



# Water Reporting Summary - Murrumbidgee Catchment

17 February 2020



## Overview

- In the last two weeks, there has been significant amounts of rainfall especially in the upstream parts of the Murrumbidgee catchment. Most parts of the catchment received 50 to 200 mm rainfall in the last 30 days, with parts of the Snowy Mountains receiving up to 300 mm. However, some areas did miss out for example, downstream of Hay, which only received 10 to 25 mm. The catchment area-average rainfall was 80 mm (Figure 1). This patchy recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Murrumbidgee catchment mainly being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- With very dry catchment conditions, recent rainfall has not translated into higher inflows and storage volumes with no change in allocation volumes for entitlement holders (Figure 3). Allocations for general security entitlement holders remain at 6%, which is the lowest level for this time of year since 2007-08 (Table 1).

## Recent conditions

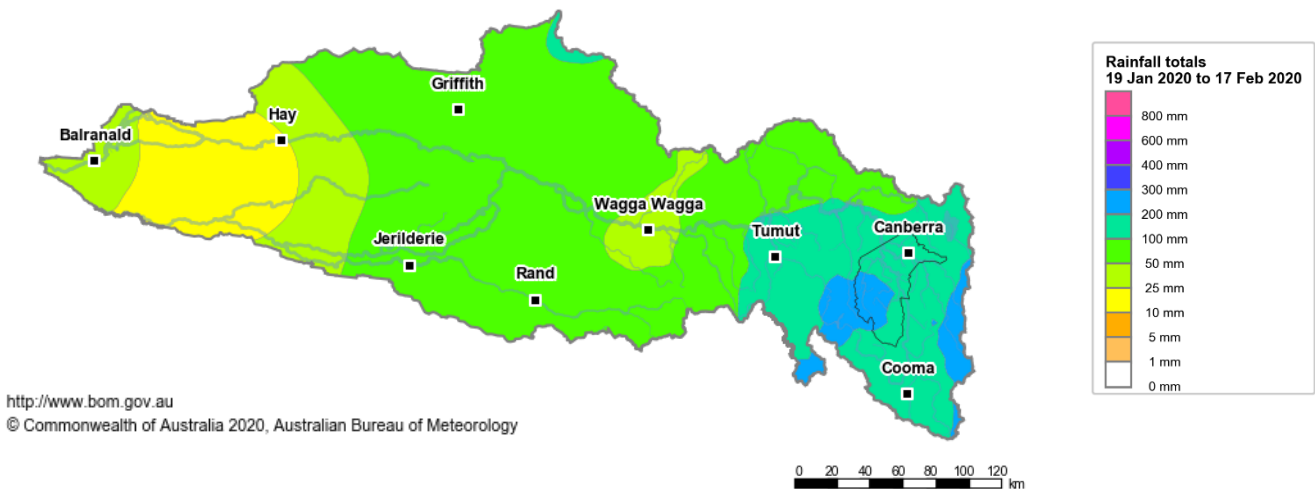


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

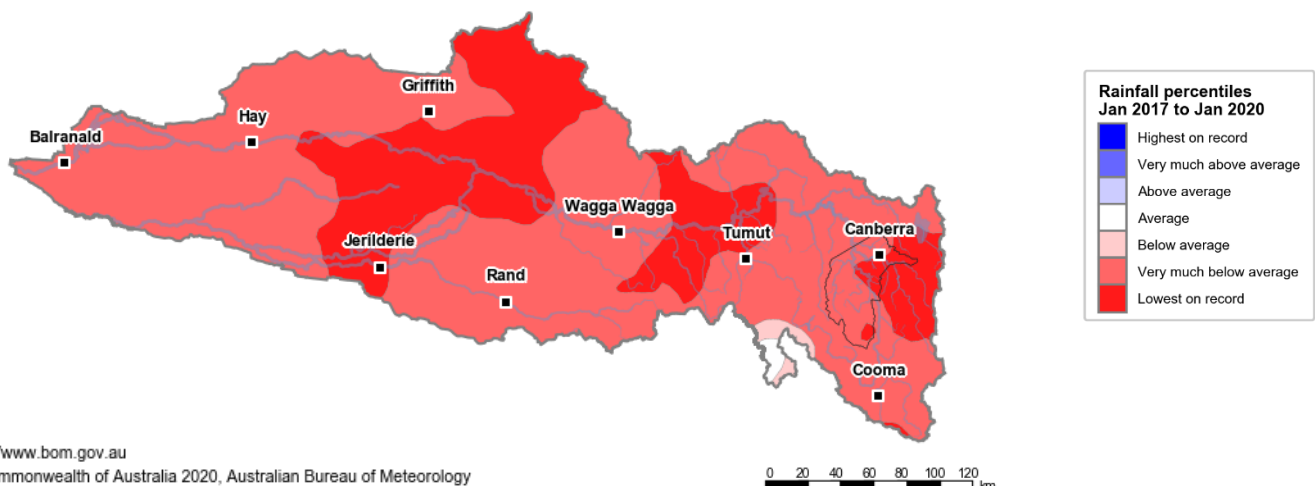


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average). Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

## How much water is in the storages (as at 17 February 2020)?

Storage volume: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages

|                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Combined total storage</b>         | 944 GL |
| <b>Combined accessible storage*</b>   | 917 GL |
| <b>%Full (total storage capacity)</b> | 35%    |
| <b>%Full (same time last year)</b>    | 32%    |

