



Water Reporting Summary - Barwon–Darling Watercourse

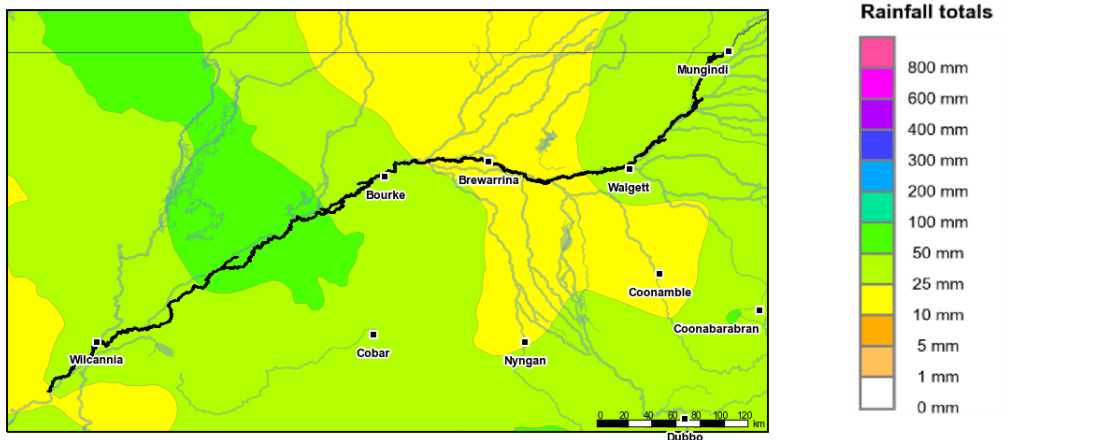
1 September 2020



Overview

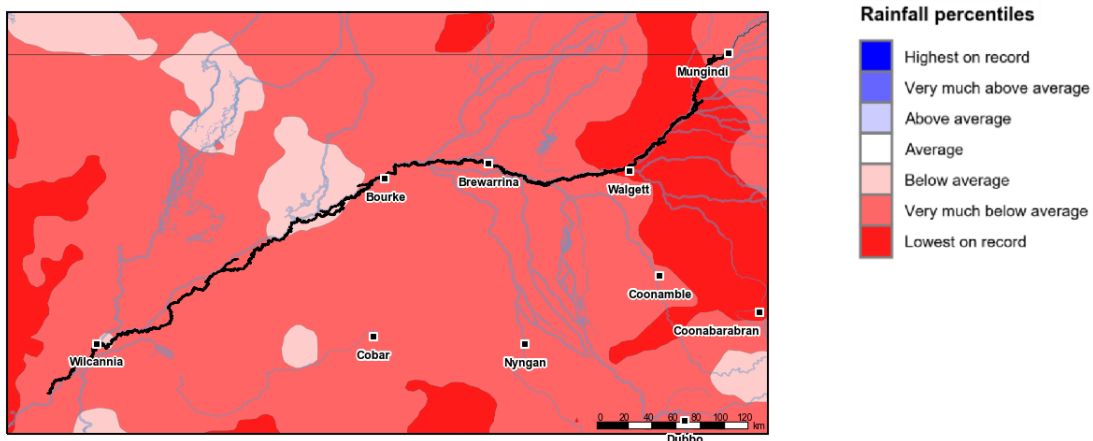
- In the last 30 days, most areas along the Barwon–Darling Watercourse received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall, with some areas between Bourke and Wilcannia receiving up to 100 mm of rainfall. In contrast, areas around Brewarrina received 10 to 25 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the watercourse was 35 mm. This recent patchy rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall for the Barwon–Darling Watercourse being mainly very much below average, with some areas near Walgett being lowest on record (Figure 2).
- Recent rain has helped to improve soil moisture with average to above average root zone soil moisture for most of the Barwon–Darling Watercourse over the last month. Recent rainfall has translated into some runoff and streamflow in August following a dry June and July period. Prior to this, there was significant rainfall and river flow in February and March (Figure 3). Currently, there are Drought Stage 2 conditions for the Barwon–Darling Watercourse. In Drought Stage 2, there has been limited water resources and multiple years of low flows (NSW DPIE).
- Announced allocations for Domestic and Stock, and Unregulated River entitlement holders have opened the water year at 100% (Figure 4 and Table 1). This is similar to most years, however the ability of water users to take water is governed by entitlement conditions which are subject to river flow conditions.

