



Water Reporting Summary – Lachlan Catchment

1 December 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, there was widespread rainfall across the Lachlan catchment, with most areas upstream of Condobolin, including the Wyangala Dam catchment, receiving 25 to 50 mm of rainfall. The exception was near Crookwell which received up to 100 mm. The downstream areas of the catchment received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall, with the exception of areas near Hillston receiving 25 to 50 mm, and between Bedooba and Ivanhoe which received less than 10 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 29 mm in the last month. 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 remains at 38% (Figure 4) (NSW DPIE). For this time of year, these are the highest allocations since 2016–17 (Table 1).
- Allocation prices for late November were higher than October (\$150 per ML compared to \$80 per ML) but are well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$520 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

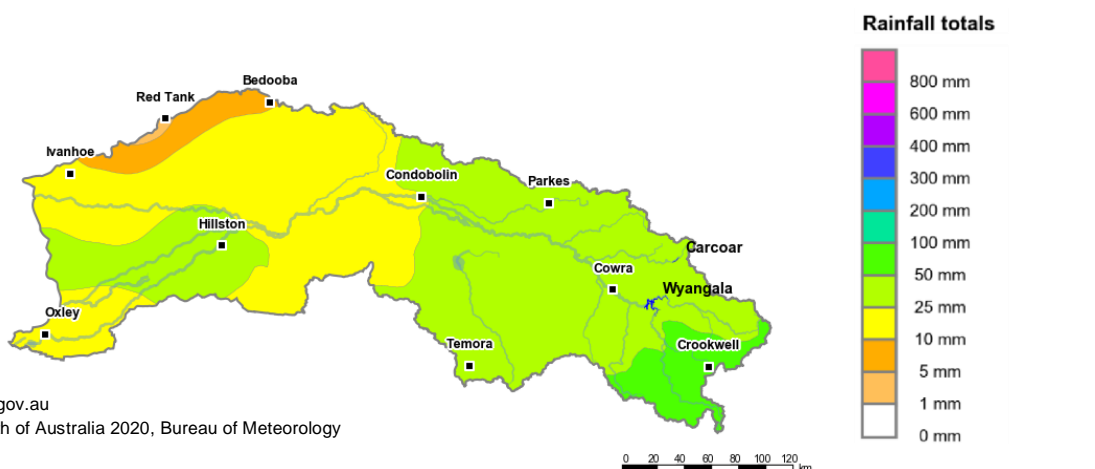


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (2 Nov to 1 Dec 2020)

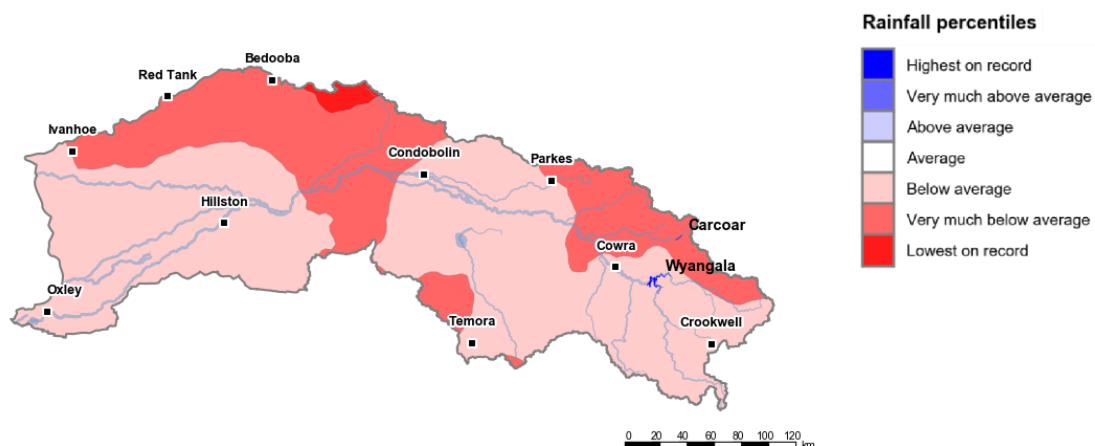


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Nov 2020)

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 1 December 2020

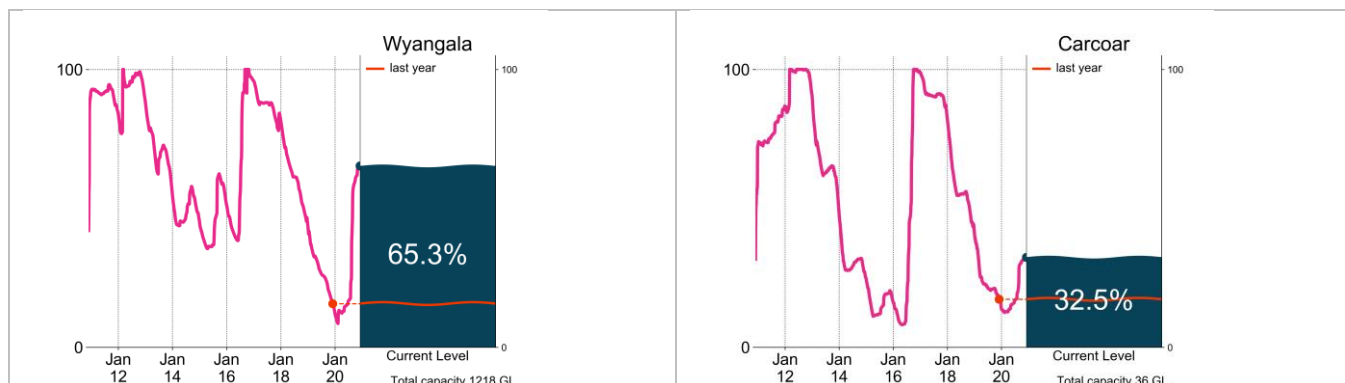


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years
Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

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 1 December 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	\$150/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	38%	Highest allocations for this time of year since 2016–17	n/a	
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](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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