



Water Reporting Summary – NSW Border Rivers Catchment

1 February 2021



Overview

- In the last 30 days, there has been widespread rainfall across the NSW Border Rivers catchment with most of the catchment receiving 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. The exceptions were northern areas of the upper catchment and downstream of Mungindi, which received up to 200 mm (Figure 1). As a result, the total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 92 mm over the last 30 days. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the NSW Border Rivers catchment mainly being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- Rainfall over the last 30 days has maintained above average root zone soil moisture conditions across most of the NSW Border Rivers catchment, except for downstream areas between Croppa Creek and Boomi with average soil moisture. However, the recent rainfall has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3) with Drought Stage 2 conditions continuing for the NSW Border Rivers catchment. In Drought Stage 2 (emerging drought or drought recovery), there has been limited water resources and multiple years of low flows (NSW DPIE). As a result, there remain relatively low or no allocations for some entitlement holders and water trading has been limited (Figure 4 and Table 1).
- Announced allocations for general security A and B class entitlements are currently at 64.6% and 0%, respectively. For class A entitlements, for this time of year, this is the highest allocation since 2017–18.

Recent conditions

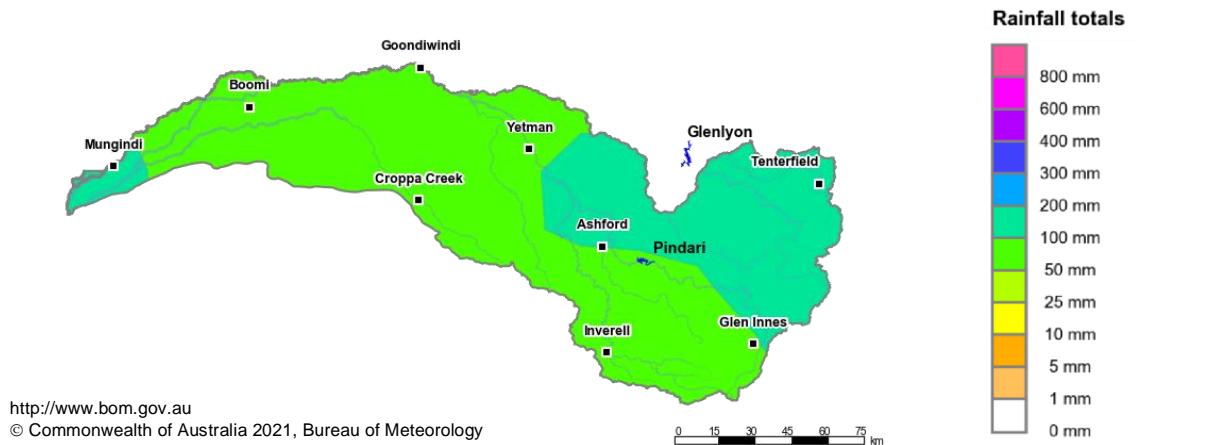


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (3 Jan to 1 Feb 2021)

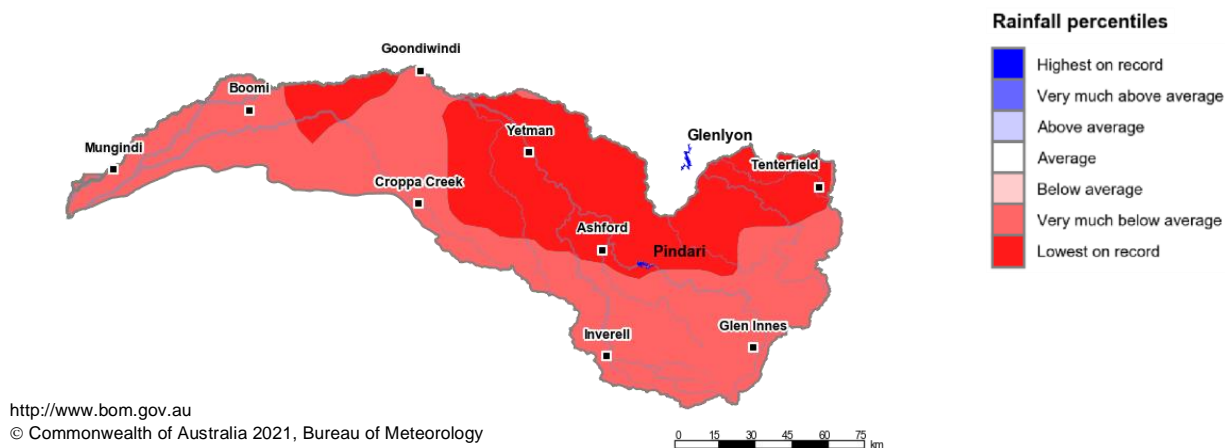


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Jan 2021)

