



Water Reporting Summary – Condamine–Balonne Catchment

04 January 2021

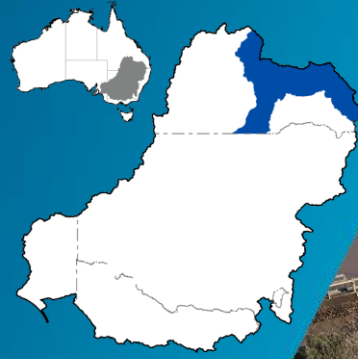
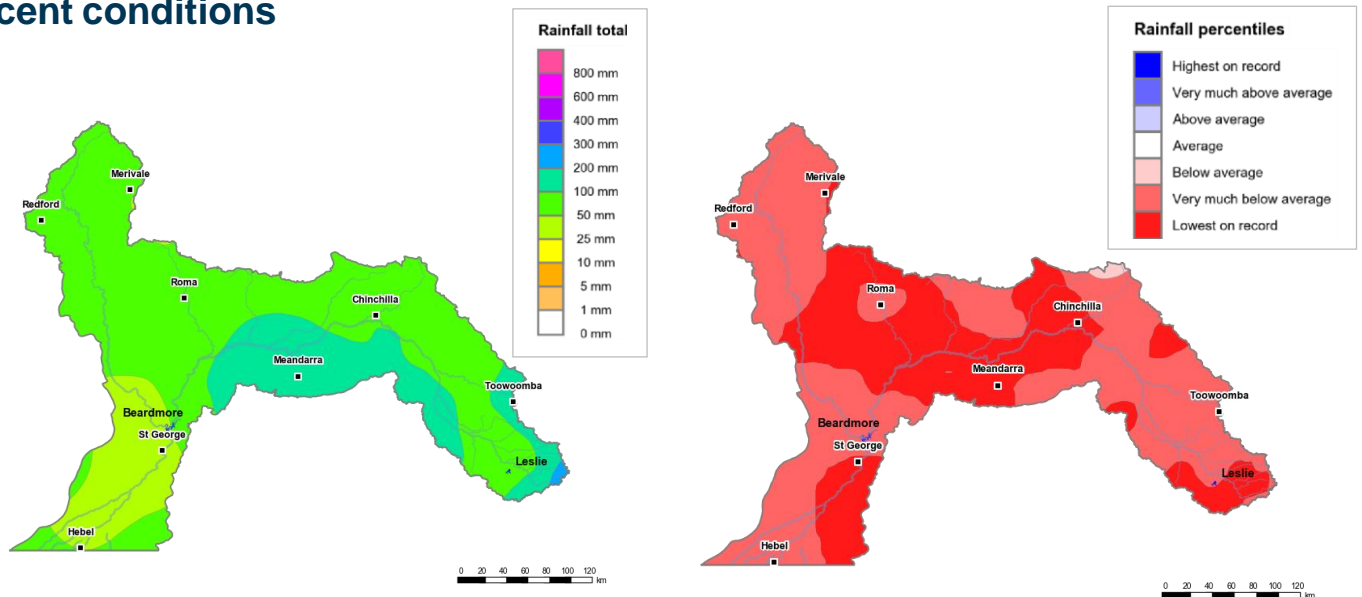


Photo: Beardmore Dam – Balonne Shire Council

Overview

- In the last month, most areas of the Condamine–Balonne catchment received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall, with some central and upstream areas near Meandarra and Leslie Dam receiving between 100 and 200 mm. Other areas of the catchment, mainly downstream of Beardmore Dam and St George, received only 25 to 50 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). As a result, the total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 81 mm over the last 30 days. This rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Condamine–Balonne catchment mainly very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- In the last 30 days, root zone soil moisture was below average in areas between Merivale and Redford and areas to the north of Hebel. Except for small eastern and central areas, which had above average conditions, most of the remainder of the Condamine–Balonne catchment has maintained average root zone soil moisture conditions. Recent rainfall has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for high priority entitlements in water supply schemes (WSS) in the Condamine–Balonne catchment opened the 2020–21 water year at 100%. Allocations for medium priority entitlements in the St George WSS are currently 39%, their highest level for this time of year since 2017. However, relatively low storage levels in the Chinchilla and Leslie storages have resulted in medium priority allocations for the Upper Condamine WSS and Chinchilla Weir WSS both currently at 0%, which has occurred three times in the last ten years (Figure 4 and Table 1).

