



Water Reporting Summary – Lachlan Catchment

17 May 2021



Overview

- In the past month, rainfall across the Lachlan catchment had a decreasing gradient from east to west. The most upstream areas of the catchment, including areas near Crookwell, received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. The area around Wyangala and Carcoar Dams received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall, while central areas around Condobolin received up to 25 mm. Moving west, the rainfall decreased to less than 10 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 20 mm in the last month. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the catchment mainly below average (Figure 2). However, recent rainfall has offset the rainfall deficiency over the last four years in some parts of the catchment, with rainfall now considered average for areas near Condobolin and Crookwell for the period January 2017 to April 2021.
- The recent rainfall has maintained root zone soil moisture conditions with average to above average soil moisture across the catchment, except for areas downstream of Hillston with below average soil moisture. The recent rainfall has translated into some runoff and inflows and slightly increased inflows into storages (Figure 3). Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders increased to 68% (NSW DPIE) which, for this time of year, are the highest allocations since 2016–17 (Table 1).
- Allocation prices are currently \$90 per ML, which is lower than prices paid last month (\$120 per ML) and prices paid at the same time last year (\$170 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

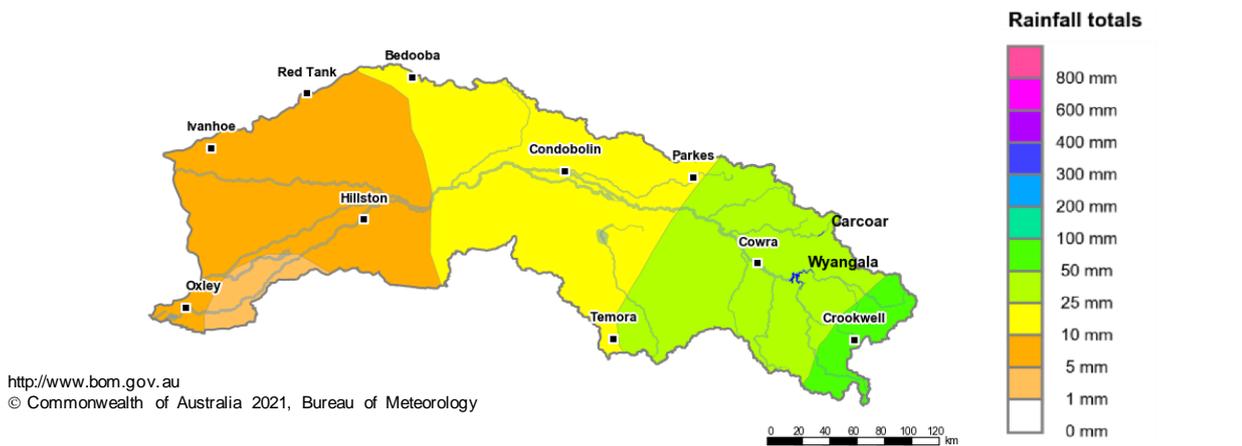


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (18 April to 17 May 2021)