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?

Combined total storage (NSW share*): 58 GL (as at 29 January 2021)

*Pindari storage and New South Wales' 57% share of Glenlyon storage

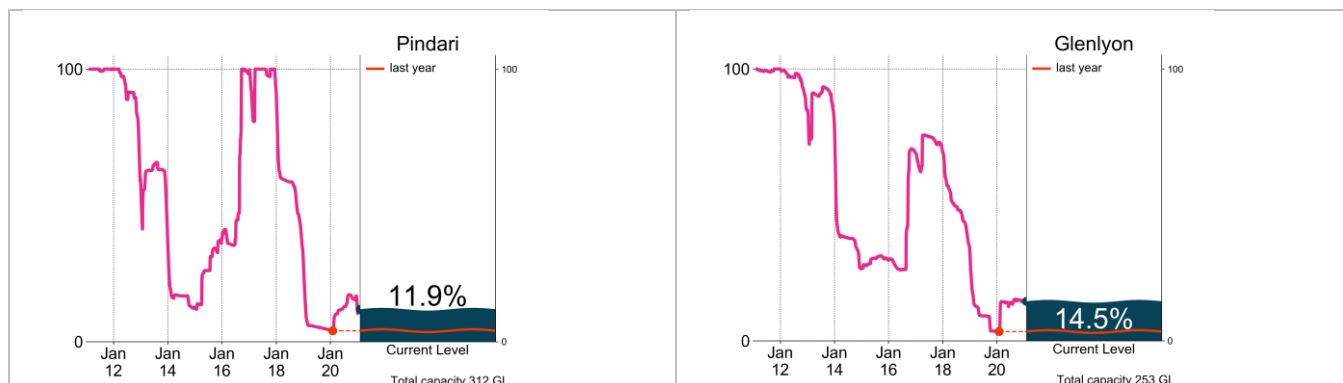


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

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

Who is the water for?

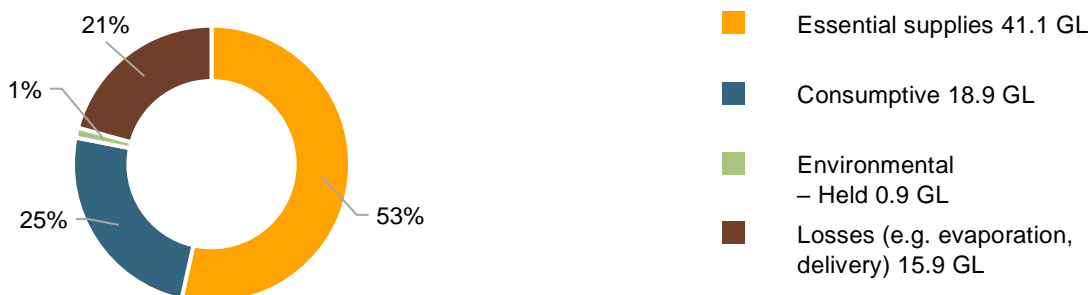


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (as at 18 November 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 18 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 February 2021

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement prices (monthly median)	Allocation price (median – last 7 days)
Stock & Domestic, Local Utility	100%	Same as most years	n/a	\$350/ML*
NSW Border Rivers High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
NSW Border Rivers General Security – A	64.6%	Highest since 2017-18	n/a	
NSW Border Rivers General Security – B	0%	0% has occurred in four out of the last ten years	n/a	
Average Carryover (General Security)	1% General Security – A 2% General Security – B	1% last year 2% last year	n/a	

*Indicative - limited trade data

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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