



Water Reporting Summary - Queensland Border Rivers Catchment

17 August 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, most of the downstream parts of the Qld Border Rivers catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall with the upstream parts of the catchment receiving 50 to 100 mm of rainfall. A small area near Coolmunda Dam received up to 200 mm (Figure 1). As a result, the total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 53 mm over the last 30 days. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the majority of the Qld Border Rivers catchment being lowest on record (Figure 2).
- With welcome rain in the last month, soils have maintained an average root zone soil moisture for the downstream parts of the catchment and above average soil moisture for upstream parts of the catchment for August to date. However, recent rainfall has not translated into significant runoff and inflows into storages in the last 30 days (Figure 3). Low storage volumes have resulted in allocations to bulk share medium priority entitlement holders in the Macintyre Brook Water Supply Scheme (WSS) and the Border River WSS being low or zero (Figure 4).
- Announced allocations for bulk share medium priority entitlements in the Macintyre Brook Water Supply Schemes were 0% as at 1 July 2020. For the time of year, 0% allocations have occurred twice in the last ten years. For the Border Rivers Water Supply Scheme, the announced allocation equivalent for medium priority allocations was 4% (as at 30 June 2020) which, for the time of year, was the lowest in the last ten years (Table 1).

Recent conditions

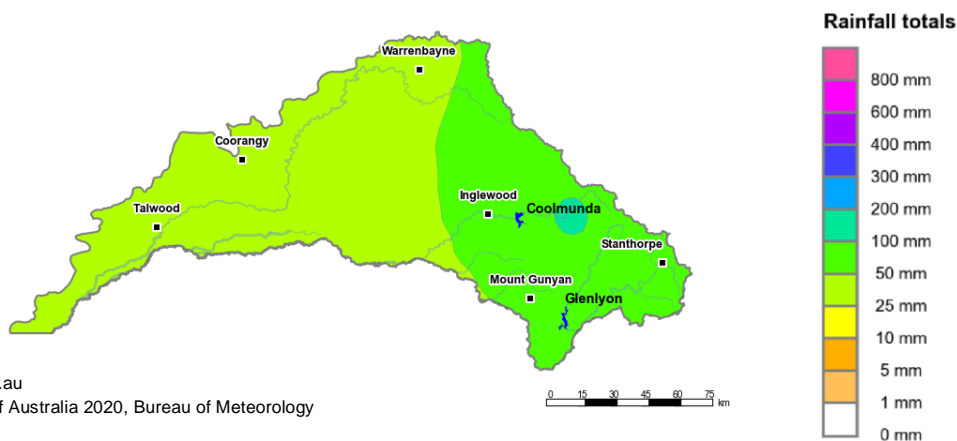


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (19 July to 17 Aug 2020)

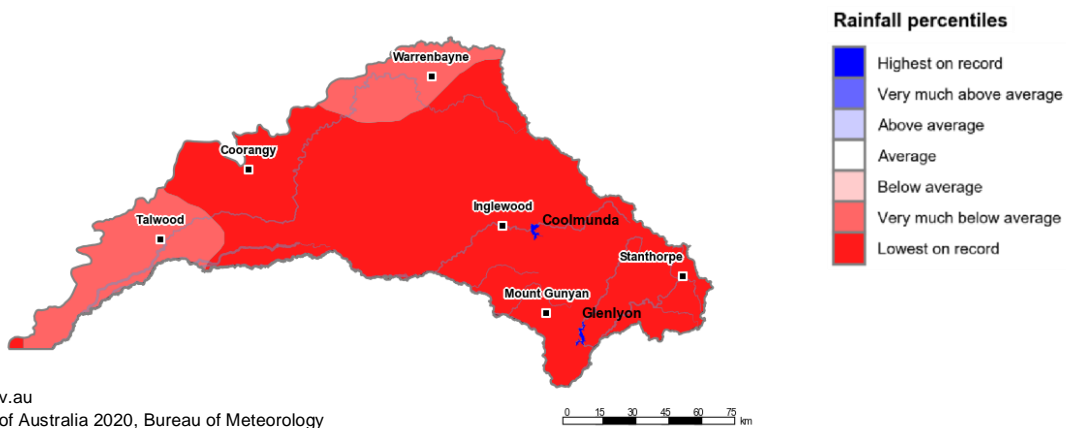


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to July 2020)

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?