Recent conditions



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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days
(16 Dec to 04 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: Beardmore, Leslie, Chinchilla and Jack Taylor storages as at 01 January 2021

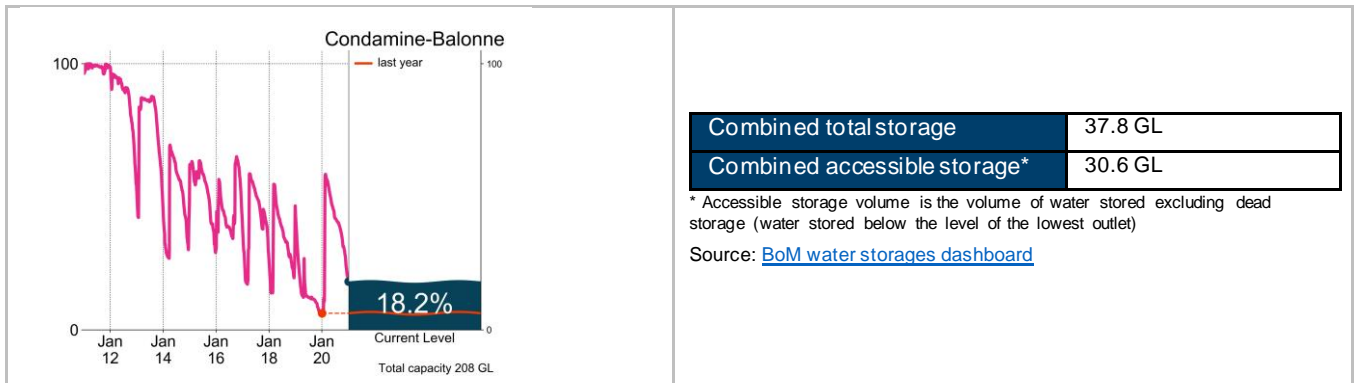


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water in storages for?

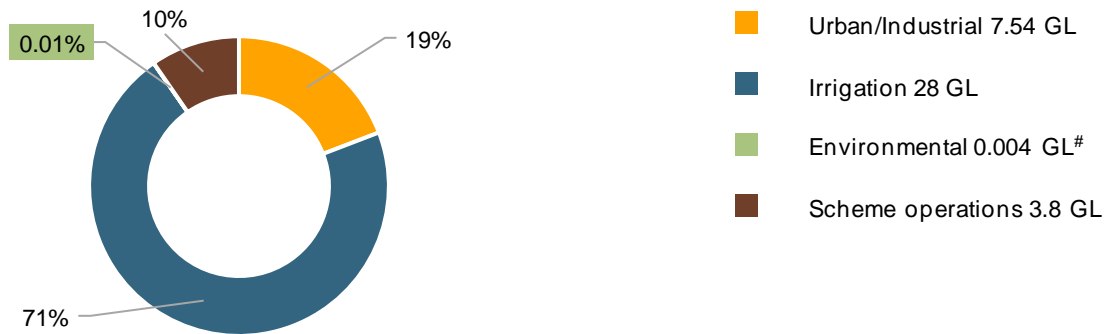


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020–21 water year, supplemented schemes (last updated 1 July 2020)

Environmental allocations represent water allocations held by the CEWO only as at October 2020 and do not include environmental pass flow requirements in the operation of infrastructure throughout the catchment.

Source: [Sunwater](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated in supplemented schemes for various purposes as at 1 July 2020. It does not include unsupplemented entitlements. The information also 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 (%) – selected licence categories (last updated 1 July 2020)

| Licence category | Announced allocation | Historic comparison (same time of year) |
|---|----------------------|---|
| St George WSS Medium Priority (Bulk Share)* | 39% | Highest for this time of year since 2017 |
| Upper Condamine WSS High Priority A & B | 100% | Same as most years |
| Upper Condamine WSS Medium Priority | 0% | Opening allocation of 0% has occurred three times in the last ten years |
| Chinchilla Weir WSS High Priority | 100% | Same as most years |
| Chinchilla Weir WSS Medium Priority | 0% | Opening allocation of 0% has occurred three times in the last ten years |

* Announced Allocation applies to Bulk Share accounts only. The majority of water allocations are managed on a continuous accounting basis (capacity share)

Source: [Sunwater](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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