



Water Reporting Summary - Queensland Border Rivers Catchment

3 August 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, most of the central and downstream parts of the Qld Border Rivers catchment received less than 25 mm of rainfall with the centre of the catchment receiving less than 10 mm of rainfall. In contrast, most of the upstream parts of the catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rain (Figure 1). As a result, the total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 20 mm over the last 30 days. This patchy 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 limited rain in the last month, soils have continued to dry out with average root zone soil moisture across the catchment during July. This follows significant rainfall and above average root zone soil moisture during February and March. The drying of the catchment has reduced runoff and inflows into storages over the past 30 days (Figure 3). However, inflows into most storages during February and March boosted water resources allowing increased end of water year allocations for water users in the Border Rivers water supply scheme (WSS) and the Macintyre Brook WSS (Figure 4).
- Announced allocations for bulk share medium priority entitlements in the Macintyre Brook WSS were 19% as at 30 June 2020. For the Border Rivers WSS, 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). Updated allocation announcements are expected during August 2020.

Recent conditions

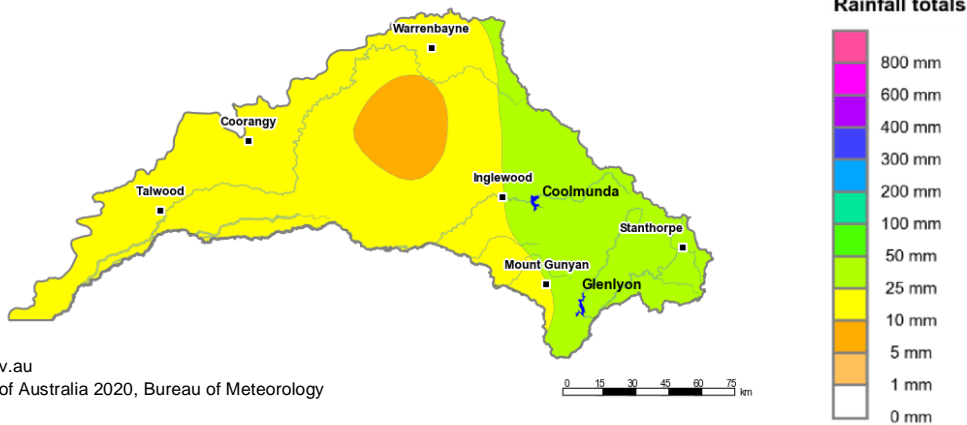


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (5 July to 3 Aug 2020)

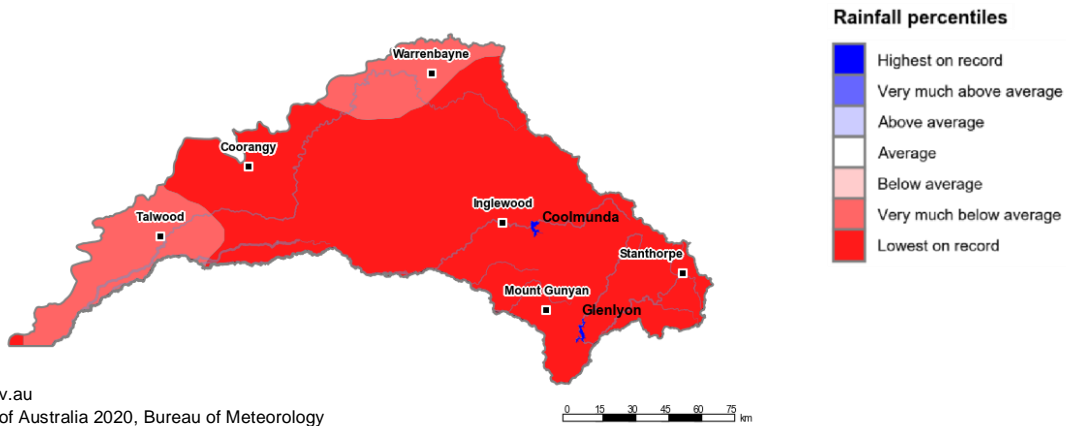


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to July 2020)

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*): 50GL (as at 3 August 2020)

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

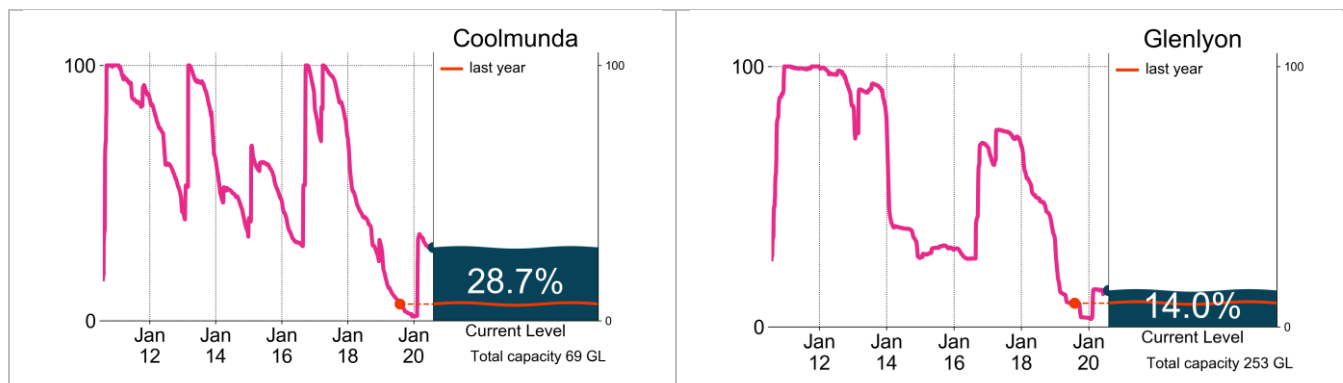


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

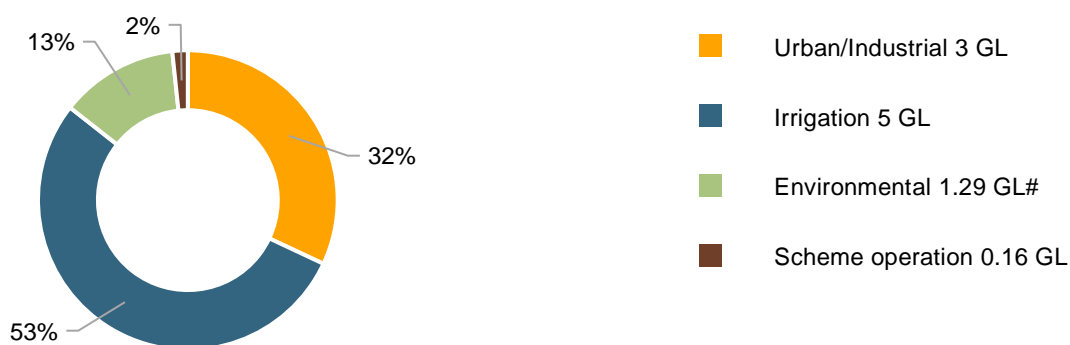


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 30 June 2020)

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

Environmental allocations represent water allocations held by the CEWO only 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 as at 30 June 2020 in supplemented water supply scheme bulk share. 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 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)*	19%	Lowest in the last ten years	n/a	
Border River WSS High Priority#	100%	Same as most years	n/a	
Border River WSS Medium Priority#	4%	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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