



# Water Reporting Summary – Murrumbidgee Catchment

17 May 2021



## Overview

- In the last 30 days, most of the Murrumbidgee catchment, including the catchment areas of Blowering and Burrinjuck Dams, received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. Small areas in the far east around Cooma received 100 to 200 mm of rainfall. Areas downstream of Tumut to Wagga Wagga received 25 to 50 mm and areas from Wagga Wagga to Griffith 10 to 25 mm of rainfall. The rest of the catchment to the west received less than 10 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 29 mm. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Murrumbidgee catchment mostly below average with patches of very much below average. However, there are parts of the catchment in the east, including parts of the ACT, where recent rainfall has offset the rainfall deficiency experienced over the last four years (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has contributed to maintaining average root zone soil moisture in most of the catchment, above average in the upper part of the catchment and below average in the west. The recent rainfall has had a positive effect on runoff and the total storage volume has increased (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders have reached 100% (including carryover), which has occurred four times in the last ten years (Figure 4 and Table 1). Allocation prices are currently \$75 per ML, which is higher than the prices paid last month (\$50 per ML) but well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$240 per ML) (Table 1).

## Recent conditions

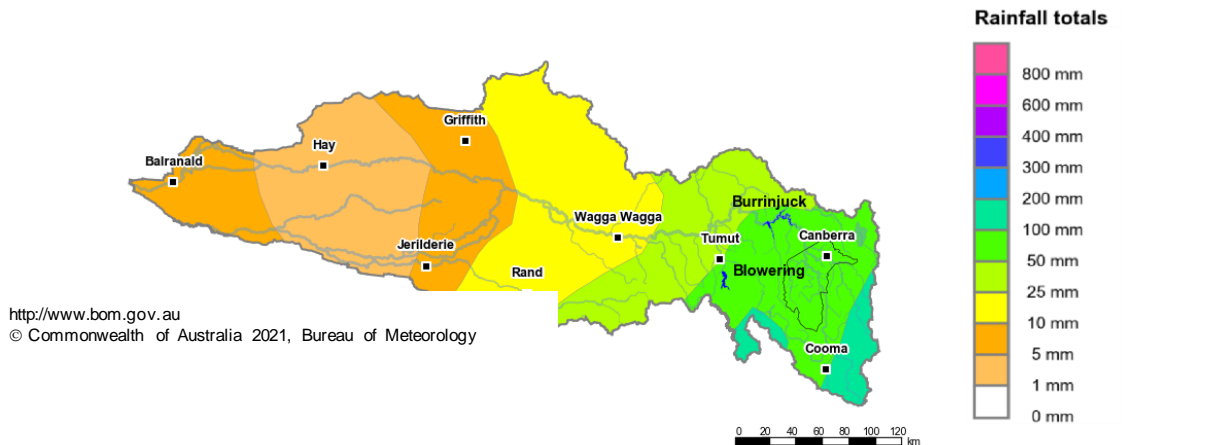


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (18 April to 17 May 2021)

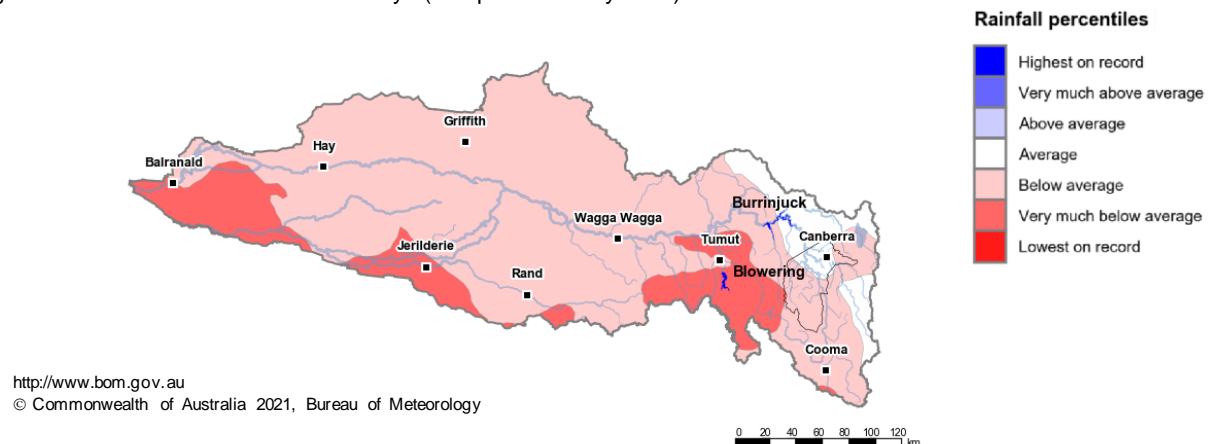


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to April 2021)

