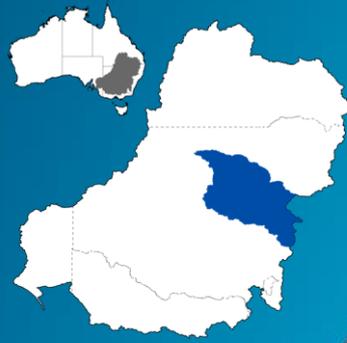




Water Reporting Summary – Macquarie–Castlereagh Catchment

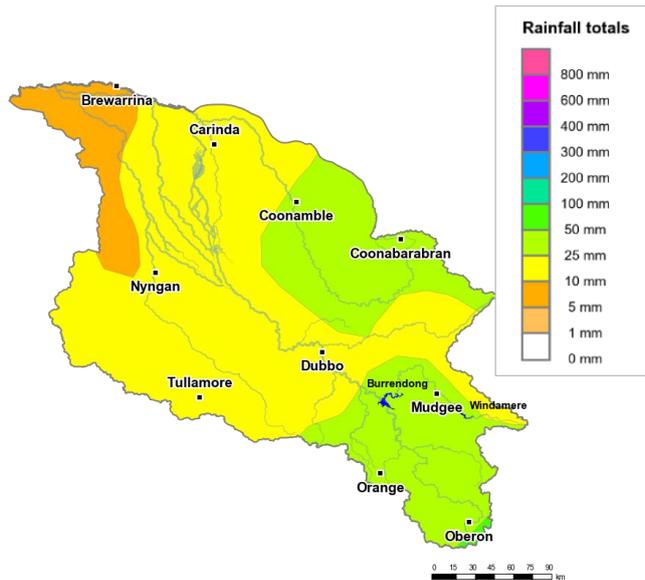
17 May 2021



Overview

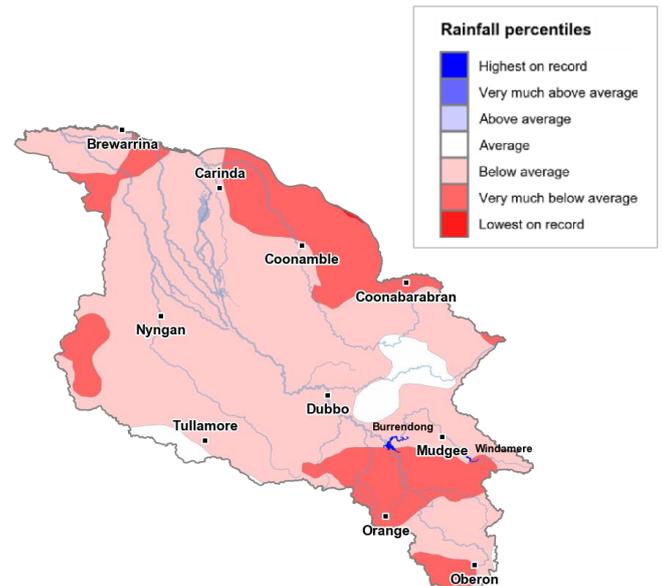
- In the last 30 days, there has been some rainfall across the Macquarie-Castlereagh catchment with most of the catchment receiving 10 to 25 mm of rainfall. Areas around Coonamble and Coonabarabran in the central east and Mudgee and Orange in the south received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall. The exceptions were areas in the north east of the catchment which received less than 10 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 21 mm, with a half of this rainfall received on 4th of May. Rainfall in the last month is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Macquarie–Castlereagh catchment mainly being average or below average (Figure 2).
- The recent rainfall has helped to improve root zone soil moisture conditions with above average soil moisture for most of the catchment. Rainfall in the last month has also translated into some runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders have increased by 4% in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source to 67%. For this time of year, these are the highest allocations since 2017–18 (Table 1) (NSW DPIE).
- Allocation prices are currently \$150 per ML, which is lower than prices paid last month and prices paid at the same time last year (\$200 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions



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



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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: Burrendong and Windamere storages as at 16 May 2021

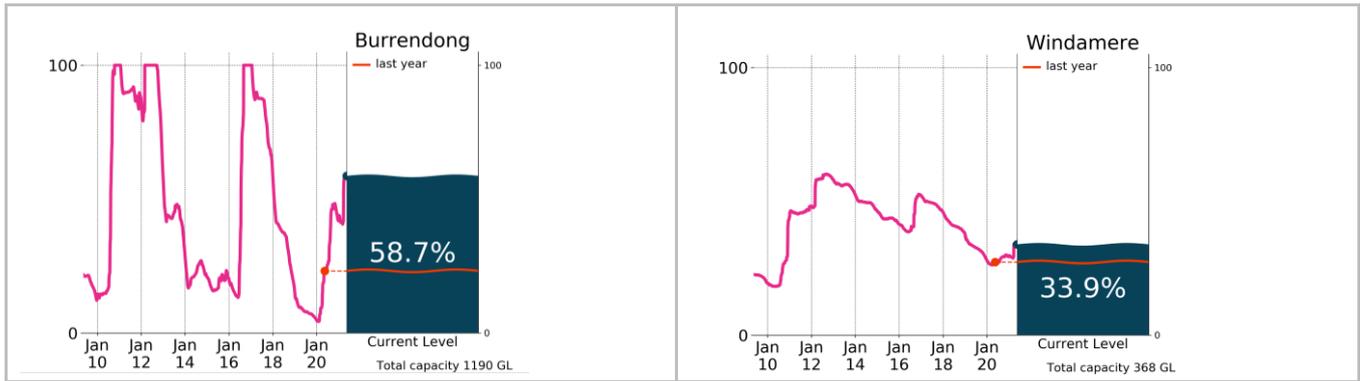


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

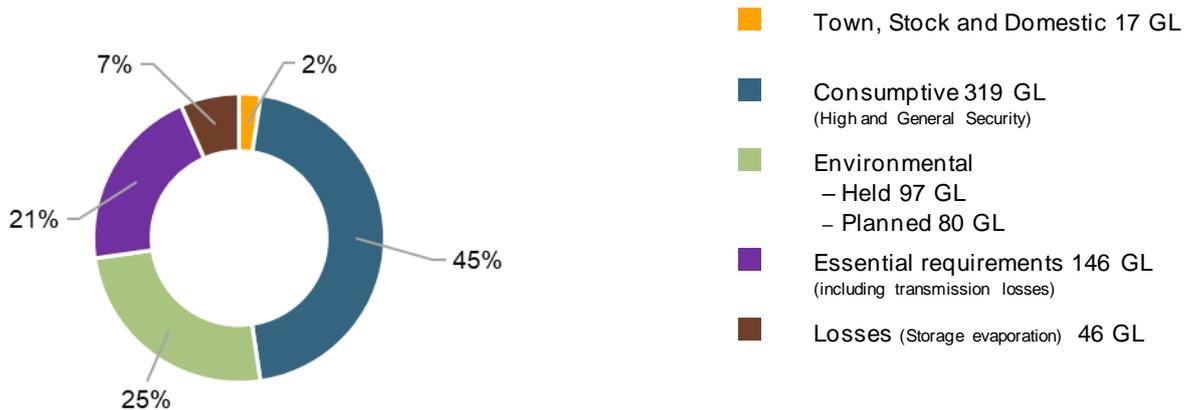


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–22 water years (as at 12 May 2021)

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 12 May 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	\$150/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	67%	Highest allocation since 2017–18	\$1 900/ML	
Average Carryover (General Security)	8% currently available	1.6 % available last year	n/a	

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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