



# Water Reporting Summary - Murrumbidgee Catchment

15 May 2020



## Overview

- In the last 30 days, most parts of the Murrumbidgee catchment received 50 to 100 mm rainfall, with up to 200 mm falling in upstream areas near Blowering Dam. In contrast, areas near Cooma received less than 25 mm (Figure 1). The catchment area-average rainfall was 61 mm (Figure 1). This recent welcome rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Murrumbidgee catchment mainly below average or very much below average (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall since April has improved soil moisture conditions, with root zone soil moisture currently above average in most of the Murrumbidgee catchment. The wetting of the catchment has translated into runoff and inflows into storages, boosting water resources and allowing for a 5% increase in allocation volumes for general security entitlement holders (Figures 3 and 4).
- Allocations for general security entitlement holders are now 11% which, apart from last year, is the lowest level for this time of year since 2004-05 (Table 1). Allocation prices remain relatively high for the time of year (\$310 per ML) due to low water availability but have declined significantly from their peak of \$750 per ML in January 2020 (Table 1).
- For information on 1 July 2020 allocation outlooks, refer to the [Murrumbidgee Water Allocation Statement \(15 May 2020\)](#).

## Recent conditions

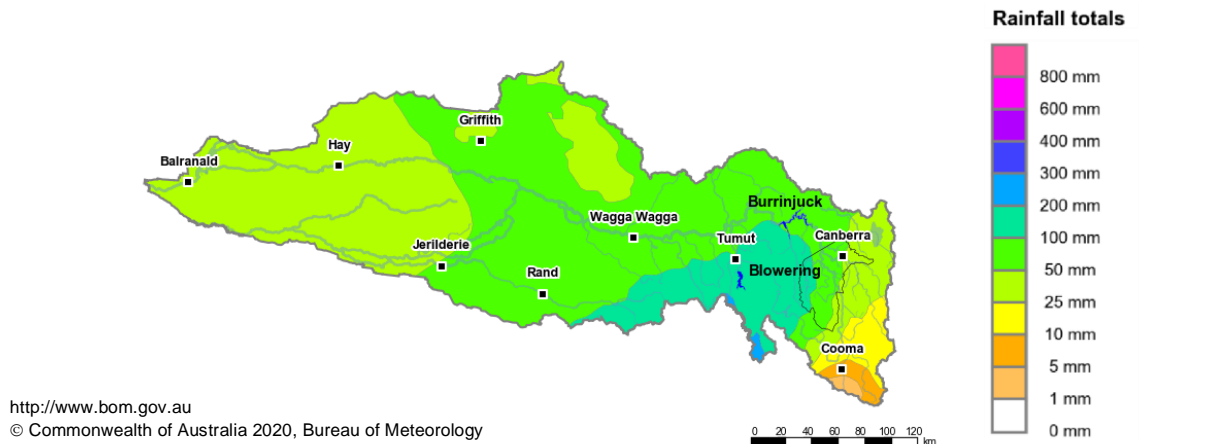


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 April to 15 May 2020)

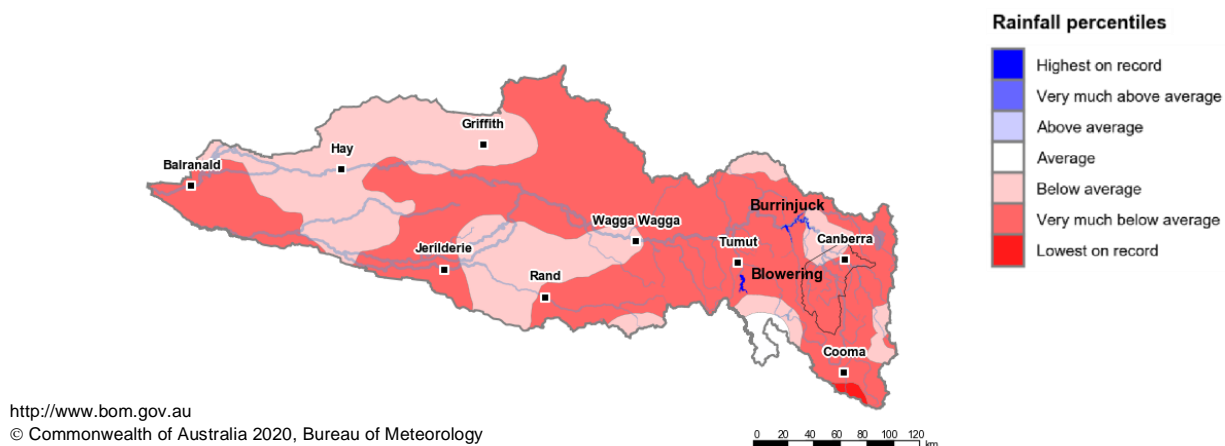


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Apr 2020)

