



Water Reporting Summary – Barwon–Darling Watercourse

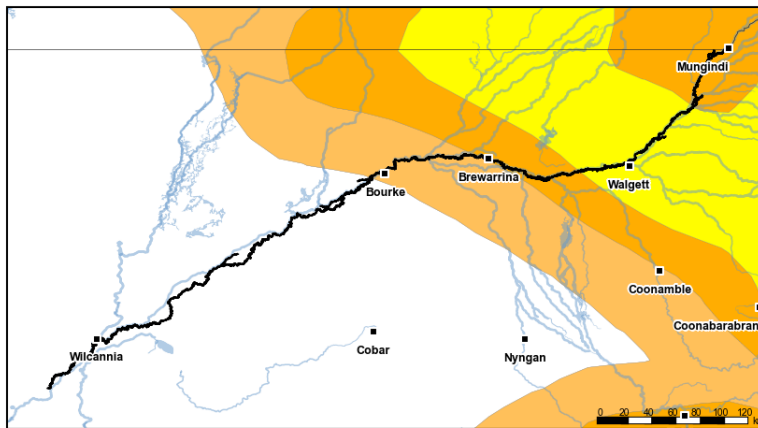
3 May 2021



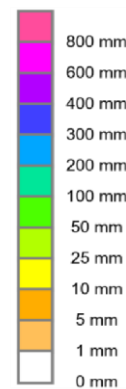
Overview

- In the last month, there has been no rainfall in the Barwon–Darling Watercourse downstream of Bourke, while upstream areas around Brewarrina and Mungindi received up to 10 mm of rainfall. There exceptions were areas near Walgett which received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the Watercourse was 4 mm, with almost all this rainfall received on 17th of April. The rainfall in the last month is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall for most areas of the Barwon–Darling Watercourse being below average, and areas upstream of Brewarrina mainly being very much below average (Figure 2).
- In the last month, the root zone soil moisture across the catchment was average to above average with a small area near Walgett having a record high soil moisture level. Recent rainfall in March and early April has continued to translate into significant runoff and increases in streamflow (Figure 3). Currently, there are Drought Stage 1 conditions for the Barwon–Darling Watercourse. In Drought Stage 1, surface water can deliver all account water under normal river operations practice (NSW DPIE).
- Water resources are shared between water users according to a water sharing plan, with entitlements on issue shown in Table 1. However, the ability of water users to take water is governed by entitlement conditions which are subject to river flow conditions. With limited water resources available, there has been limited recent water trading activity (Table 2).

Recent conditions

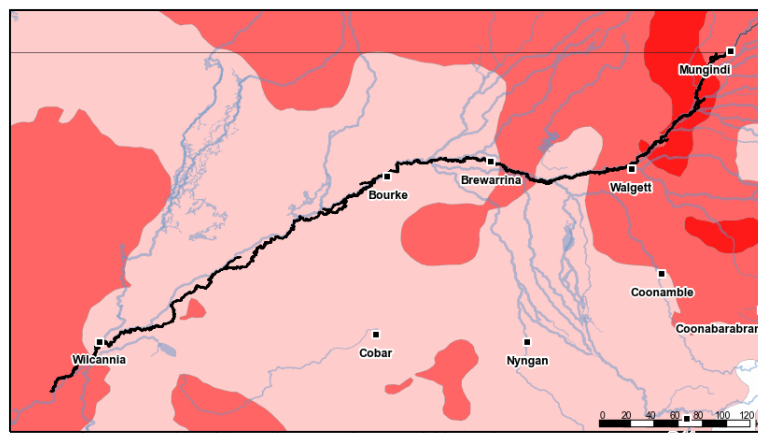


Rainfall totals

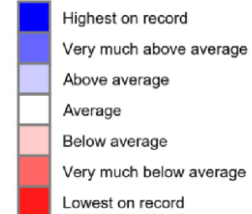


<http://www.bom.gov.au> © Commonwealth of Australia 2021, Bureau of Meteorology

Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (4 April to 3 May 2021)



Rainfall percentiles



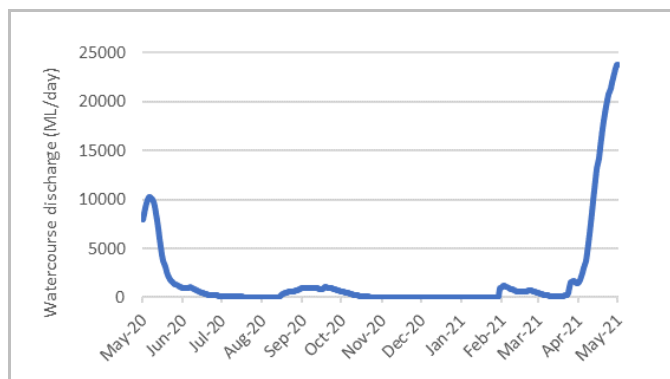
<http://www.bom.gov.au> © Commonwealth of Australia 2021, Bureau of Meteorology

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

Darling River at Wilcannia



Darling River at Bourke

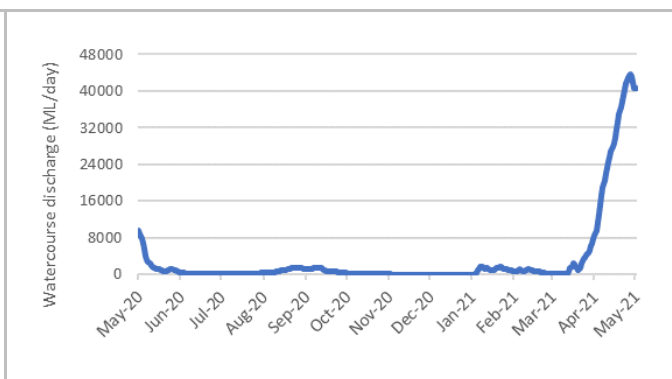


Figure 3: Watercourse discharge (ML per day) for last 12 months at selected gauges in the Barwon–Darling Watercourse (as at 3 May 2021)

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

Who is the water for?

As the Barwon–Darling Watercourse is an unregulated system, water is not stored for the purpose of supplying orders to downstream users. Water is shared between different users according to the *Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon–Darling Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012* (NSW DPIE). The plan includes categories of water licences or entitlements and the share of the water resource for each entitlement category (expressed as a nominal volume). Entitlements on issue as at 1 July 2020 are shown in Table 1. This 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: Nominal volumes of water entitlements on issue, per licence categories (GL) for the 2020–21 water year (last updated 1 July 2020)

Entitlement category	Entitlement share (Nominal GL)
Town, Domestic & Stock	6.6
Unregulated River – Consumptive	161.5
Unregulated River – Environmental	28.6

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

Table 2: Water market prices – selected licence categories as at 3 May 2021

Licence category	Entitlement price (monthly median)	Allocation price (median – last 7 days)
Unregulated River (A, B and C Class)	n/a	n/a

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

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



With the exception of logos, photography and data referenced as being from other organisations, this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence. The terms and conditions of the licence are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>. Attribution for this publication should be: © Commonwealth of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology) 2021.