



Water Reporting Summary - Condamine - Balonne Catchment

1 July 2020

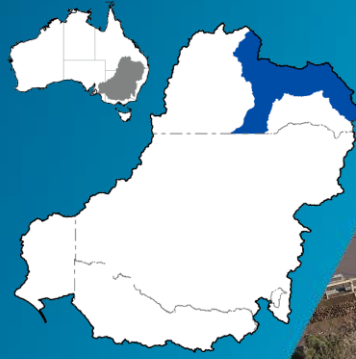
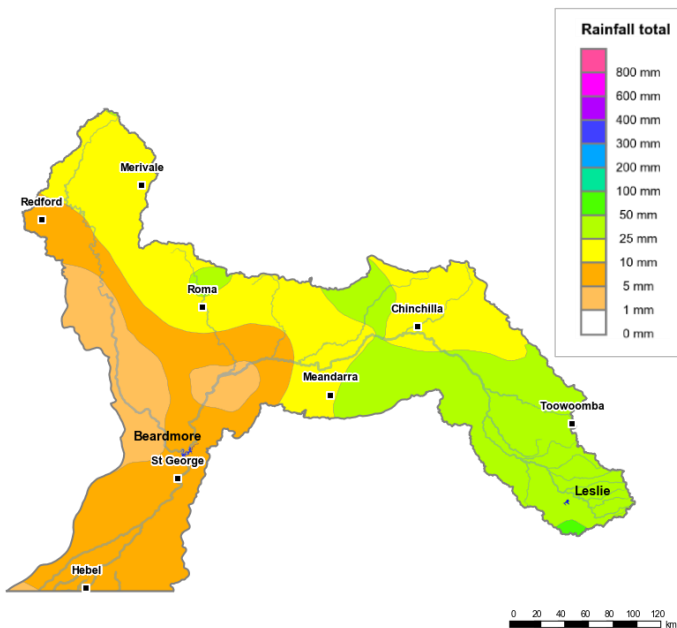


Photo: Beardmore Dam – Balonne Shire Council

Overview

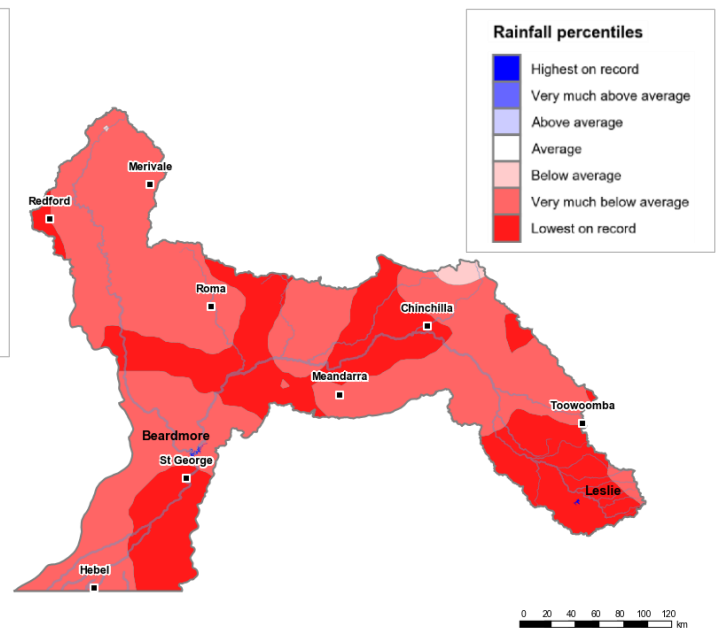
- In the last 30 days, most of the Condamine-Balonne catchment received 10 to 50 mm rainfall, with some areas near St George receiving less than 5 mm (Figure 1). As a result, the total area-average rainfall across the catchment was 16 mm over the last 30 days. This patchy rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Condamine-Balonne catchment mainly either very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- With only patchy recent rainfall, root zone soil moisture was average in most of the Condamine-Balonne during June. Soils have continued to dry out following significant rainfall, flooding and very wet soils in February and March. The drying 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 the 2019-20 water year to finish with full allocations to most supplemented (or water supply scheme) entitlement holders in the Condamine-Balonne. An exception has been the Upper Condamine scheme, where low storage levels in Leslie Dam have resulted in lower allocations (Figure 4 and Table 1).
- Announced allocations for high priority entitlements in water supply schemes (WSS) in the Condamine-Balonne catchment were 100% as at 30 June 2020. Medium priority allocations for the St George WSS also ended the water year at 100% but for the Upper Condamine WSS, medium priority allocations were 20% which was the third lowest end of water year in the last ten years (Table 1).
- New allocation announcements to start the 2020-21 water year are due in early July 2020 (Sunwater).

