



Water Reporting Summary - Murrumbidgee Catchment

1 June 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, most of the Murrumbidgee catchment received 5 to 25 mm rainfall, with upstream areas near Blowering Dam receiving up to 50 mm. In contrast, some downstream parts of the catchment near Hay received less than 5 mm (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 13 mm. This recent patchy 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).
- Root zone soil moisture was above average in most of the Murrumbidgee catchment during May, however, the patchy rainfall over the last month did not translate into significant inflows into storages (Figures 3).
- Allocations for general security entitlement holders remain at 11% which, apart from last year, is the lowest level for this time of year since 2004-05 (Figure 4 and Table 1). As the end of the water year nears, allocation prices have declined significantly (currently \$260 per ML) compared to 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

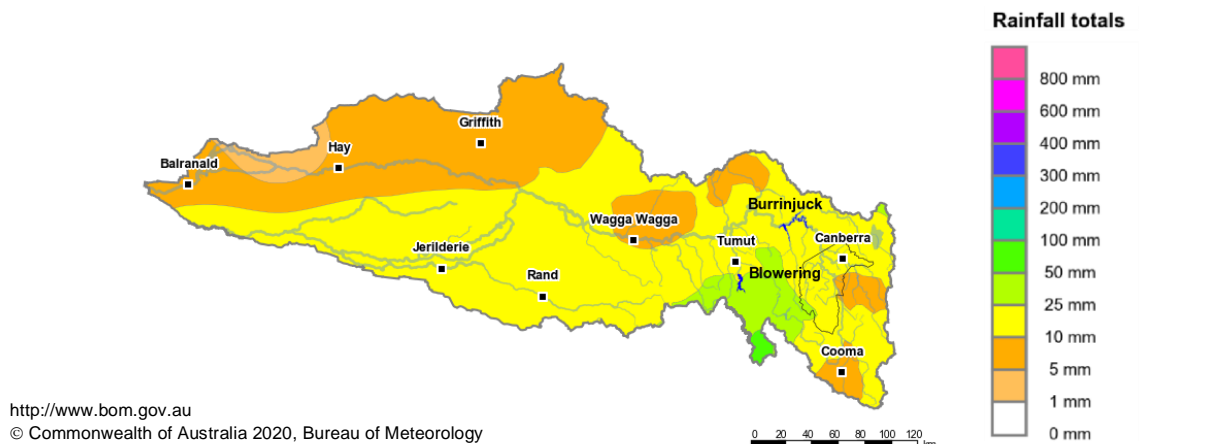


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (3 May to 1 June 2020)

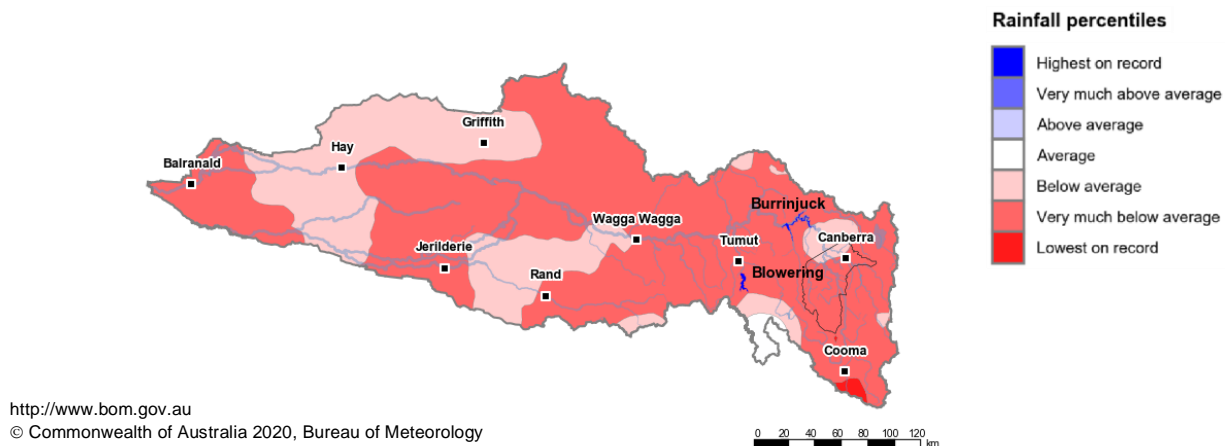


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to May 2020)

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?

