



Water Reporting Summary - Gwydir Catchment

1 April 2020



Overview

- In the last month, most of the Gwydir catchment received between 50 to 100 mm of rainfall, with up to 200 mm falling in the central parts of the catchment (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 88 mm in the last 30 days. However, this recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Gwydir catchment being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has significantly improved soil moisture conditions, with root zone soil moisture in most of the Gwydir catchment being very much above average or highest 1% on record in the last 30 days. However, the recent wetting of the catchment has not translated into significant levels of runoff, with only minor inflows to Copeton Dam. As a result, Drought Stage 3 conditions continue for the Gwydir catchment. For Stage 3, there has been severe water shortages, with water delivery restricted to high priority demands (NSW DPIE). Consequently, there have been low or no allocations for some entitlement holders (Figure 3 and Table 1).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders are currently 0% which, for this time of year, has occurred four times in the last ten years in the Gwydir.

Recent conditions

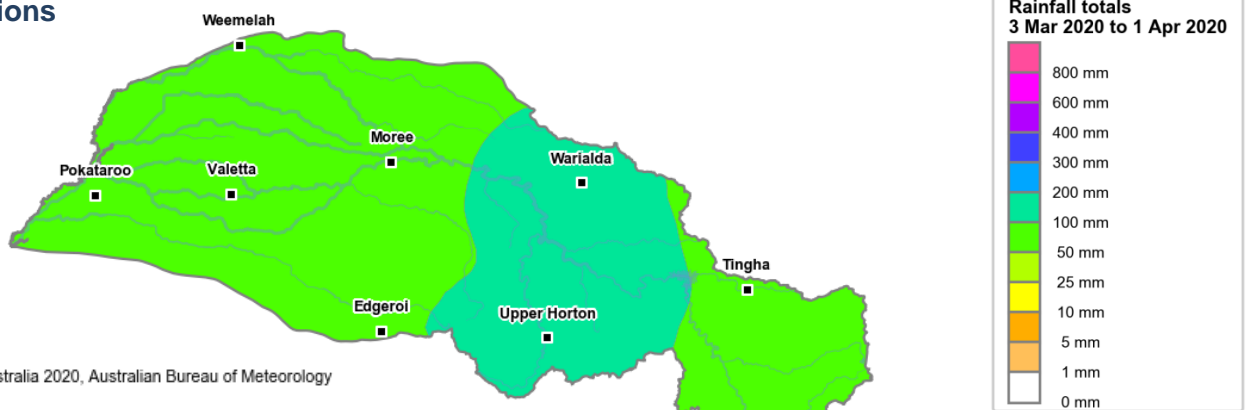


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

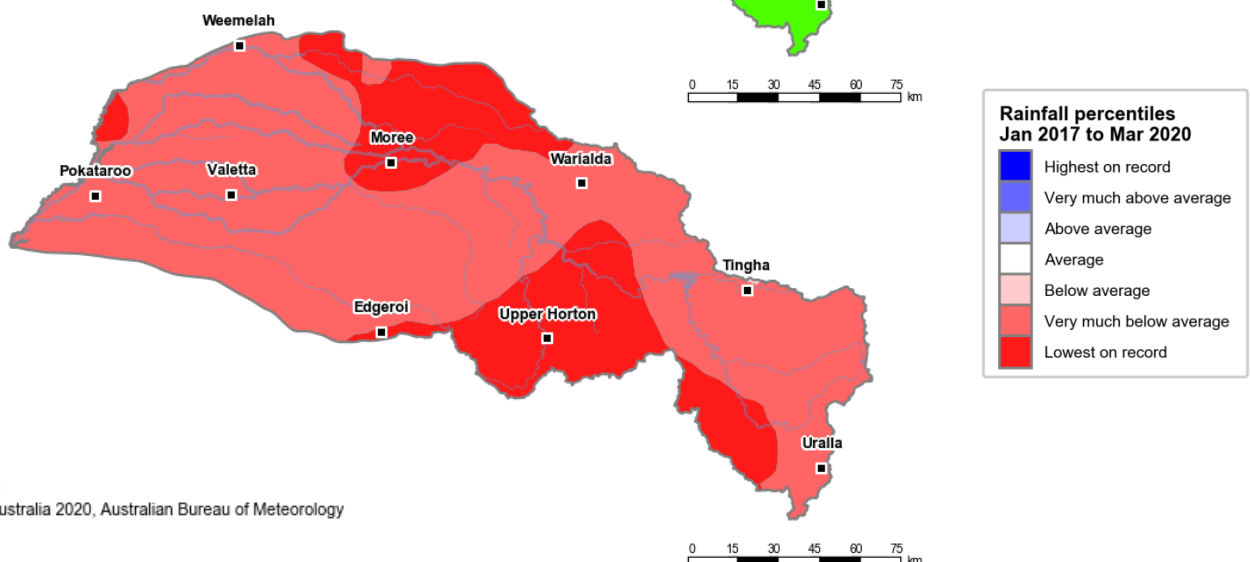


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average). Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages (as at 1 April 2020)?

Storage volume: Copeton storage

Total storage	169 GL
Accessible storage*	150 GL
%Full (total storage capacity)	12%
%Full (same time last year)	13%

*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?

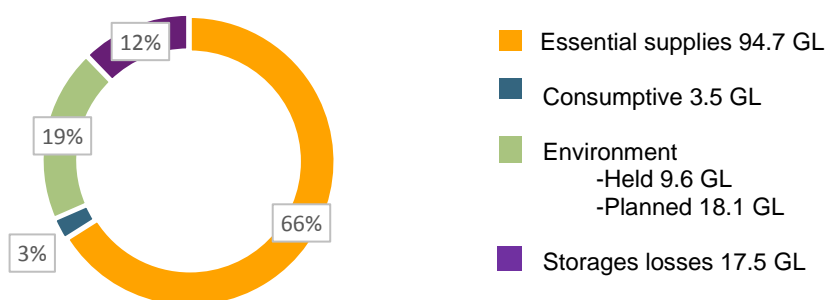


Figure 3: Volumes of water held in accounts for the 2019-20 water year (as at 29 February 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated, but not necessarily available, for various purposes as at 29 February 2020. Due to Drought Stage 3 conditions, the extremely limited available water is being directed towards essential supplies such as critical human needs.

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 1 April 2020

Licence category	Current announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)
Stock & Domestic, Local Utility	100%	Same as most years
Gwydir High Security	100%	Same as most years
Gwydir General Security	0%	Has occurred in four out of the last ten years
Average Carryover (General Security)	3%	22% last year

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

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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