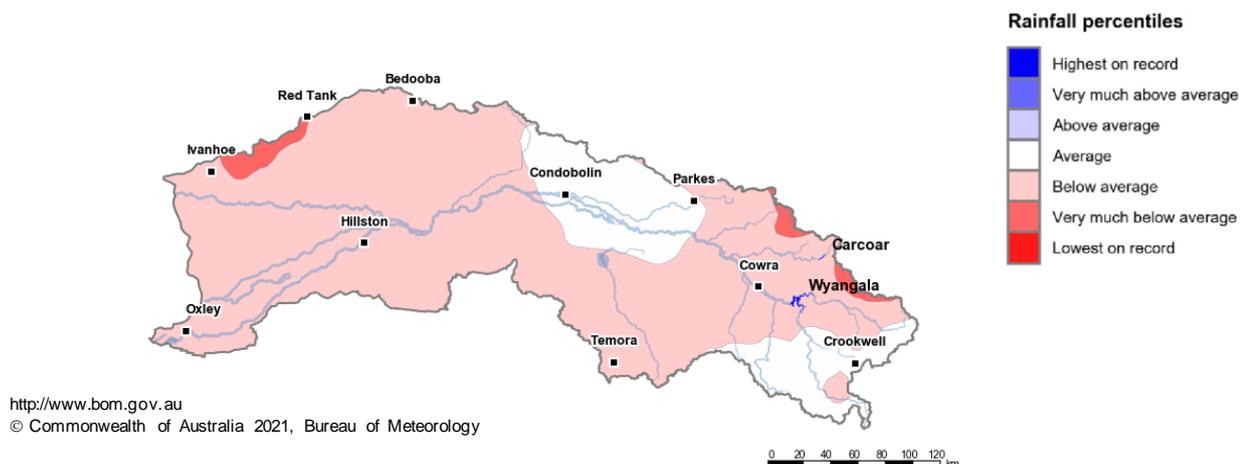


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to April 2021)

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 May 2021

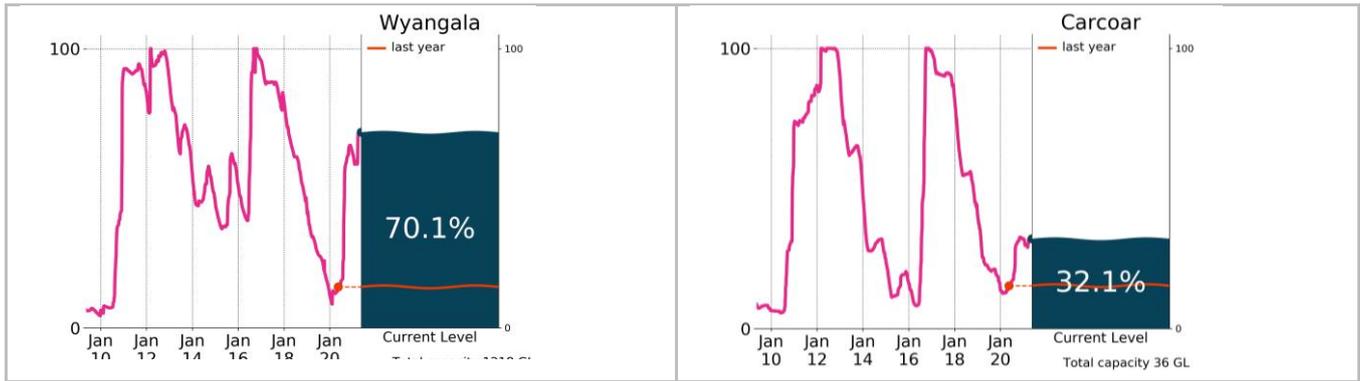


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

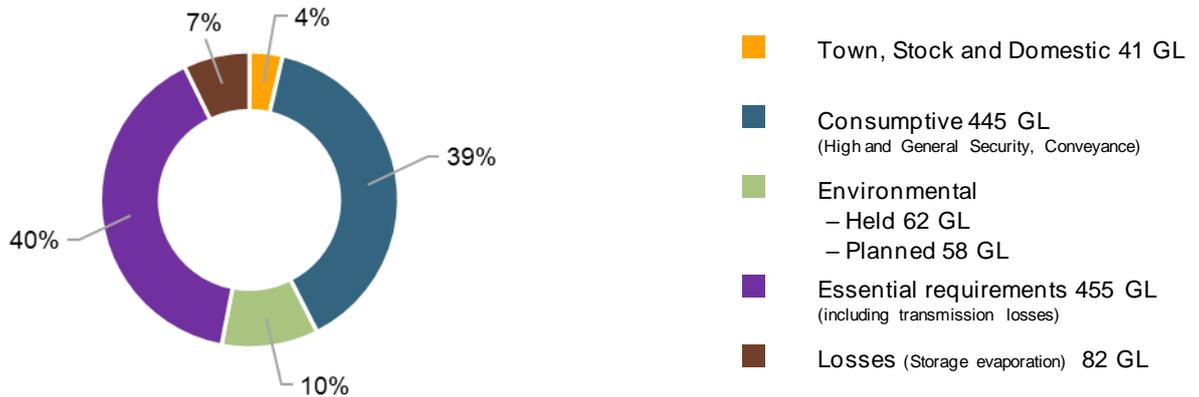


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the December 2020 to May 2023 (as at 10 May 2021)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 12 April 2021. 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 17 May 2021

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	\$90/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	\$4 500/ML*	
General Security	68%	Highest allocations for this time of year since 2016–17	1 300/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



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