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: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages as at 16 May 2021

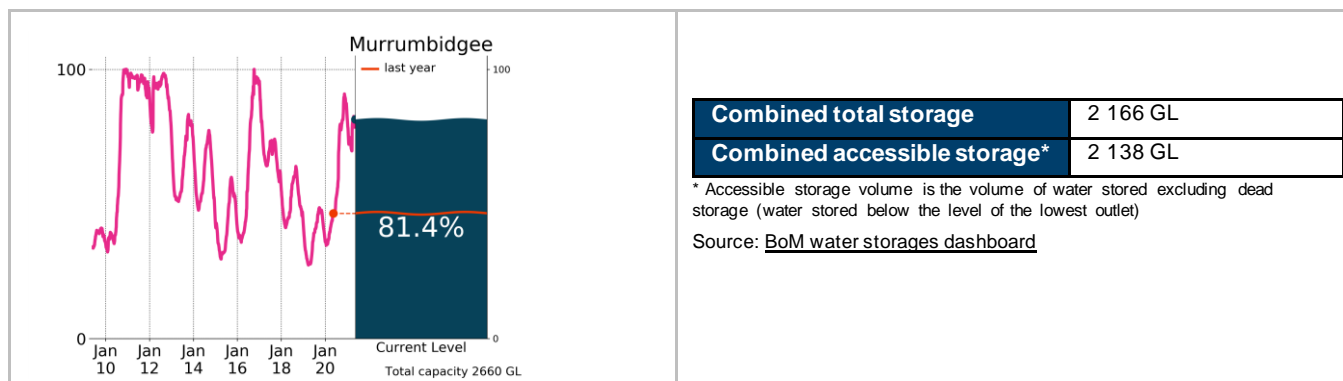


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years .

## Who is the water for?

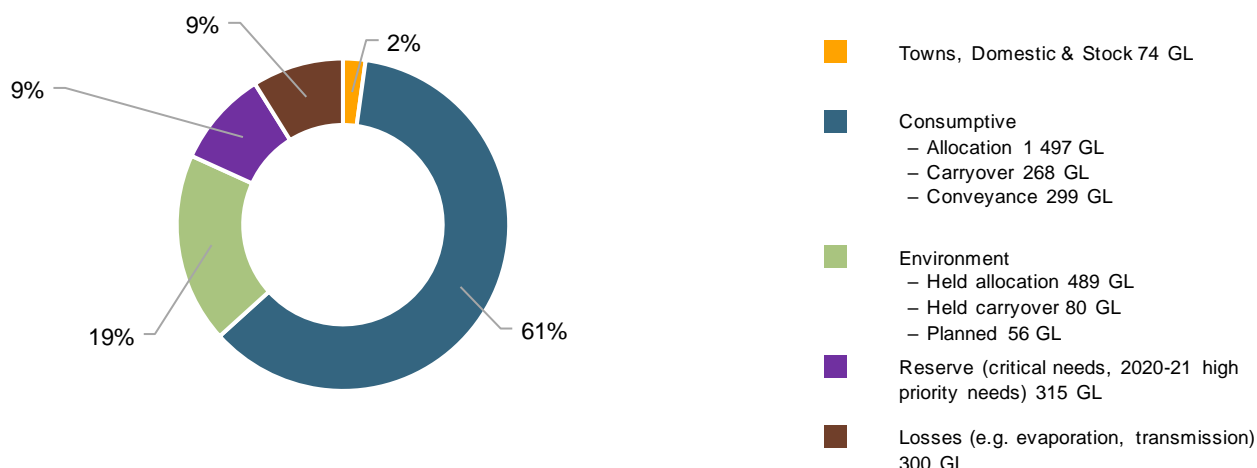


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 15 March 2021)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 15 March 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	\$75/ML
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	100%	100% has been reached four times in the last ten years	\$2175/ML	
Average Carryover (General Security)	18%	10% higher than the previous year	n/a	

Source: [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

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For more information email [water@bom.gov.au](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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