

## WATER NSW – Water Availability Report

### Overview

WaterNSW manages and operates 42 dams and storages to deliver water for environmental, domestic, town water, stock, industrial and irrigation purposes across the state.

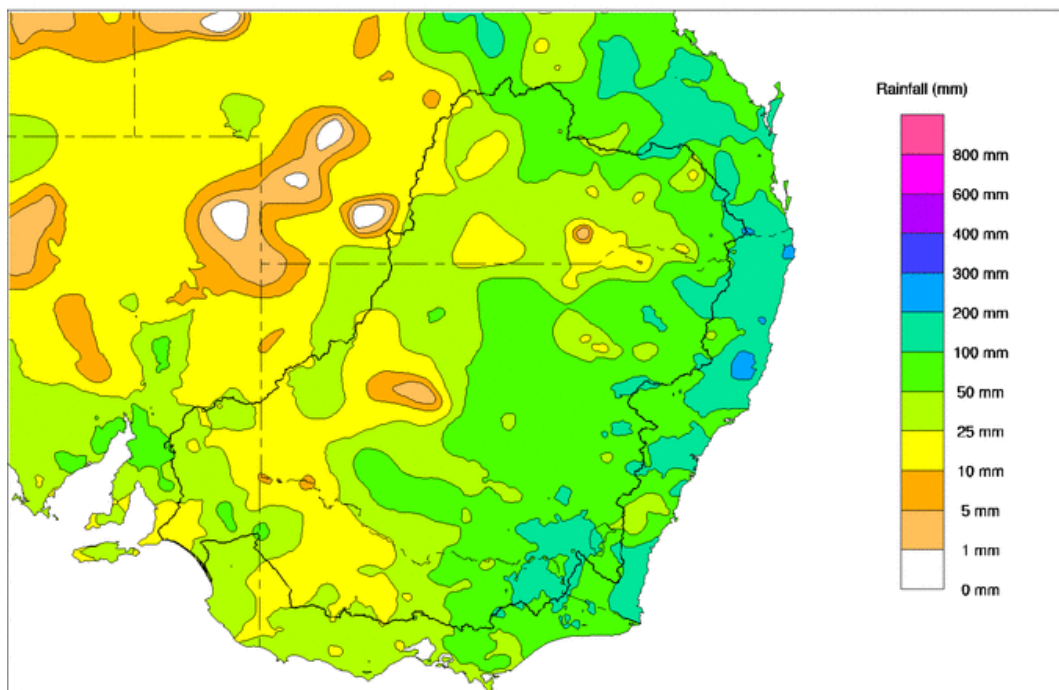
WaterNSW storages provide supplies to all of the major river systems in Western NSW, Greater Sydney, the Southern Highlands, Shoalhaven Bay as well as the Hunter, Bega, and Iron Pot valleys in coastal NSW.

The total storage percentage of rural water supplies on 3 December 2015 including Menindee Lakes was 41.6% of the total active storage capacity. This was a 1.7% decrease on last month.

The total storage level of urban water supplies on the 3 December 2015 was 94.9% of the total storage capacity. This was a 1.2% decrease on last month.

NSW received generally above average rainfall to average rainfall for the month of November with isolated areas receiving the below average.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) November 2015  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