Storage volume: Burrinjuck, Blowering storages as at 1 June 2020

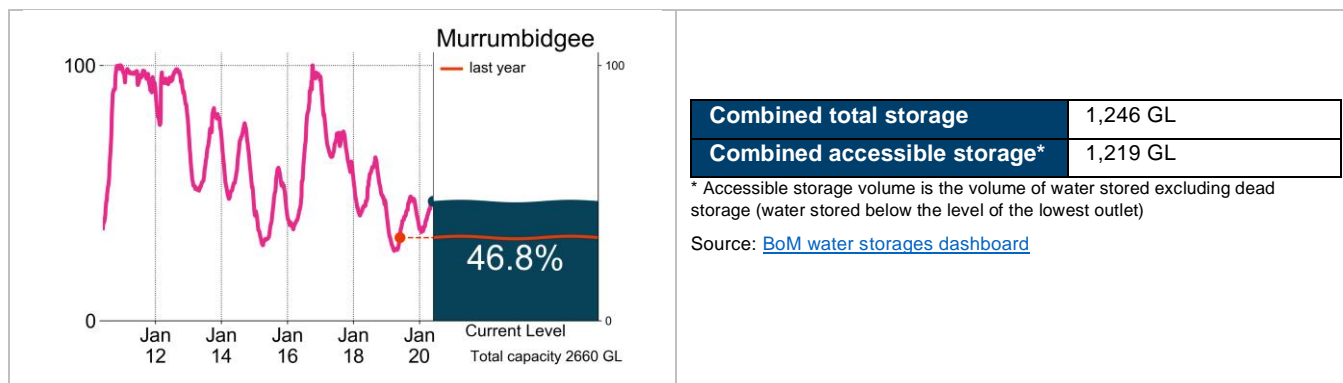


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Who is the water for?

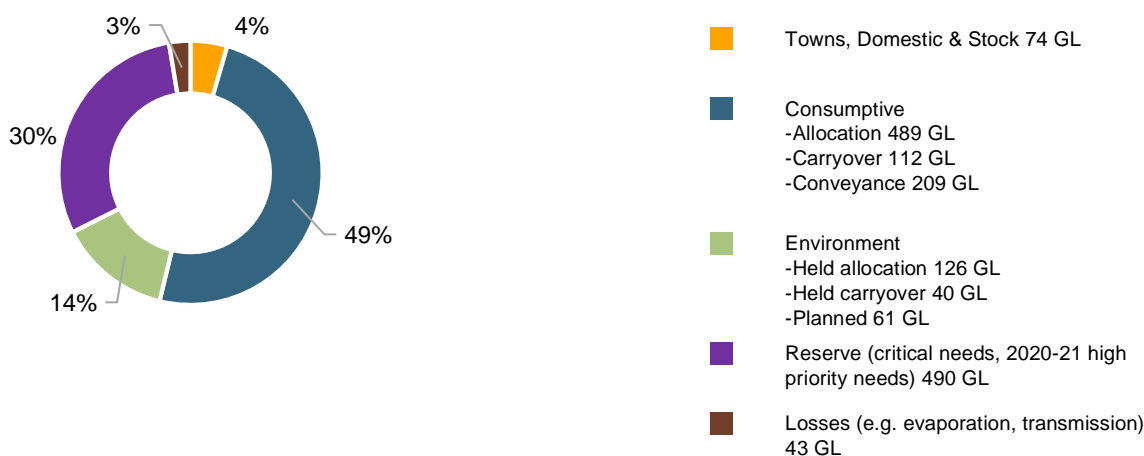


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 15 May 2020)

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 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	100%	Same as most years	n/a	\$260/ML
High Security	95%	Same as most years	\$7,900/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



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