Recent conditions



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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (3 Aug to 1 Sept 2020)



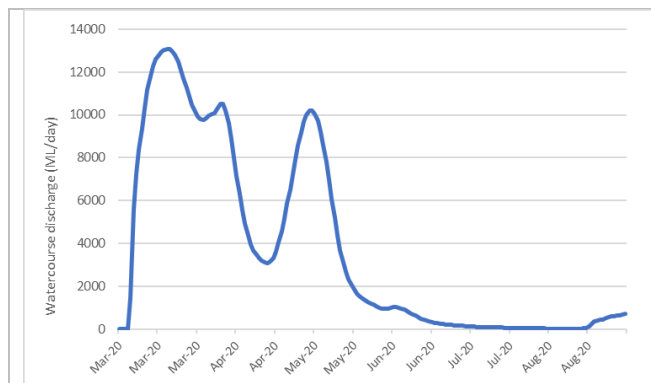
<http://www.bom.gov.au> © Commonwealth of Australia 2020, Bureau of Meteorology

Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Aug 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 river?

Darling River at Wilcannia



Darling River at Bourke

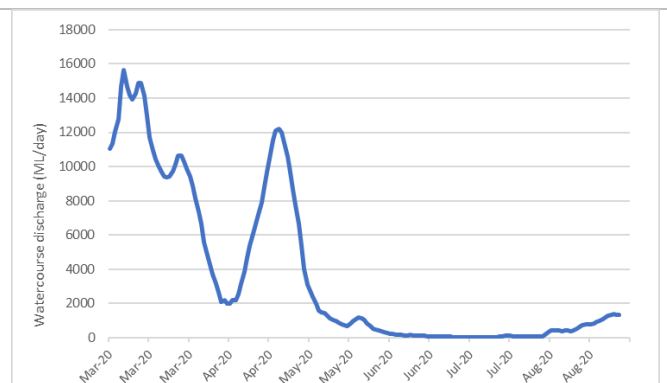


Figure 3: Watercourse discharge (ML per day) for last 6 months at selected gauges in the Barwon–Darling Watercourse (as at 29 Aug 2020)

Source: [BoM Water Data Online](https://www.bom.gov.au/water/data/)

Who is the water for?

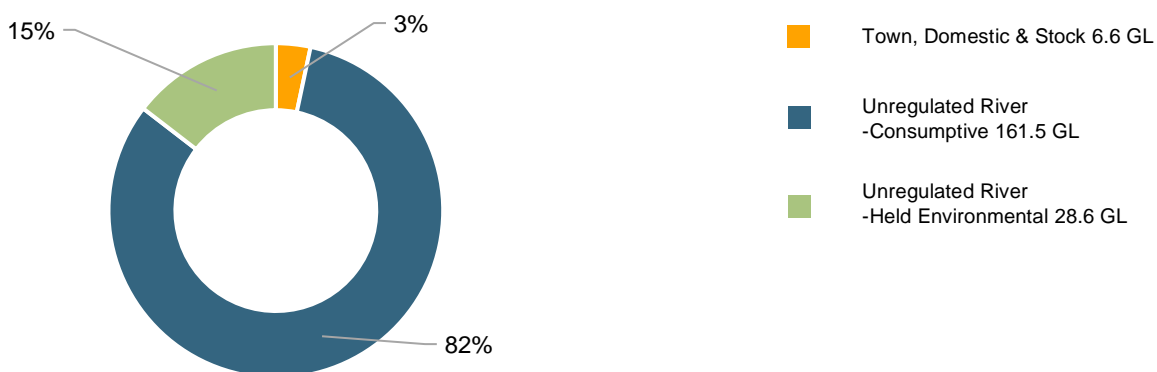


Figure 4: Nominal volumes of water entitlements on issue, per licence categories (GL) for the 2020-21 water year (Last updated 1 July 2020)

Source: [BoM water markets dashboard](https://www.bom.gov.au/water/markets/dashboard/)

NB: Entitlement on issue information shown here is nominal volume of water that is shared between various licence types for 2020-21 (updated on 1 July 2020). It does not necessarily represent water that is actually available to licence holders at a given point in time as each licence category has conditions that govern when water can be taken.

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) and market prices – Selected licence categories as at 1 September 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	n/a
Unregulated River (A, B and C Class)	100%	Same as most years	n/a	

Source: [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](https://www.nsw.gov.au/planning-industry-environment) and [BoM water markets dashboard](https://www.bom.gov.au/water/markets/dashboard/)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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