



Water Reporting Summary - Lachlan Catchment

1 October 2020



Overview

In the last 30 days, there was widespread rainfall across the Lachlan catchment, with upstream areas including the Wyangala and Carcoar Dam catchments, receiving 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. The rest of the catchment received between 25 and 50 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 41 mm in the last month, with most of this rain received in the last two weeks. 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 the upper Lachlan catchment and average soil moisture for the lower catchment for September. Wet soils, combined with good rainfall in the upper Lachlan catchment, have translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3). The improvement in water resources allowed allocations of 28% to be made to general security entitlement holders on 4 September (NSW DPIE) (Figure 4). This was the first general security allocation for the last three years (Table 1).
- Allocation prices are similar to last month (\$130 per ML compared to \$160 per ML) but are well below their peak of \$1000 per ML in May 2020.

Recent conditions

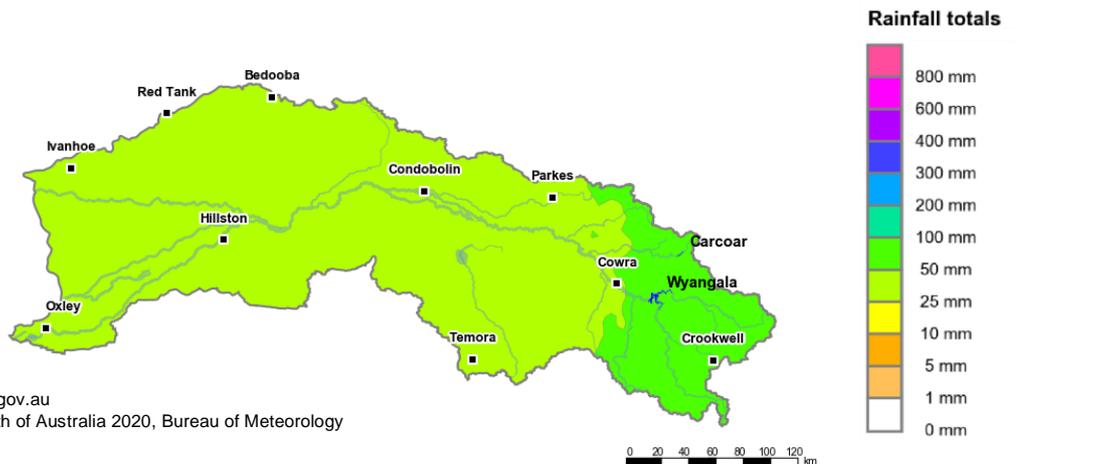


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (2 Sept to 1 Oct 2020)

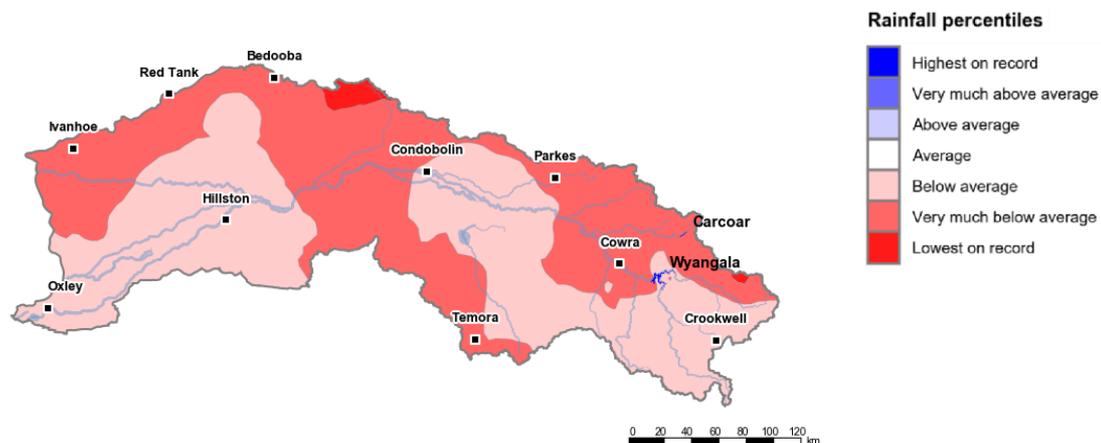


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Sept 2020)

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 October 2020

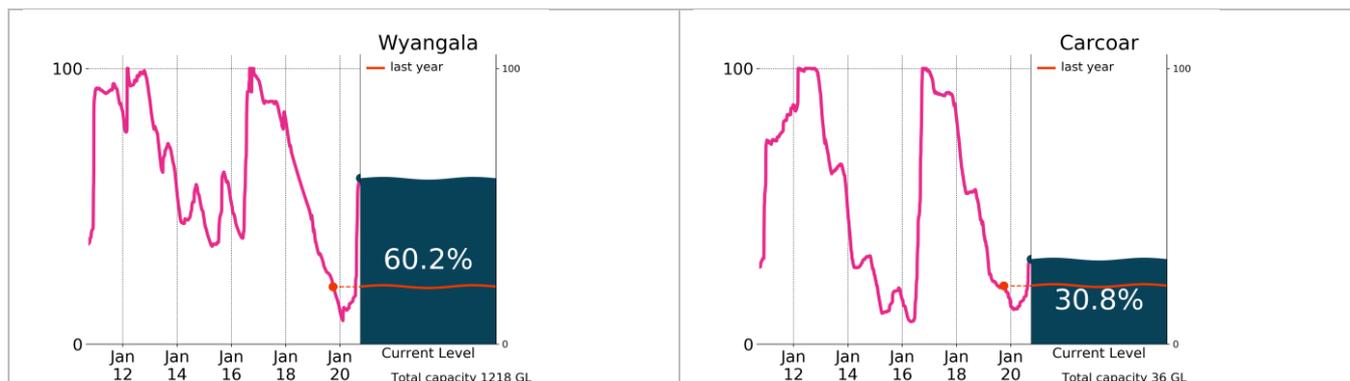


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

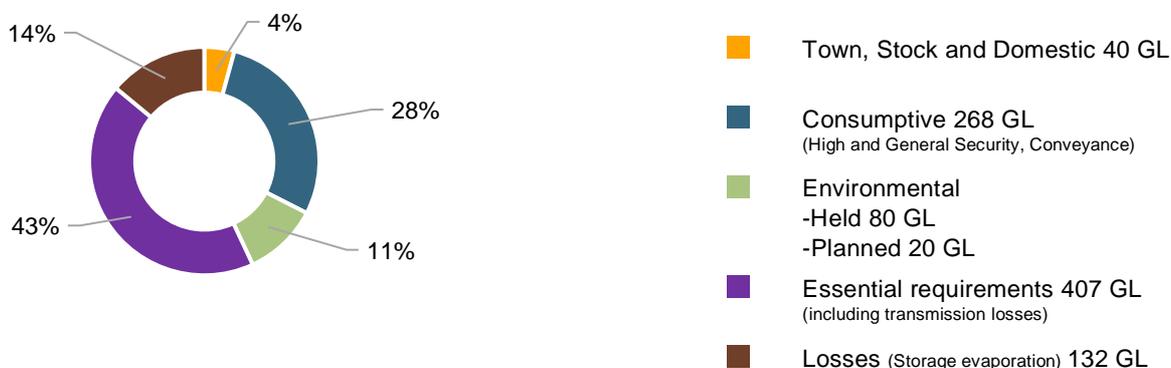


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020-22 water years (as at 4 September 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 4 September 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 October 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	\$132/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	28%	First allocations since 2017-18	\$1300/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](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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