



Water Reporting Summary – Murrumbidgee Catchment

04 January 2021

Overview

- In the last 30 days, most upstream areas of the Murrumbidgee catchment received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall, except for an area near Blowering Dam, which received 100 to 200 mm of rainfall. Most of the central and western areas of the catchment received 25 to 50 mm, with some areas to the west of Jerilderie, south of Griffith and south of Balranald received only 10 to 25 mm of rainfall. The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 50 mm. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Murrumbidgee catchment mostly below average or very much below average (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has helped to maintain above average root zone soil moisture in eastern parts of the catchment near Wagga Wagga, Blowering Dam, Burrinjuck Dam and Canberra, and average elsewhere in the Murrumbidgee catchment. The recent rainfall has translated into runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders are currently 77% which, for this time of year, is the highest since 2016–17 (Figure 4 and Table 1).
- Allocation prices are currently \$105 per ML, which is higher than December (\$100 per ML) but well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$750 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

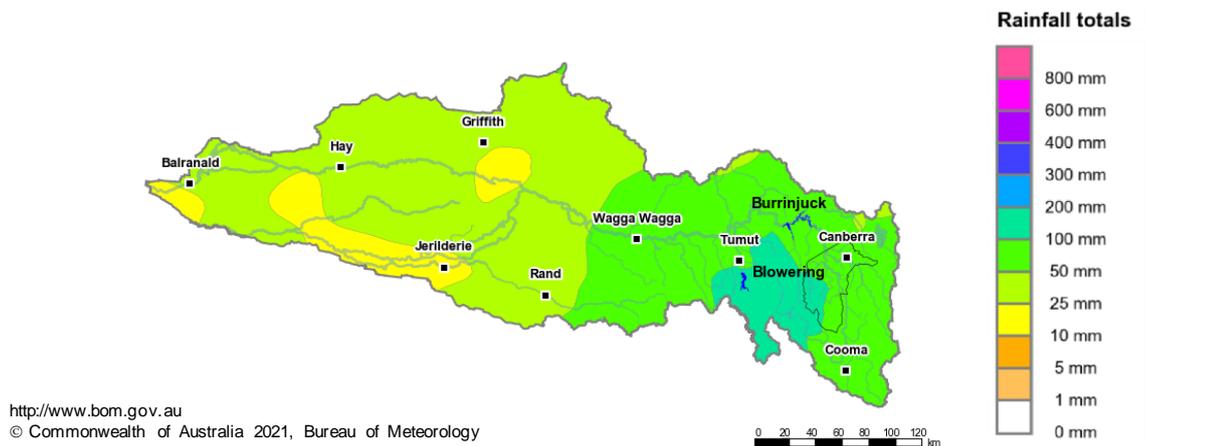


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Dec to 04 Jan 2021)

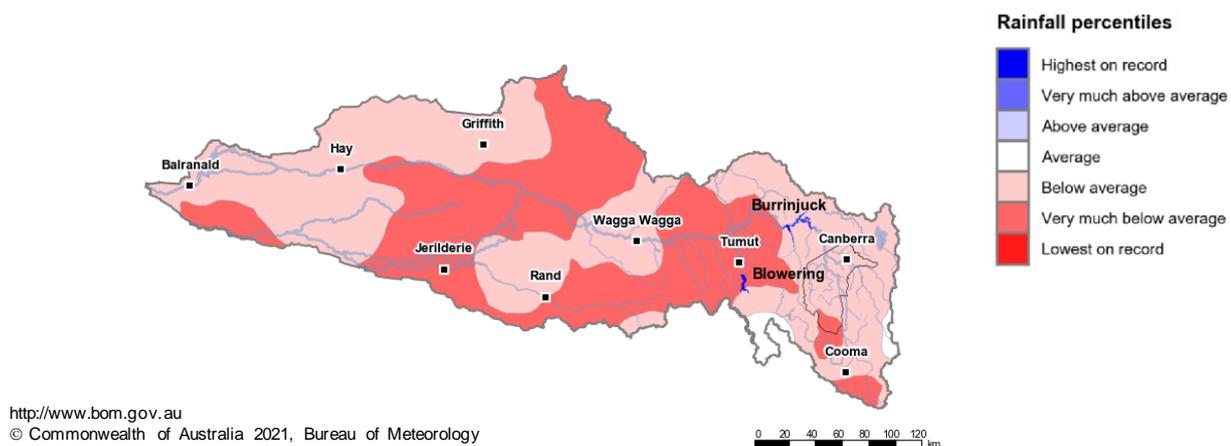


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Dec 2021)

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 storages?

Storage volume: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages as at 03 January 2021

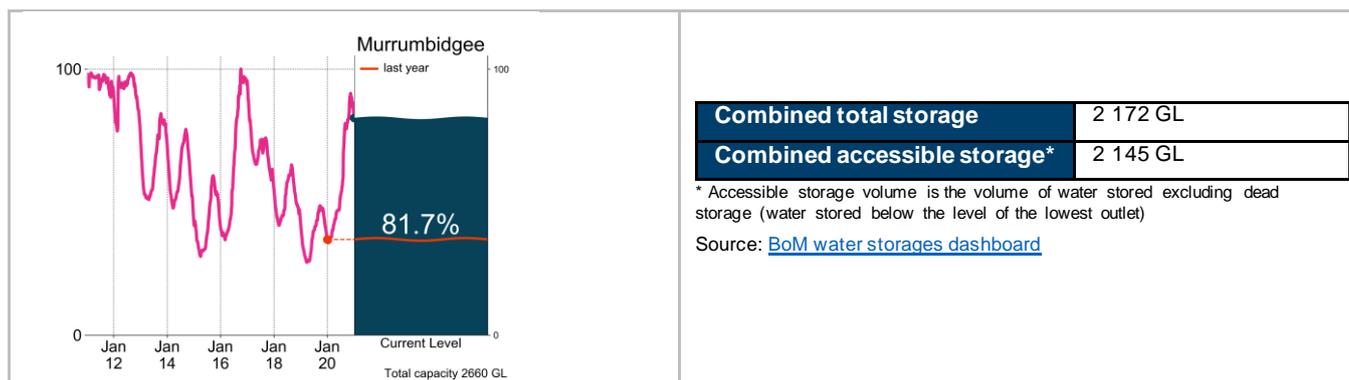


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years .

Who is the water for?



Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year (as at 04 January 2021)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 04 January 2021. 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 04 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	\$105/ML
High Security	95%	Same as most years	\$7 715/ML*	
General Security	77%	Highest allocation for this time of year since 2016–17	\$1 901 /ML*	
Average Carryover (General Security)	18%	10% higher than the previous 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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