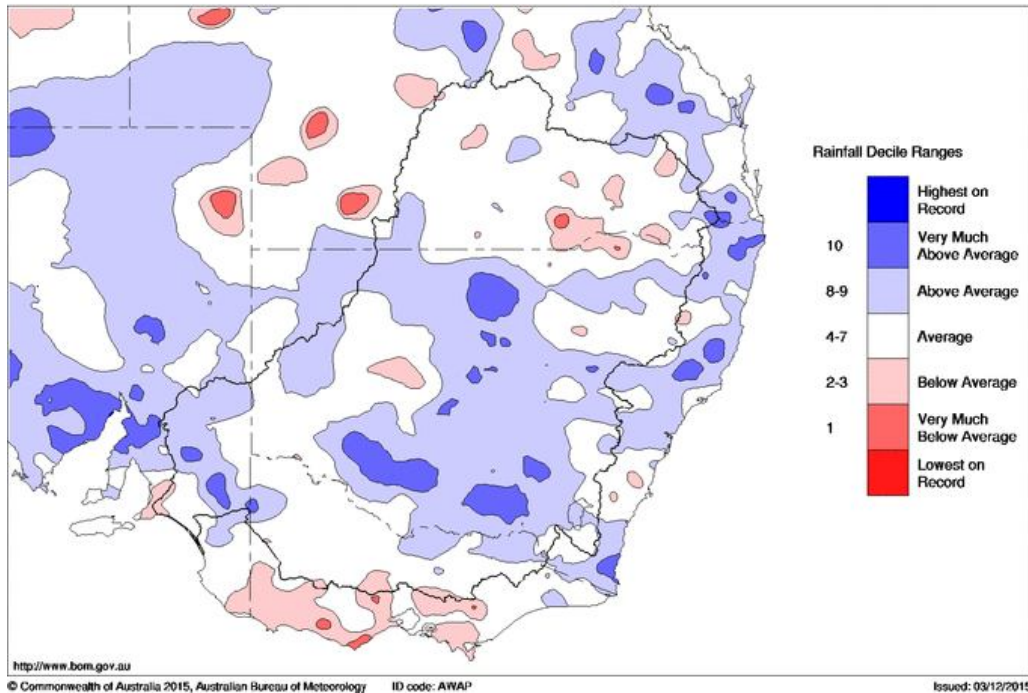
<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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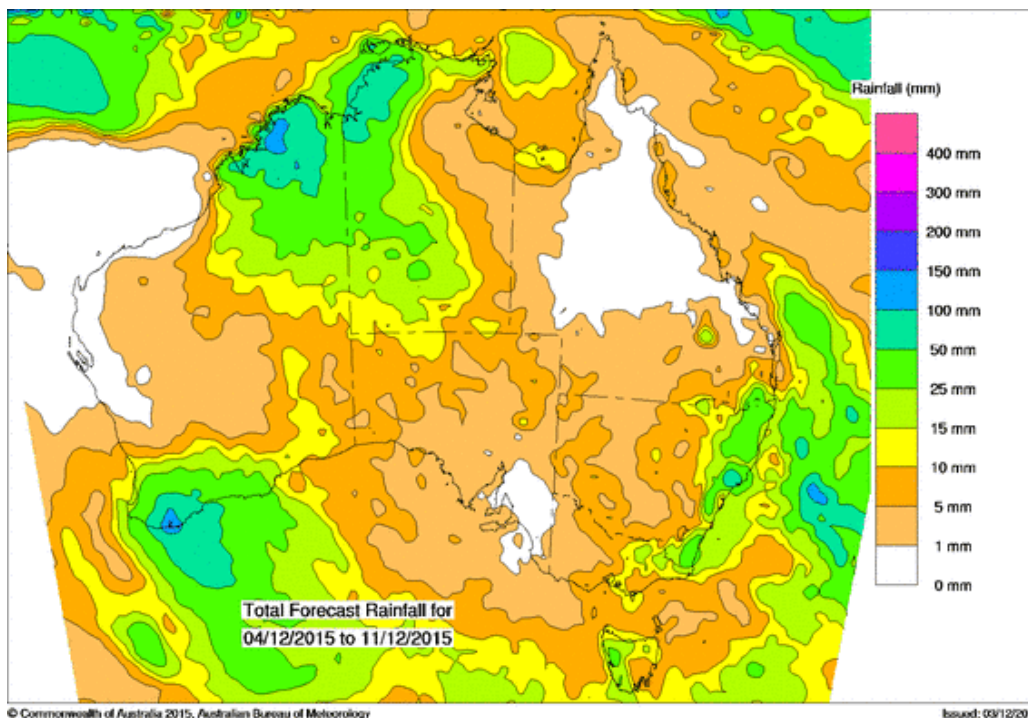
Issued: 03/12/2015

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles November 2015

Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



BOM's forecast indicates that minimal rainfall will occur over NSW during the next 8 days, with the exception of the central and north coast of NSW. The 3 month outlook indicates that there is only 40% to 55% chance of exceeding average rainfall across the majority of NSW with the north eastern parts increasing to 55 to 70%. El Niño conditions are likely to persist until early 2016.



WaterNSW continually reviews the water availability and deliverability and advises DPI Water so that water allocations in rural water supplies may be increased if storage levels improve. In the event of the drought continuing in 2016/17, supplies for towns and domestic water needs will take the utmost priority.

