



Water Reporting Summary - NSW Murray and Lower Darling Catchments

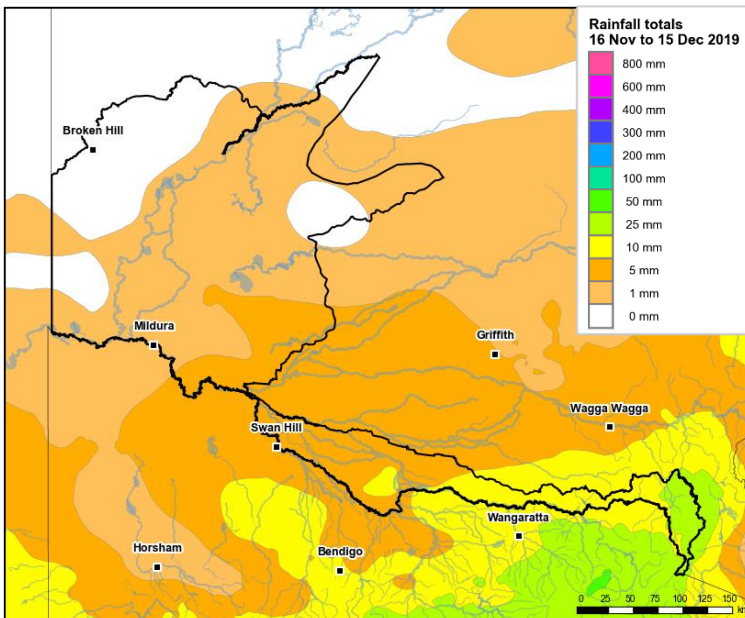
16 December 2019



Overview

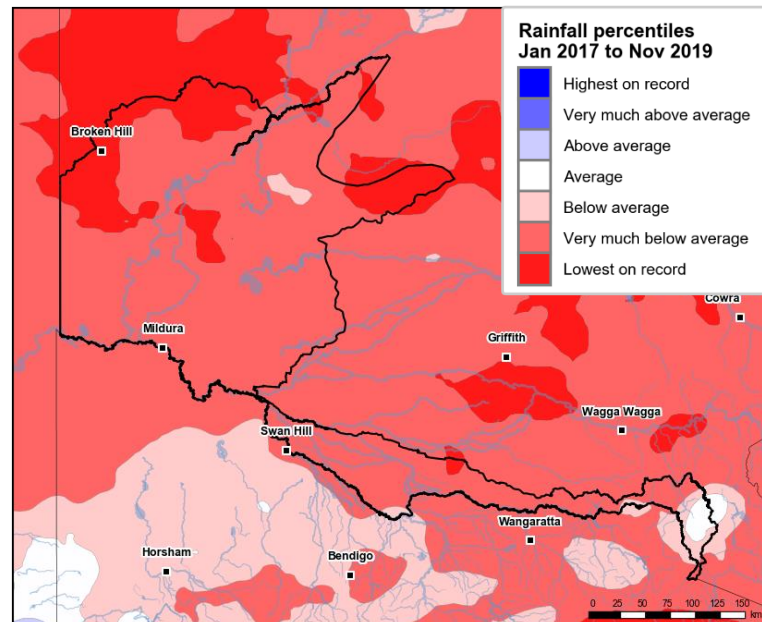
- The upper region of the NSW Murray catchment received some rainfall in the last 30 days, while much of the lower NSW Murray and Lower Darling received little or no rainfall (area-average rainfall for the catchment was 4 mm) (Figure 1). This is in the context of an extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the NSW Murray being very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- Low storage volumes and inflows have led to Drought Stage 2 and 4 conditions in the NSW Murray and Lower Darling catchments, respectively, with low to no allocations for some entitlement holders (Figure 3 and Table 1). In Drought Stage 2 (Emerging drought), there has been limited water resources and multiple years of low flows. For Stage 4, there has been extremely low water resources and extreme drought with restrictions in place to manage remaining resources to meet critical human needs (NSW DPIE).
- Announced allocations for general security entitlement holders are currently 0%, which, for this time of year, has only occurred for two out of the last ten years for the NSW Murray and three out of the last ten years for the Lower Darling.

Recent conditions



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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days



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Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017

(Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average)

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 (NSW share*): 1,435 GL (as at end Nov 2019)

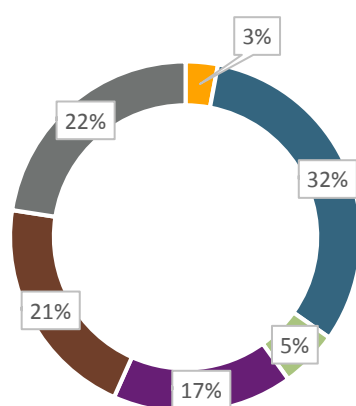
*New South Wales' share of Dartmouth, Hume, Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes storages

Source: [MDBA](#)

Storage	% Full (total storage capacity as at 15/12/2019)	% Full (same time last year)
Dartmouth	53%	72%
Hume	32%	41%
Lake Victoria	74%	82%
Menindee Lakes	<1%	5%

Source: *BoM water storages dashboard*

Who is the water for?



- Towns, Domestic and Stock 58 GL
- Consumptive
 - Allocation 160 GL
 - Carryover 264 GL
 - Conveyance 197 GL
- Environment
 - Held allocation 47 GL
 - Held carryover 36 GL
 - Planned 21 GL
- Reserve (critical needs, 2020-21 high priority needs, MDB agreement) 325 GL
- Losses (e.g. evaporation, transmission) 406 GL
- Other (SA entitlement/dilution flow) 441 GL

Figure 3: Volumes of water allocated for the 2019-20 water year (as at 16 December 2019)

Source: [Water Allocation Statement- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#)

NB: Allocation information shown here is water allocated for various purposes as at 16 December 2019. 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 (%) - Selected licence categories as at 16 December 2019

Licence category	Current announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)
Stock and Domestic	100%	Same as most years
NSW Murray High Security	97%	Same as most years
Lower Darling High Security	30%	Lowest since 2007
NSW Murray General Security	0%	With carryover, lowest available water since 2009
Lower Darling General Security	0%	Has only occurred in three out of the last ten years
Average Carryover (General Security)	19% (NSW Murray) 18% (Lower Darling)	32% last year (NSW Murray) 15% last year (Lower Darling)

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

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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