



Water Reporting Summary – Lachlan Catchment

2 November 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, there was widespread rainfall across the Lachlan catchment, with most of the central and downstream catchment areas receiving 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. Upstream areas including the Wyangala Dam catchment received up to 200mm, while northwest areas of the catchment near Bedooba received 10 to 25 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 66 mm in the last month, with most of this rain received in the last two weeks of October. 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 remain unchanged in the last fortnight (Figure 4) (NSW DPIE). General security allocations are 32% which, for this time of year, is the highest allocation since 2016–17 (Table 1).
- Allocation prices for October were lower than September (\$100 per ML compared to \$130 per ML) and are well below their peak of \$1000 per ML in May 2020 (Table 1).

Recent conditions

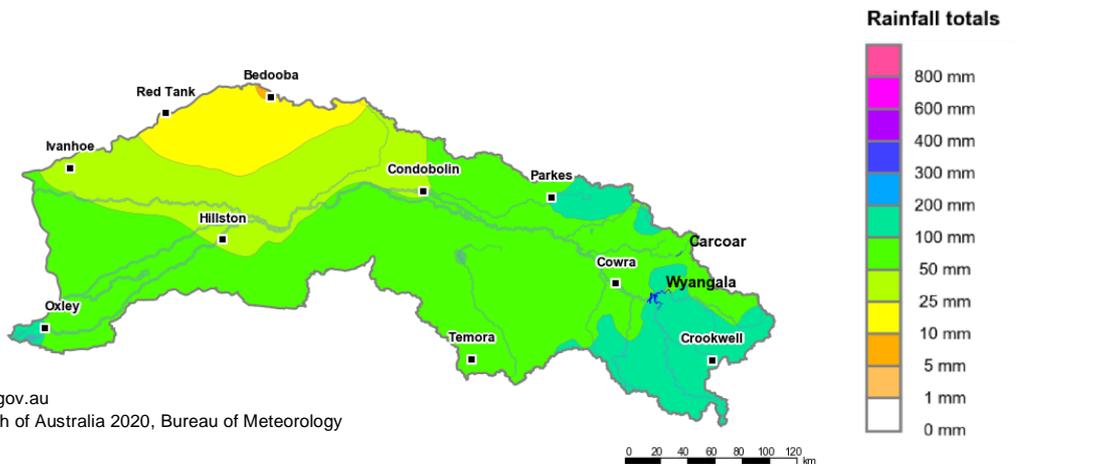


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (4 Oct to 2 Nov 2020)

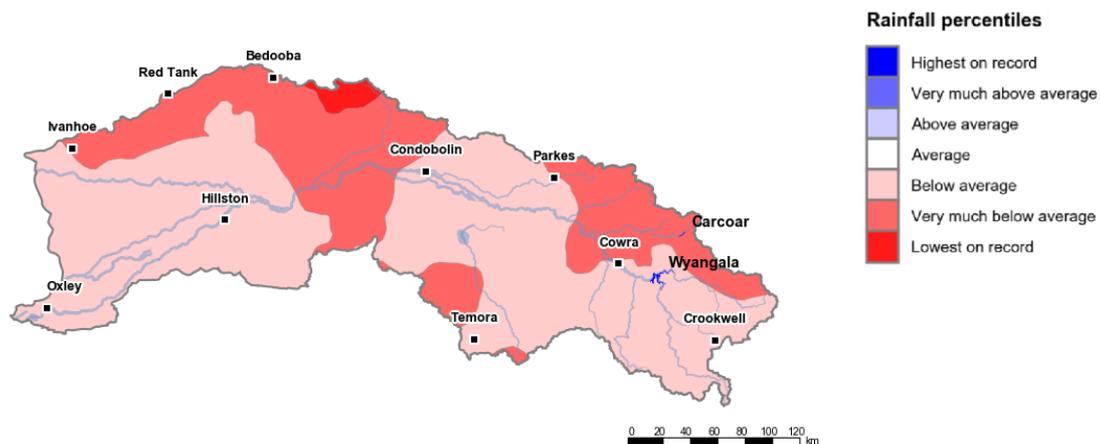


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Oct 2020)

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 2 November 2020

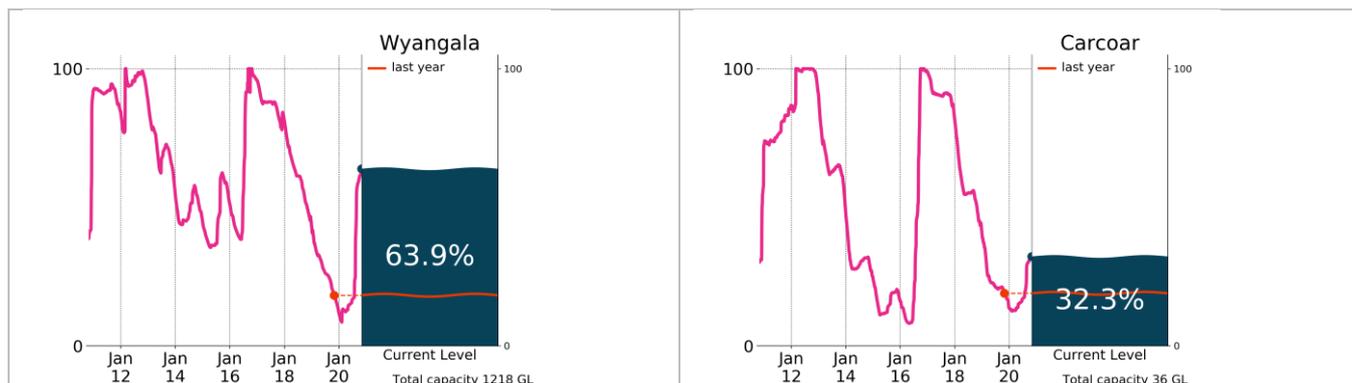


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

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 7 October 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 7 October 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 2 November 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 | \$100/ML* |
| High Security | 100% | Same as most years | n/a | |
| General Security | 32% | Highest allocations this 2016–17 | \$1 200/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](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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