Combined total storage (Qld share*): 51 GL (as at 17 August 2020)

*Coolmunda storage and Queensland's 43% share of Glenlyon storage

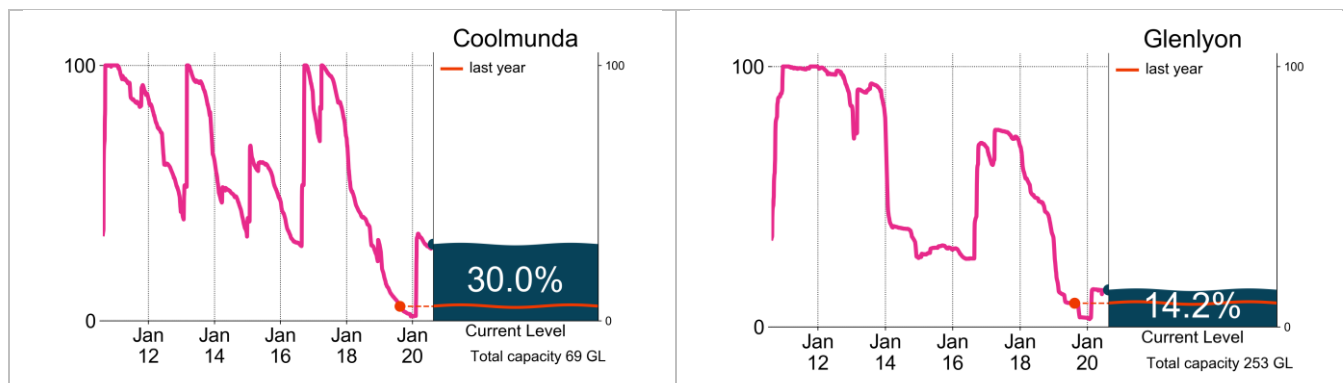


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

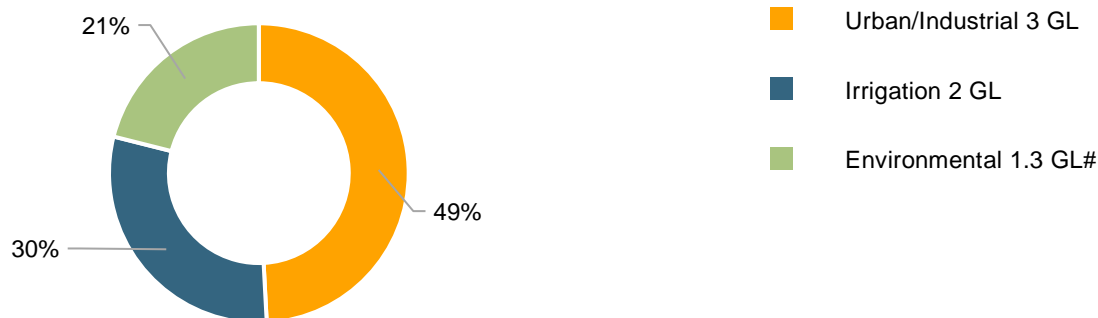


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020-21 water year (updated 30 June and 1 July 2020)

Source: DNRME, [Sunwater](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

Environmental allocations represent water allocations held by the CEWO only as at 31 May 2020 and do not include environmental pass flow requirements in the operation of infrastructure throughout the catchment

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes in supplemented water supply scheme bulk share updated on 30 June and 1 July 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).

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) and market prices – Selected licence categories as at 30 June and 1 July 2020

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement Prices (monthly median)	Allocation Price (median - last 7 days)
Macintyre Brook WSS High Priority (Bulk Share)*	100%	Same as most years	n/a	n/a
Macintyre Brook WSS Medium Priority (Bulk Share)*	0%	0% has occurred twice for this time of year in the last ten years	n/a	
Border River WSS High Priority#	100% (last updated 30 June)	Same as most years	n/a	
Border River WSS Medium Priority#	4% (last updated 30 June)	Lowest in the last ten years	n/a	

Source: DNRME, [Sunwater](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

* Announced Allocation applies to Bulk Share accounts only. The majority of water allocations are managed on a continuous accounting basis (capacity share)

Announced allocation equivalent based on account balances at the start of the water year and resource distributions throughout the water year.

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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