



Water Reporting Summary - Murrumbidgee Catchment

1 May 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, most parts of the Murrumbidgee catchment received 50 to 200 mm rainfall, with up to 300 mm falling in some upstream areas near Blowering Dam. In contrast, areas near Cooma received less than 25 mm (Figure 1). The catchment area-average rainfall was 102 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 being below average or 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 the Murrumbidgee catchment during April. There has been some very recent runoff and inflows into storages, but as this occurred after the most recent resource assessment by NSW DPIE, there has been no change in allocation volumes for entitlement holders (Figures 3 and 4).
- Allocations for general security entitlement holders remain at 6%, which is the lowest level for this time of year since 2007-08 (Table 1). Allocation prices remain historically high (\$400 per ML) due to relatively low water availability but have eased from their peak of over \$750 per ML in January 2020 (Table 1).
- For information on 1 July 2020 allocation outlooks, refer to the [Murrumbidgee Water Allocation Statement \(15 April 2020\)](#). The next allocation outlook is due on 15 May 2020.

Recent conditions

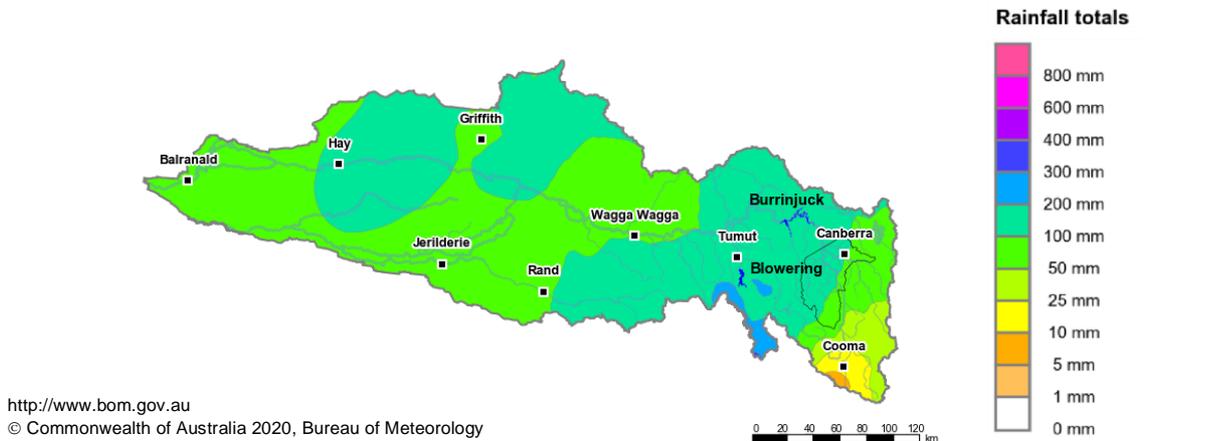


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (2 April to 1 May 2020)

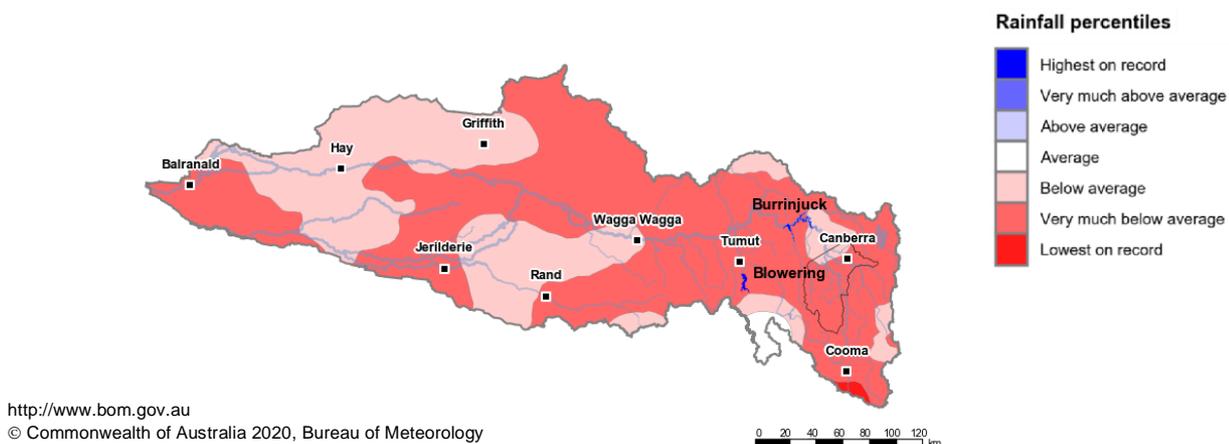


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Apr 2020)

