



Water Reporting Summary - Murrumbidgee Catchment

16 March 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, most parts of the Murrumbidgee catchment received 50 to 100 mm rainfall, falling mainly in the first week of March. The ACT region received up to 200 mm but areas around Hay and Balranald only received 10 to 50 mm (Figure 1). The catchment area-average rainfall was 70 mm (Figure 1). This 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).
- For information on 1 July 2020 allocation outlooks, please refer to the [Murrumbidgee Water Allocation Statement \(16 March 2020\)](#).

Recent conditions

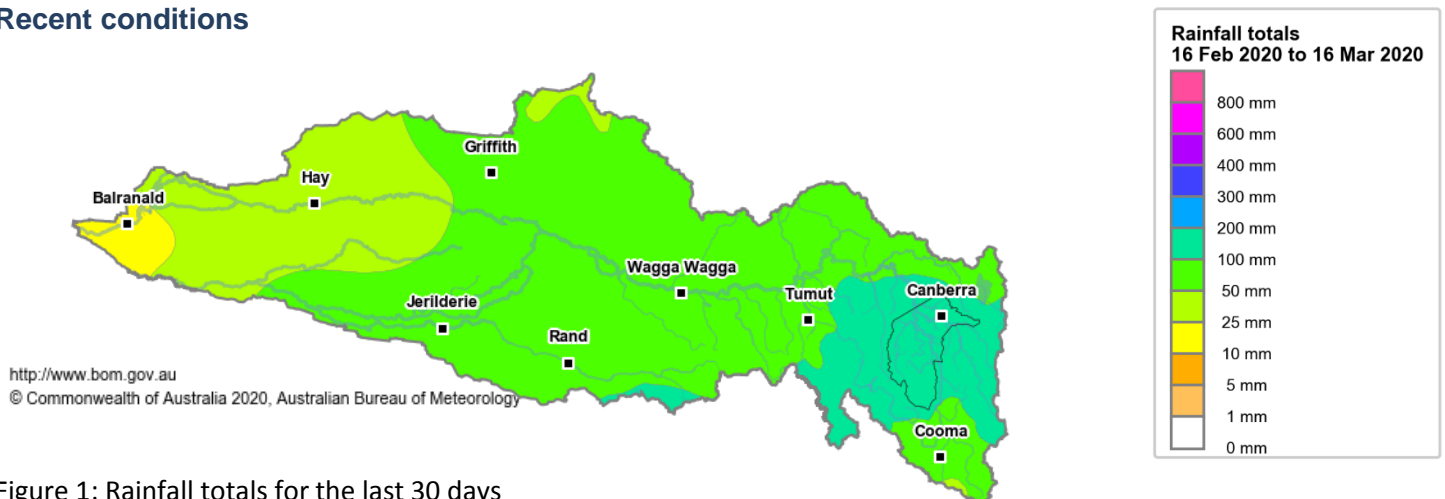


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

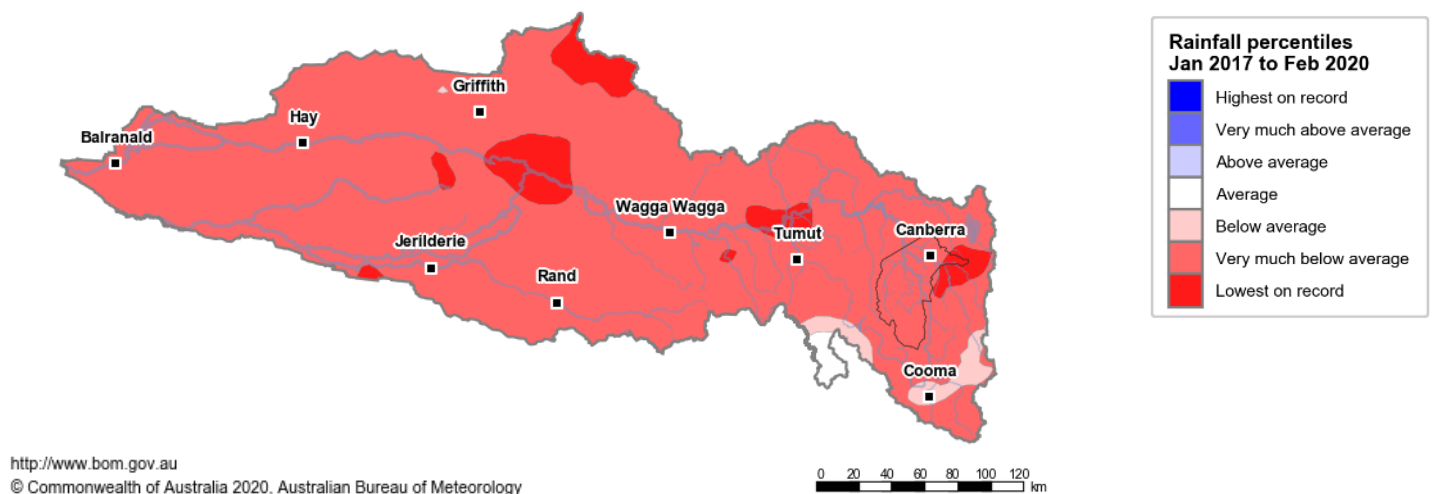


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average). Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages (as at 16 March 2020)?

Storage volume: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages

Combined total storage	1,042 GL
Combined accessible storage*	1,014 GL
%Full (total storage capacity)	39%
%Full (same time last year)	28%

*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?

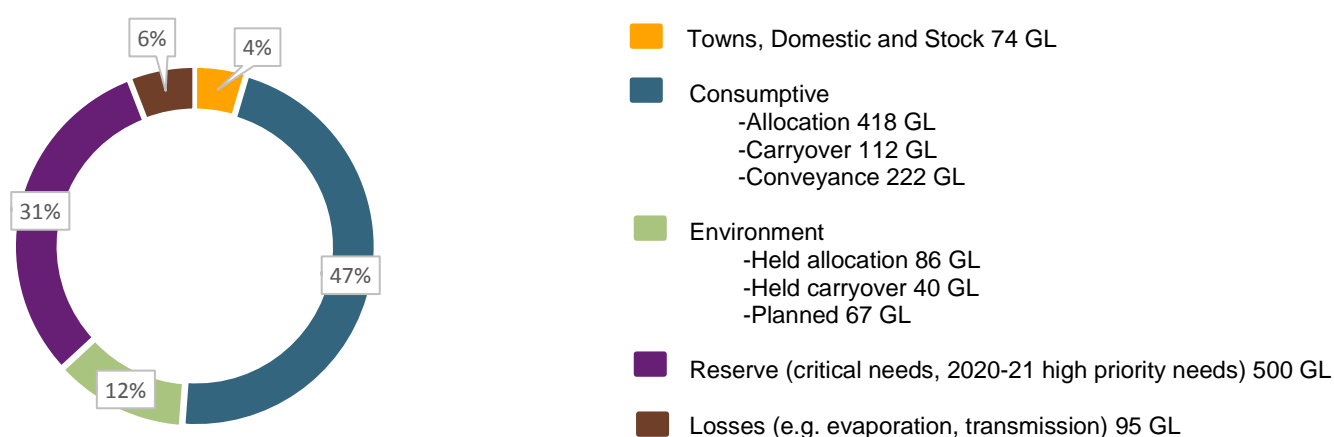


Figure 3: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 16 March 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 16 March 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 16 March 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](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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