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:** Burrinjuck, Blowering storages as at 15 May 2020

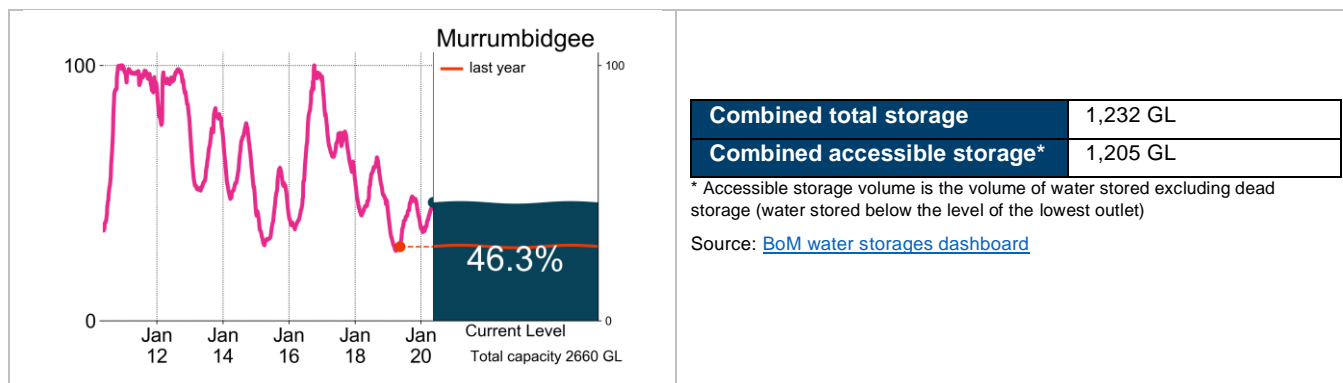


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

## Who is the water for?

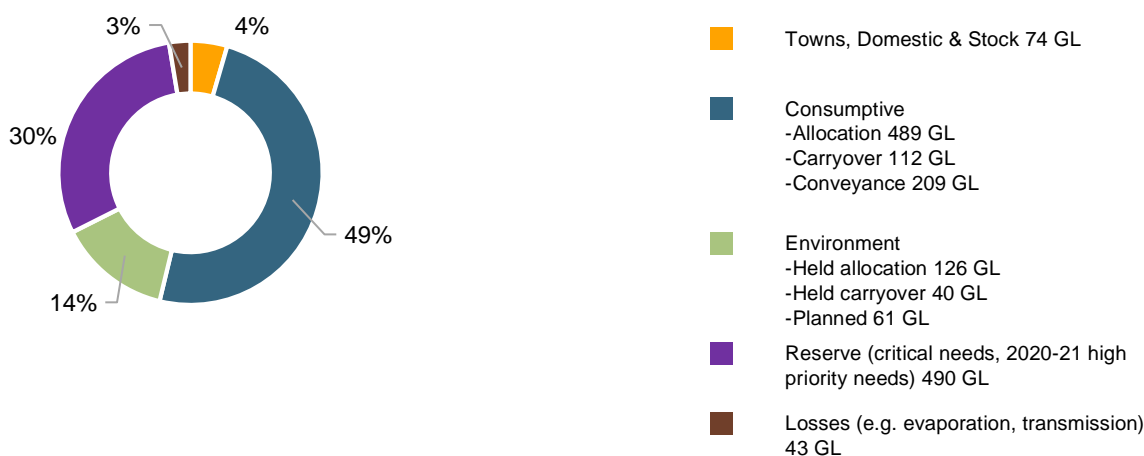


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 15 May 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 15 May 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 (%) and market prices – Selected licence categories as at 15 May 2020

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	\$310/ML
High Security	95%	Same as most years	\$8,000/ML	
General Security	11%	Apart from last year, lowest since 2004-05	\$2,100/ML	
Average Carryover (General Security)	8%	13% lower than last year	n/a	

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](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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