



Water Reporting Summary - NSW Border Rivers Catchment

1 June 2020

Overview

- In the last 30 days, the central and upper parts of the NSW Border Rivers catchment received 25 to 100 mm of rainfall, although the downstream areas around Goondiwindi and Mungindi received less than 25 mm (Figure 1). As a result, the total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 33 mm over the last 30 days. This recent patchy rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the NSW Border Rivers catchment mainly being either very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has helped to maintain soil moisture conditions with above average root zone soil moisture during May. However, this has not translated into significantly higher runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3). As a result, Drought Stage 3 conditions continue for the NSW Border Rivers catchment. For Stage 3, there has been severe water shortages, with water delivery prioritised for essential supplies (NSW DPIE). Consequently, there have been low or no allocations for some entitlement holders and water trading has been limited (Figure 4 and Table 1).
- Announced allocations for general security A and B class entitlements are currently 0%. For this time of year this is unprecedented for class A and has occurred three times in the last ten years for class B.

Recent conditions

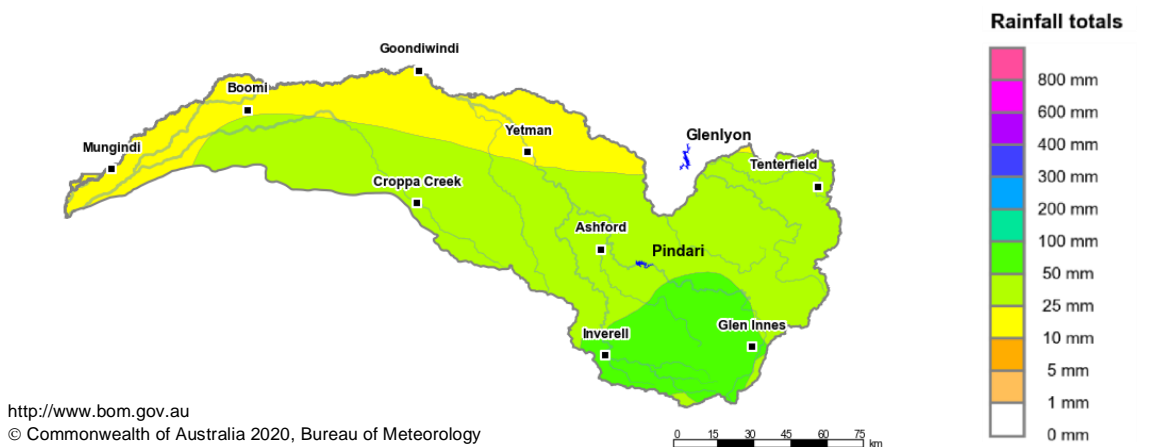


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (3 May to 1 June 2020)

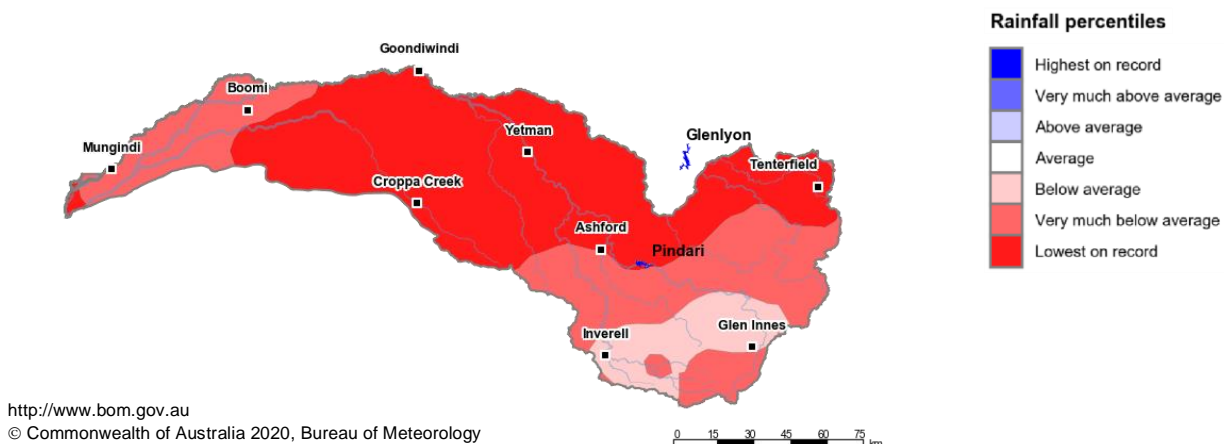


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to May 2020)

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?

