

February 2020 rainfall event

Barwon-Darling

11 March 2020 - Update

- Water reached Lake Wetherell on 10 March. Menindee inflow forecast is now for 250,000ML to 305,000ML.
- Further rainfall has provided small increases to the forecasts from the Gwydir, Namoi and Moonie. No significant changes to forecast inflows from the Border Rivers.
- Last weekend's rainfall is generating significant local drainage with around 15 GL gain observed near Mogil Mogil, Walgett, Brewarrina and Beemery.
- In the Condamine Balonne over 1,300 GL has been observed at St George. Flow arrived at Brenda (1st NSW station) on 23 February and inflows to the Darling River at Warraweena from 2 March. Around 10% (130 GL) inflow is forecast from this event. Around 20 GL of inflow is also considered as an initial forecast from the Bokhara River upstream of Beemery.
- More than 600 GL has been observed in the Warrego River at Cunnamulla. During the April 2019 event, around 318 GL was observed at Cunnamulla and 25 GL of that reached Dicks Dam near the junction with the Darling River. An initial 20-40GL inflow is considered at Dicks Dam as inflow from the Warrego River and expected to arrive during 3rd week of March, including flows from local rain that commenced on 6 March.
- Significant rainfall generated flows in Dolo-Bonley Creek system which joins the Darling River downstream of Wilcannia. There is no gauging station to measure these flows however initial advice indicates around 10-20 GL may flow into the Darling River from this system.
- Forecasts include estimated extractions from Mungindi to Culgoa junction starting from 27 Feb 2020 and downstream of Culgoa junction from 6 Mar.

Forecast Flows

The Barwon-Darling system is an unregulated river system, which travels through a very arid environment with significant losses due to high evaporation and long flow-travel times. It is very difficult to accurately forecast downstream flows as local conditions can vary significantly over the number of weeks it takes the water to travel along the river. In addition, sections of the river had ceased to flow for an extended time and significant losses occur with wetting up the riverbed. The below summaries are the current forecast estimates of flows along the system and

assume that the Barwon-Darling temporary water restrictions have been lifted. Unless there is a substantial change to the forecast, the next update will be provided on Friday 13 March 2020.

Location	Observed volume (ML)	Total forecast volume – including observed (ML)	Date or expected date of flow arrival	Comments about inflows to each section
Mungindi	53,486	60,000 – 65,000	15 Feb 2020	Inflows are from the Border Rivers
Presbury	48,656	55,000-60,000	5 Feb 2020	
Mogil Mogil	162,228	165,000-180,000	27 Jan 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 11 GL from Gil Gil and 65-67 GL from Moonie. Gain from Localised inflows.
Collarenberi (total flow including Old Pockataroo anbranch)	192,928	200,000 – 210,000	6 Feb 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 25 GL from Mehi. Total observed flows at Garwon (Old Pockataroo) are 10 GL
Tara	209,813	220,000 – 228,000	7 Feb 2020	Gain from localised inflows
Walgett	294,074	310,000 –320,000	9 Feb 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 82-83 GL from Namoi at Goangra
Boorooma	237,479	250,000 – 270,000	13 Feb 2020	Flows likely out of bank
Geera	259,316	280,000 - 300,000	12 Feb 2020	Inflow considered from Mathaguy Ck and Castlereagh River.
Brewarrina	220,071	265,000 – 285,000	16 Feb 2020	
Beemery	228,283	285,000 – 315,000	18 Feb 2020	Around 20 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Bokhara. Gain from Localised inflows.
Warraweena	242,279	395,000 – 425,000	19 Feb 2020	Flows reaching the Barwon from St George are extremely variable, but we can expect at least 10-15% will reach the Barwon. 1,300 GL observed at St George. Estimated forecast from Culgoa is 130 GL.
Bourke	223,865	355,000 – 385,000	20 Feb 2020	
Louth	160,967	330,000 – 380,000	24 Feb 2020	Initial Warrego forecast is 20-40GL
Tilpa	128,358	300,000 – 350,000	28 Feb 2020	
Wilcannia	47,538	270,000– 320,000	5 Mar 2020	
Lake Wetherell	0	250,000 - 305,000	10 Mar 2020	Around 10-20 GL expected from Dolo-Bonley Creek system downstream of Wilcannia.