### ***Murray Valley***

Critical water requirements are secure for 2015/16 and reserves are being accumulated for 2016/17 water years. There was approximately 30% carry over water into the 2015/16 water year, with 15% general security AWD's being announced to date. High security licences started at 80% and have increased to 97%, 100% has been announced for local water utility and domestic and stock. There is currently an environmental watering event underway in the Edward – Wakool system with the large e-water event on the Murray River having been completed in October. There is no anticipated supply constraint for this year, though accessing low flows due to the small amounts of available water may cause issues during the season.

### ***Lower Darling Valley***

Works are continuing to secure Broken Hill's water supply, please refer to the Broken Hill/Menindee Lower Darling water security project bulletin. High security licences have been increased to 50%, while 50% has been announced for domestic and stock and 70% for local water utilities. No general security water has been announced. Block banks are still in place and are designed to provide survival watering for permanent plantings and domestic and stock in the Lower Darling. There is currently a replenishment flow underway above the block bank which is providing basic domestic and stock water to affected landholders as well topping up the banks. This is anticipated to continue until the mid December.

### ***Murrumbidgee Valley***

Critical water requirements are secure for 2015/16 and 2016/17 water years. There was approximately 23% of carry over water into the 2015/16 water year, general security AWD increased by 2% during November to a total of 31%. High security is at 95% while local water utility and domestic and stock is at 100%. Irrigation demand is increasing as temperatures and plant requirements increase. Inter valley transfer deliveries into the Murray have recommenced. No anticipated supply constraint this year, though due to low river flows, access may be restricted or difficult on effluent streams and on the main river.

***Lachlan Valley***

Town water is secure for 2015/16 and 2016/17 water years. Carry over has been available in the Lachlan River and is approximately 29%, an additional 25% has been announced for general security licences (the first in over 3 years). 100% has been made to local water utilities and high security licences. Grouping of water orders on Willandra Creek is planned to continue this year while increased surveillance and the continuation of the water ordering protocol are expected to decrease operational surplus. Carryover in the Belubula River is approximately 55% and 100% and has been made for all high security licences. If conditions continue to stay dry, a delivery strategy will be developed for the Belubula River again this summer. Irrigation demand is increasing and there is currently an environmental delivery taking place which is due to finish later this month.

***Macquarie Valley***

Town water is secure for 2015/16 and 2016/17 water years. Carry over is available and is approximately 7% while 7% has been made available to general security licences, all local water utility and high security licences have received 100%. Under 'extreme dry' conditions a bulk water transfer from Windermere to Burrendong may be required in November 2016. Delivery of remaining general security account water is also assured.

***Fish River***

No restriction to supply are currently implemented for Fish River, the current net storage volume in Oberon Dam is currently at 64% and level 1 restrictions are activated once 50% storage capacity is reached. As the current average weekly extraction by the major consumers is very low, the restriction if applied is not anticipated to cause any issues.

***Namoi Valley***

Town water is secure for 2015/16 and 2016/17. No general security allocations have been made in the Lower Namoi since August 2013, though customers had access to carryover which equated to approximately 9%. Domestic and stock, local water utility and high security licences have received 100%. Inflows into Keepit have been sufficient to allow 2 defined block releases to be undertaken to deliver remaining carryover water, the first has been completed and the next block release is planned to be commence in January and is planned to be undertaken for approximately 14 days.

The Peel valley has received 100% for local water utility, domestic and stock and high security access licences and received 17% for general security (the first in 2 years). Upper

Namoi has a total of 60% general security this year and 100% for all other licences. No Bulk Water Transfer (BWT) is planned to be undertaken this year.

### ***Gwydir Valley***

Town water is secure for 2015/16 and 2016/17 water years. General security carryover is approximately 9% of share component with a total of 5.28% made this year (this first since April 2013). All other licences received 100%. A block release strategy is being utilised for delivery of remaining available water during the 2015/16 water year and the first release has commenced with a follow up release in January 2016. Customers have been advised to ensure that they have adequate water on farm to satisfy cropping and stock and domestic needs. Small supplementary access was made available during November to limited river sections.