Combined total storage (NSW share*): 57 GL (as at 1 June 2020)

*Pindari storage and New South Wales' 57% share of Glenlyon storage

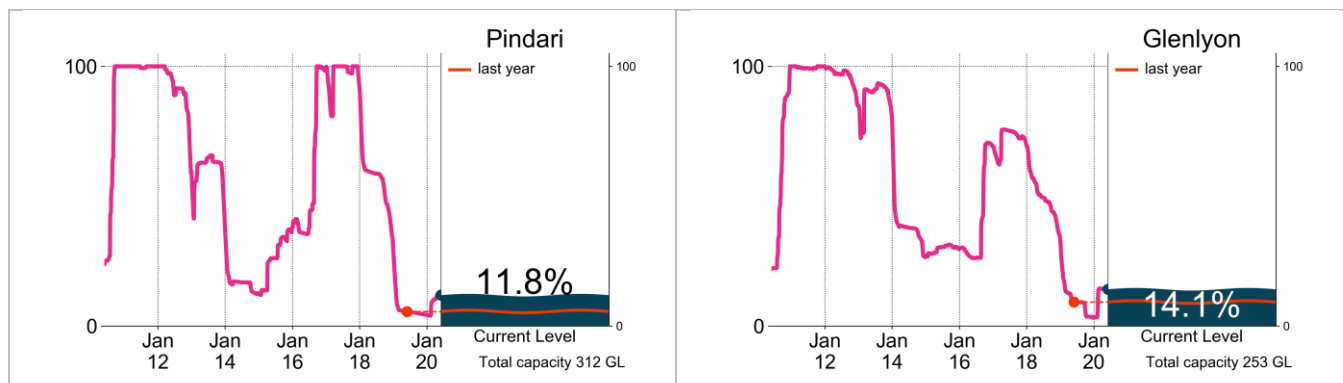


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#) and [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

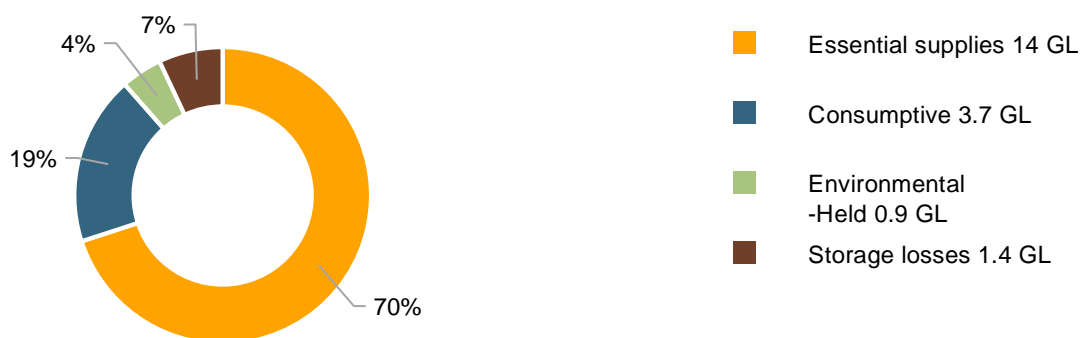


Figure 4: Volumes of water held in accounts for the 2019-20 water year (as at 1 December 2019)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated, but not necessarily available, for various purposes as at 1 December 2019. Due to Drought Stage 3 conditions, the limited available water is being prioritised towards essential supplies. 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 (%) and market prices – Selected licence categories as at 1 June 2020

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement Prices (monthly median)	Allocation Price (median - last 7 days)
Stock & Domestic, Local Utility	100%	Same as most years	n/a	\$400/ML*
NSW Border Rivers High Security	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
NSW Border Rivers General Security - A	0%	Lowest on record (since 2009-10)	n/a	
NSW Border Rivers General Security - B	0%	0% has occurred in three out of the last ten years	n/a	
Average Carryover (General Security)	1% General Security – A 2% General Security – B	3% last year 58% last year	n/a	

*Indicative - limited trade data.

Source: [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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