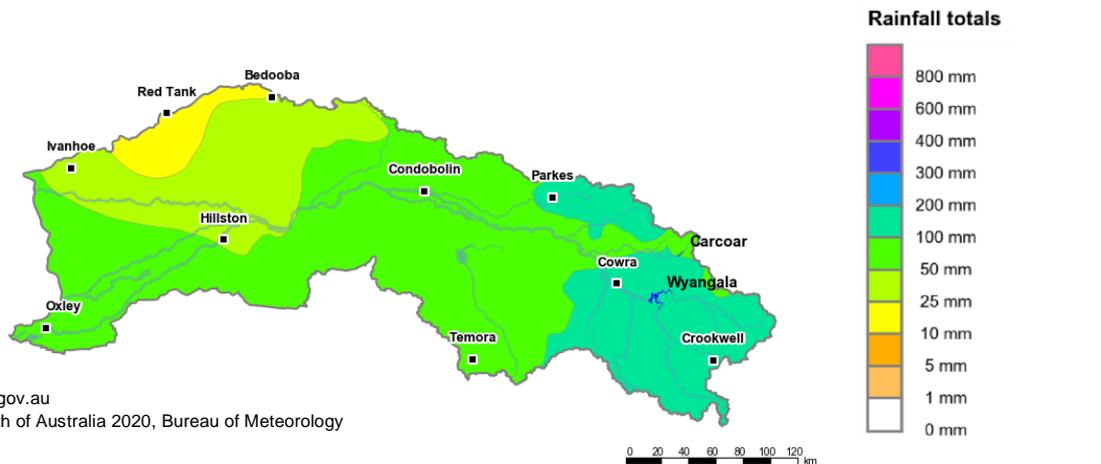
16 November 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, there was widespread rainfall across the Lachlan catchment, with most of the central and downstream catchment areas receiving 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. Upstream areas including the Wyangala Dam catchment received up to 200mm, while in contrast, northwest areas of the catchment near Ivanhoe received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 71 mm in the last month, with over three-quarters of this rain received in the last two weeks of October. 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 some runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3). Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders have increased to 38%, up 6% since October (Figure 4) (NSW DPIE). For this time of year, these are the highest allocations since 2016–17 (Table 1).
- Allocation prices for late October were lower than September (\$80 per ML compared to \$130 per ML) and are well below their peak of \$1000 per ML in May 2020 (Table 1).

Recent conditions



<http://www.bom.gov.au>
© Commonwealth of Australia 2020, Bureau of Meteorology

Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (18 Oct to 16 Nov 2020)

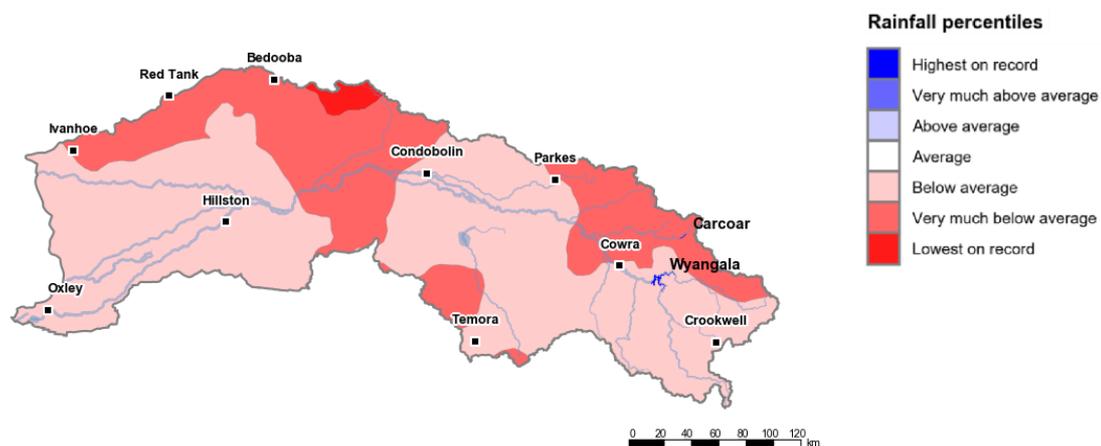


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Oct 2020)

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 16 November 2020

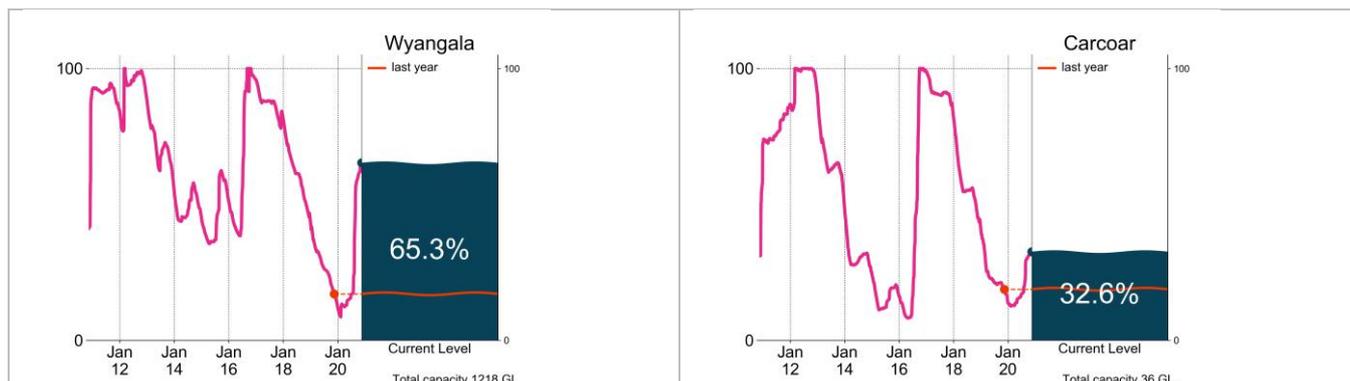


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

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 9 November 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 9 November 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 16 November 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	\$80/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	\$4 500/ML*	
General Security	38%	Highest allocations this 2016–17	\$1 200/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.