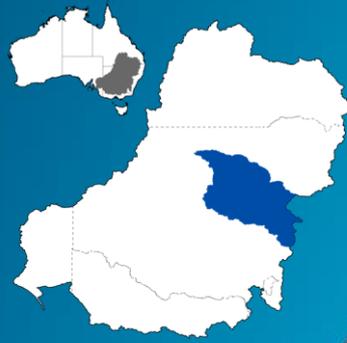




# Water Reporting Summary – Macquarie–Castlereagh Catchment

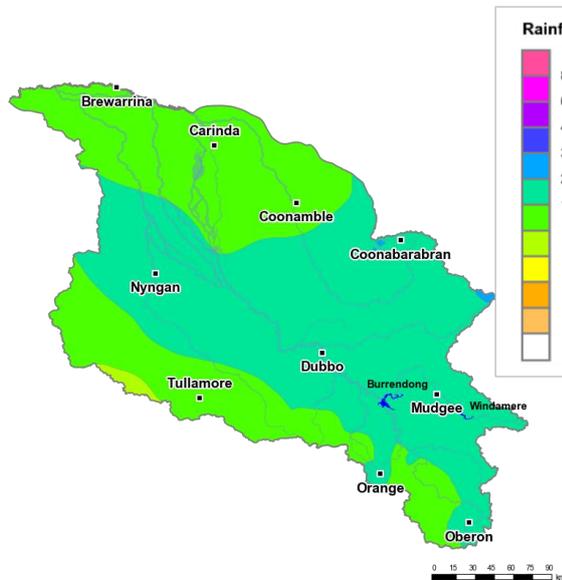
4 January 2021



## Overview

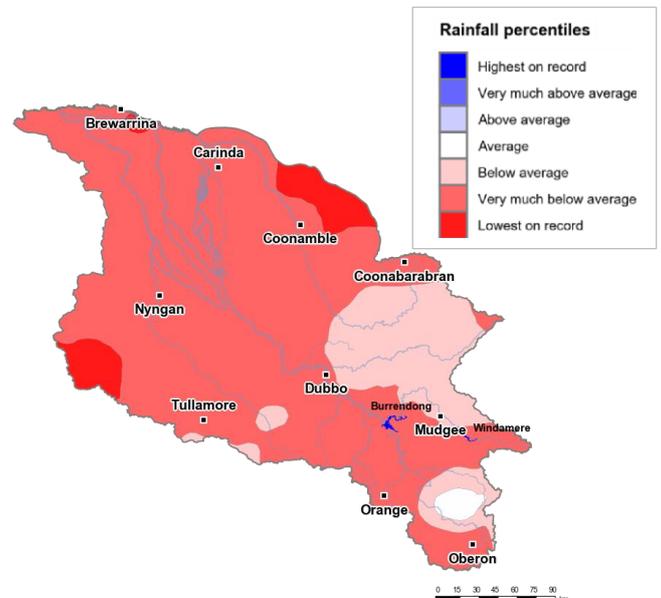
- In the last 30 days, almost all of the Macquarie-Castlereagh catchment received more than 50 mm of rainfall. The central areas of the catchment received more than 100 mm of rainfall, including the catchment areas for Windamere and Burrendong Dams (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 110 mm, with more than two-third of this rainfall received in the last 2 weeks. Rainfall in the last month is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Macquarie–Castlereagh catchment mainly being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- The recent rainfall has helped to improve root zone soil moisture conditions to average in the lower catchment and above average in the upper catchment, however, it has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders remain at 23% (Figure 4) (NSW DPIE). For this time of year, these are the highest allocations since 2017–18 (Table 1).
- Allocation prices are currently \$200 per ML which is the same as prices paid last month (Table 1).

## Recent conditions



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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days  
(6 Dec 2020 to 4 Jan 2021)



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Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Dec 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:** Burrendong storage as at 3 January 2021; Windamere storage as at 4 January 2021

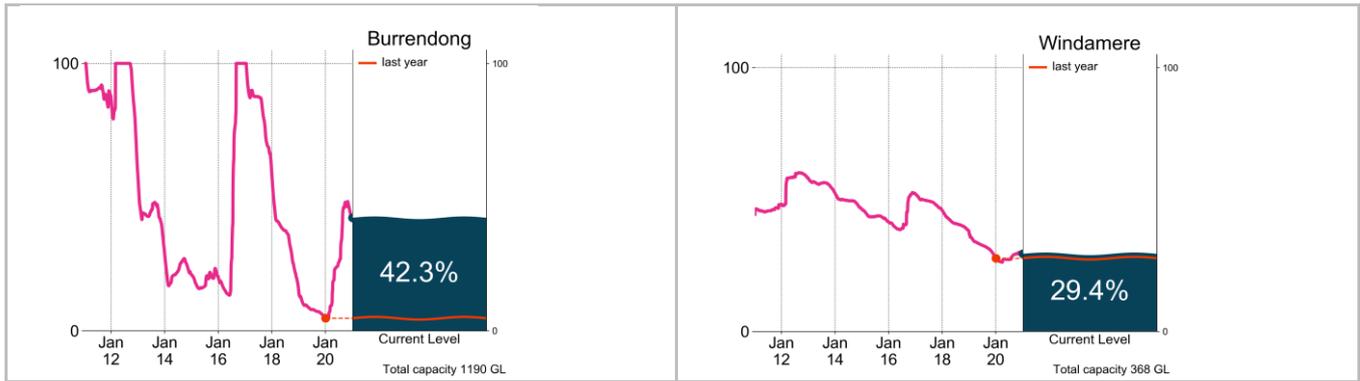


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

## Who is the water for?

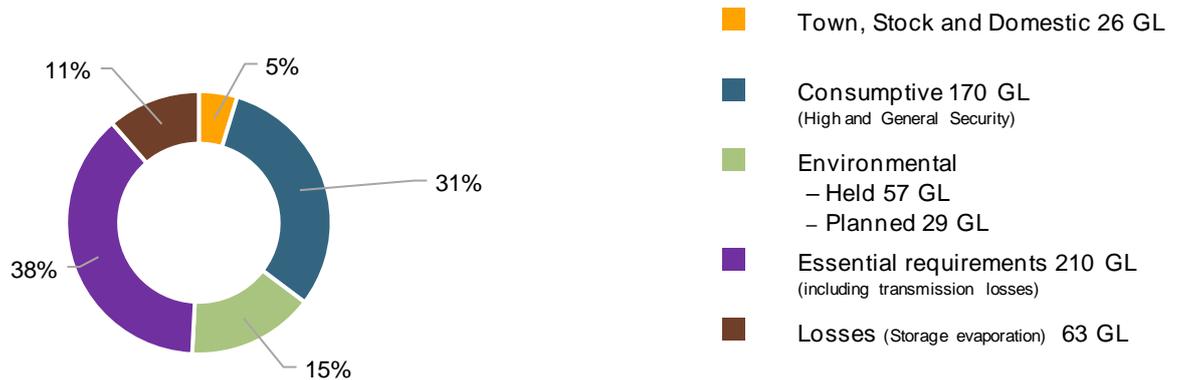


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–22 water years (as at 11 December 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes from the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated river sources within the Macquarie–Castlereagh catchment as at 11 December 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 4 January 2021

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	\$200/ML*
High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
General Security	23%	Highest allocation since 2017–18	n/a	
Average Carryover (General Security)	8% currently available	1.6% 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](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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