\*Accessible storage volume is the volume of water stored excluding dead storage (water stored below the level of the lowest outlet)

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

## Who is the water for?

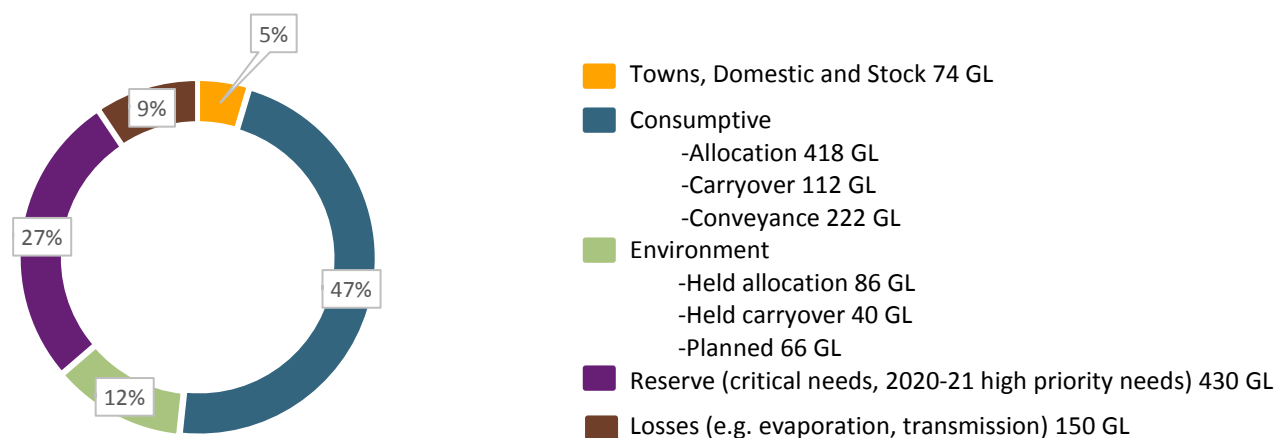


Figure 3: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 17 February 2020)

Source: [Water Allocation Statement- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 17 February 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). Water allocation figures shown here differ to those on WaterNSW's [Water Insights](#), which shows estimated water available over a two-year planning period (2019 to 2021).

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) - Selected licence categories as at 17 February 2020

| NSW Murrumbidgee licence category    | Current announced allocation | Historic comparison (same time of year) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Stock and Domestic                   | 100%                         | Same as most years                      |
| High Security                        | 95%                          | Same as most years                      |
| General Security                     | 6%                           | Lowest since 2007-08                    |
| Average Carryover (General Security) | 8%                           | 13% lower than last year                |

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

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email [water@bom.gov.au](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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