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 1 May 2020

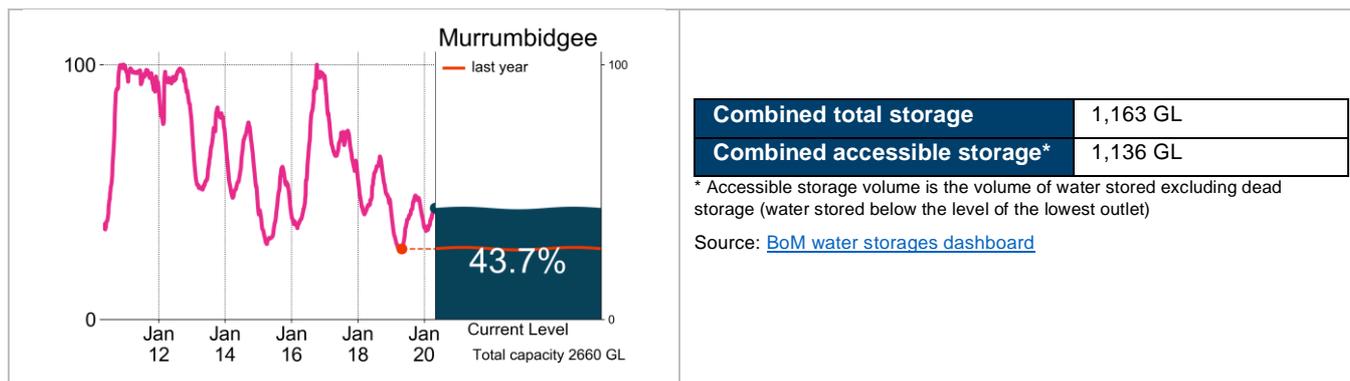


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Who is the water for?

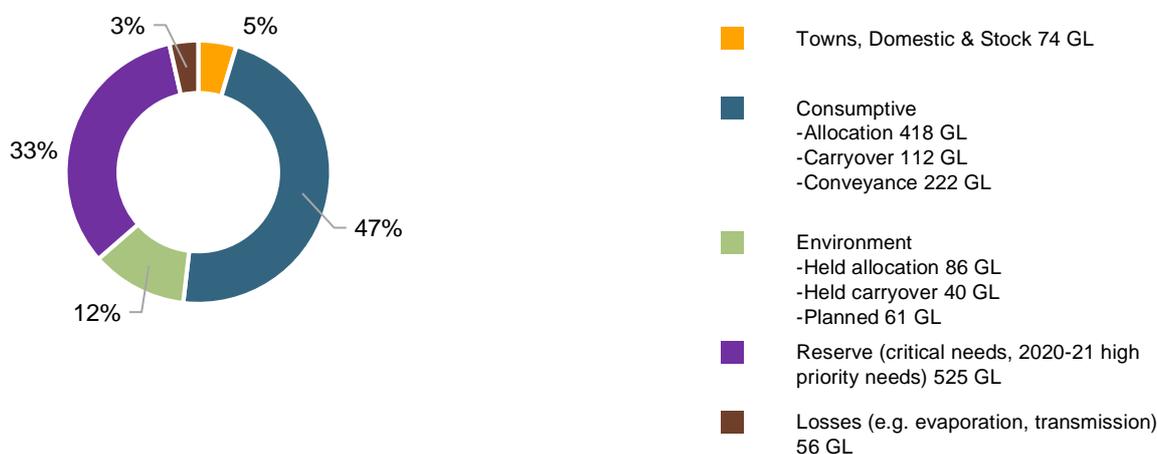


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 1 May 2020)

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 1 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 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	\$400/ML
High Security	95%	Same as most years	\$8,000/ML	
General Security	6%	Lowest since 2007-08	\$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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