### ***Border Rivers***

Town water is secure for 2015/16 and 2016/17 water years. General security carryover was approximately 9% of share component with 100% being made to general security A licences and 10.26% to general security B licences. A block release strategy has been developed to deliver remaining available water during 2015/16, with water currently being delivered and an additional release planned for west of Boomi commencing in mid-January 2016. A small supplementary event was announced during November for the entire valley.

### ***Hunter Valley***

Town water is secure for 2015/16 and 2016/17 water years. 100% has been made available to all access licence categories within the regulated system. No anticipated supply constraint this year. All access licence categories in Paterson River have received 100%. Access to supplementary water was made available during November.

### ***Bega River***

Town water is secure for 2015/16 and 2016/17 water years. Brogo Dam is full and a total AWD of 46% has been made for general security access licences. All other licences have received 100%. Supplementary and uncontrolled flow access is currently available.

### ***Toonumbar Dam***

Town water is secure for 2015/16 and 2016/17 water years and 100% has been made available for general security. Toonumbar is full and is expected to remain near full over the coming months.

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### WATER NSW - DAM LEVELS

The following table shows the current status of water supplies at 8 October 2015

1 Gigalitre (GL) = 1,000 Megalitres (ML) 1 ML = 1,000,000 litres

Rural Water Supply Weekly updates : <http://realtimedata.water.nsw.gov.au>

Urban Water Supply Updates: <http://www.watnsw.com.au/supply/dam-levels/greater-sydneys-dam-levels>

River Valley Storage Dam, Nearest Town	Capacity (GL)	Current Status		Weekly change (GL)	Comments Supply Issues	Allocations for 2015/16		
		% of active capacity	(GL)			High Security	General Security	Carry- over @ 1/7/15
<b>Border Rivers</b>						100%	10.26%	9%
Glenlyon Dam, Stanthorpe Qld	254	30%	77	0	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16			
Pindari Dam, Inverell	312	37%	116	0				
<b>Gwydir Valley</b>						100%	5.28%	9%
Copeton Dam, Inverell	1 361	22%	295	- 2	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16			
<b>Namoi Valley</b>								
Keepit Dam, Gunnedah	425	18%	74	- 1	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16.	100%	0%	8%
Split Rock Dam, Manilla	397	7%	28	0		100%	60%	0%
Chaffey Dam, Tamworth	61	56%	34	2	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16.	100%	17%	0%
<b>Macquarie Valley</b>								
Burrendong Dam, Wellington	1 188	20%	234	- 8	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16	100%	7%	6%
Windamere Dam, Mudgee	368	42%	154	- 1	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16	100%	7%	95%
Oberon Dam, Oberon	45	64%	29	0	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16	100%		
<b>Lachlan Valley</b>								
Wyangala Dam, Cowra	1 220	56%	685	- 15	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16	100%	25%	29%
Carcoar Dam, Carcoar	36	19%	7	0	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16	100%	0%	55%
<b>Murrumbidgee Valley</b>						95%	31%	23%
Burrinjuck Dam, Yass	1 026	68%	693	- 5				
Blowering Dam, Tumut	1 631	39%	625	- 34				
<b>Murray Valley</b>						97%	15%	30%
Dartmouth, Mitta Mitta (Vic)	3 908	54%	2 078	- 48	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16			
Hume Dam, Albury	3 038	44%	1 336	- 32				
Lake Victoria, Wentworth	677	2%	41	- 1				
<b>Lower Darling</b>						50%	0%	11%
Menindee Lakes, Broken Hill	1 678	86%	647	- 2	Works underway to secure water supply for 2015-2016 refer to Project bulletin Estimated volume that will be accessible with pumps and earth works measures. Releases ceased from lakes continued to be managed under drought management.			
<b>Hunter Valley</b>						100%	100%	0%
Glenbawn Dam, Scone	750	100%	20	0				
Glennies Ck Dam, Singleton	283							
Lostock Dam, Gresford	20					100%	100%	0%
<b>Coastal Area</b>								
Toonumbar Dam, Kyogle	11	100%	11	0	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16	100%	100%	0%
Brogo Dam, Bega	9	101%	9	0	Critical water needs secure for 2015/16	100%	46%	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17 673</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>7 433</b>	<b>-147</b>				

: NSW has water resources in Dartmouth, Hume and Glenlyon Dams. TWS = Town Water Supplies