Recent conditions



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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days
(2 June to 1 July 2020)



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Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to June 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: Beardmore, Leslie, Chinchilla and Jack Taylor storages as at 1 July 2020

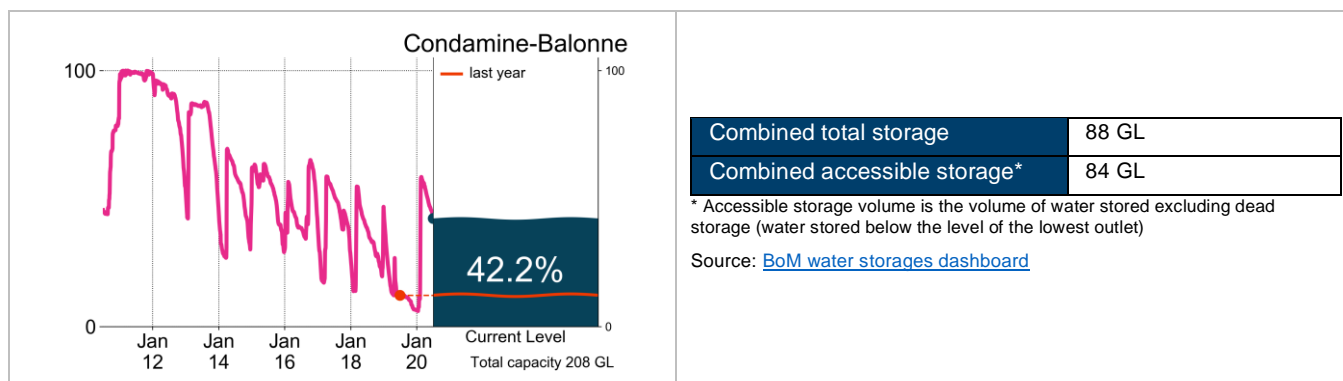


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water in storages for?

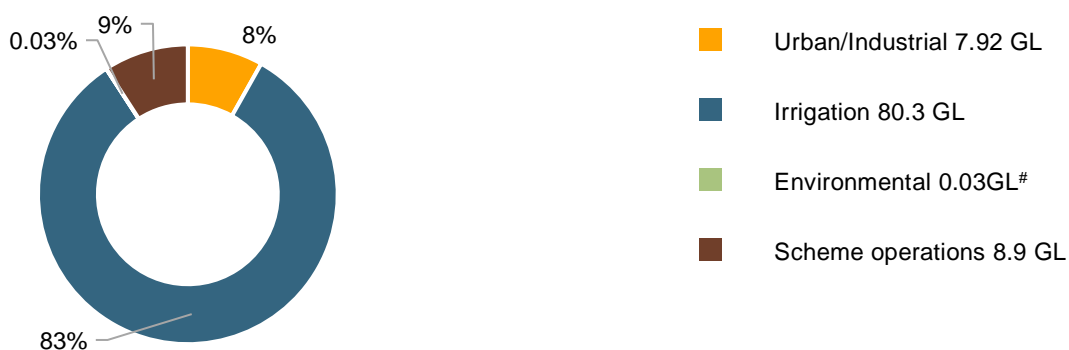


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year, supplemented schemes (as at 30 Jun 2020)
Environmental allocations represent water allocations held by the CEWO only and do not include environmental pass flow requirements in the operation of infrastructure throughout the catchment.

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

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated in supplemented schemes for various purposes as at 30 June 2020. It does not include unsupplemented entitlements. The information also 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 (%) – Selected licence categories as at 30 June 2020

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)
St George WSS Medium Priority (Bulk Share)*	100%	Occurred in five out of the last ten years
Upper Condamine WSS High Priority A & B	100%	Same as most years
Upper Condamine WSS Medium Priority	20%	Third lowest in the last ten years
Chinchilla Weir WSS High Priority	100%	Same as most years
Chinchilla Weir WSS Medium Priority	100%	Occurred nine out of the last ten years

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

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

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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