



Water Reporting Summary - Murrumbidgee Catchment

1 April 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 71 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 (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has improved soil moisture conditions, with root zone soil moisture being above average or very much above average in most of Murrumbidgee catchment in the last month. However, the recent rainfall has not translated into significantly higher runoff and inflows into storages, 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

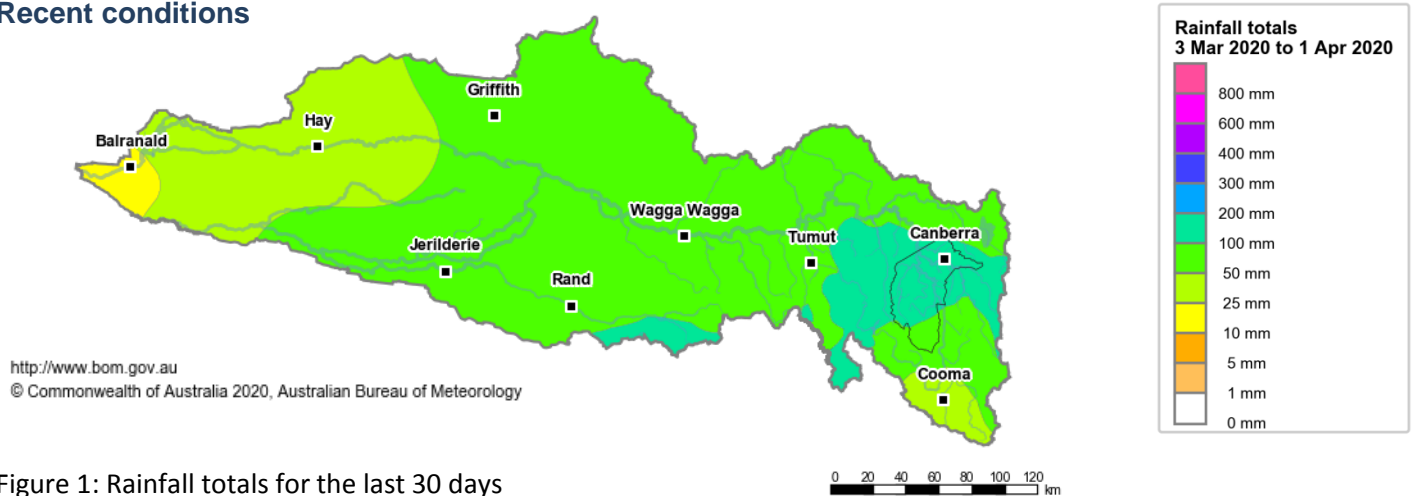


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

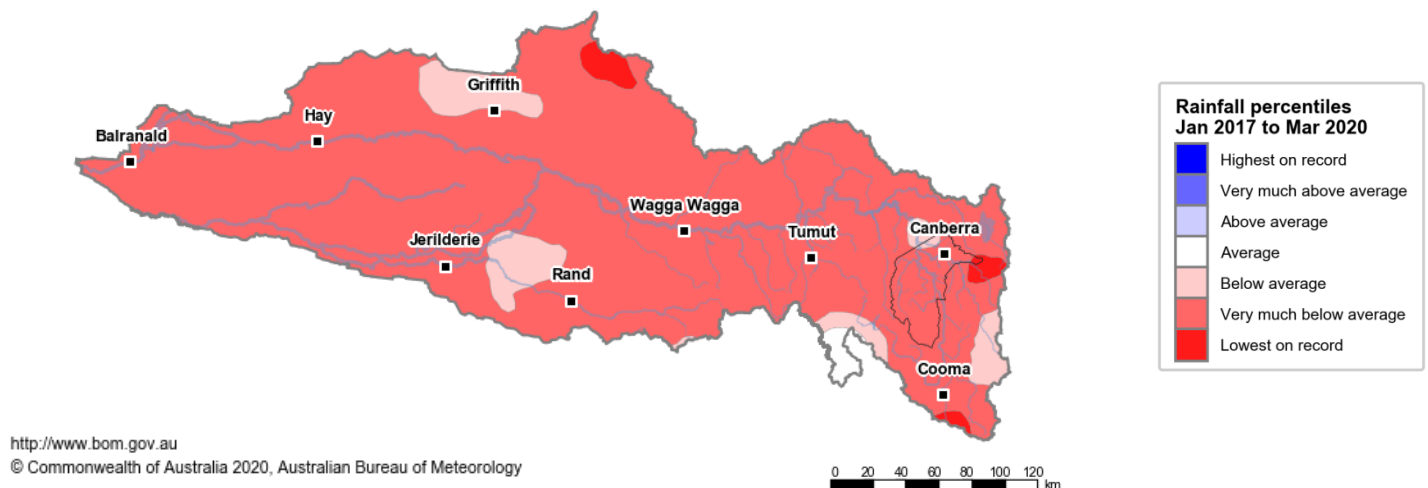


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average). Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

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

Storage volume: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Combined total storage | 1,091 GL |
| Combined accessible storage* | 1,064 GL |
| %Full (total storage capacity) | 41% |
| %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?

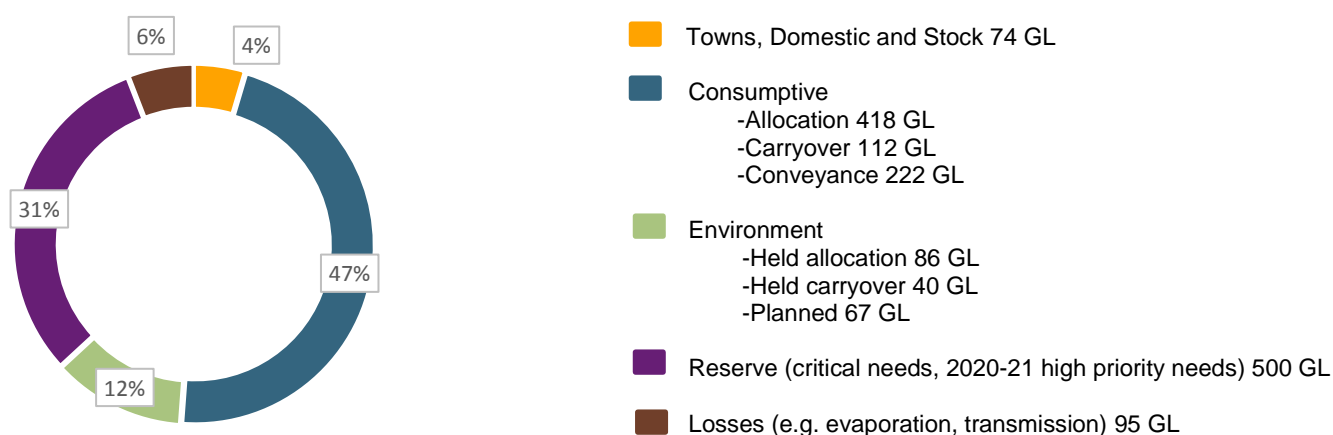


Figure 3: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 16 March 2020)

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 1 April 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



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