

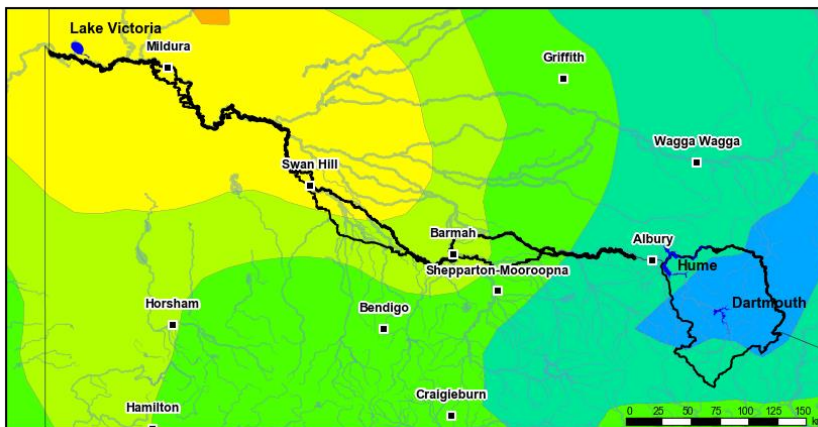
Water Reporting Summary – Victorian Murray Catchment

15 February 2021

Overview

- In the past month, total rainfall decreased from east to west in the Victorian Murray catchment. The upstream areas of the catchment, including areas near Dartmouth Dam, received up to 300 mm of rainfall, while central areas from Albury to Barmah mainly received between 50 to 200 mm. Areas downstream of Swan Hill received less than 25 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 146 mm, with most of this rain received in the last week of January and first week of February. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Victorian Murray catchment mostly below average or very much below average (Figure 2).
- Root zone soil moisture is above average in the upper Victorian Murray catchment and average elsewhere in the catchment, with recent rainfall translating into some runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares are currently 100% which is 46% higher than the same time last year (Table 1). Allocation prices are currently \$99–\$120 per ML (Table 1) which are lower compared to January prices (\$140–\$160 per ML) and are significantly lower than the same time last year (\$610–\$700 per ML).

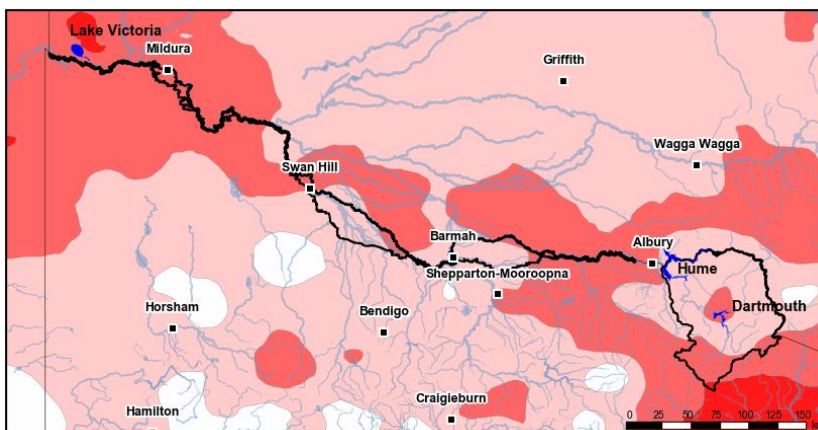
Recent conditions



Rainfall totals



Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (17 Jan to 15 Feb 2021)



Rainfall percentiles

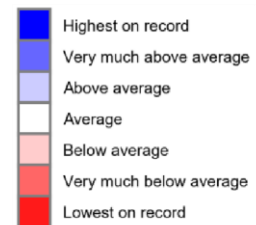


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Jan 2021)
Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages?

Combined total storage (Vic share*): 2 089 GL (as at end of Jan 2021)

*Victoria's share of Dartmouth, Hume, Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes storages

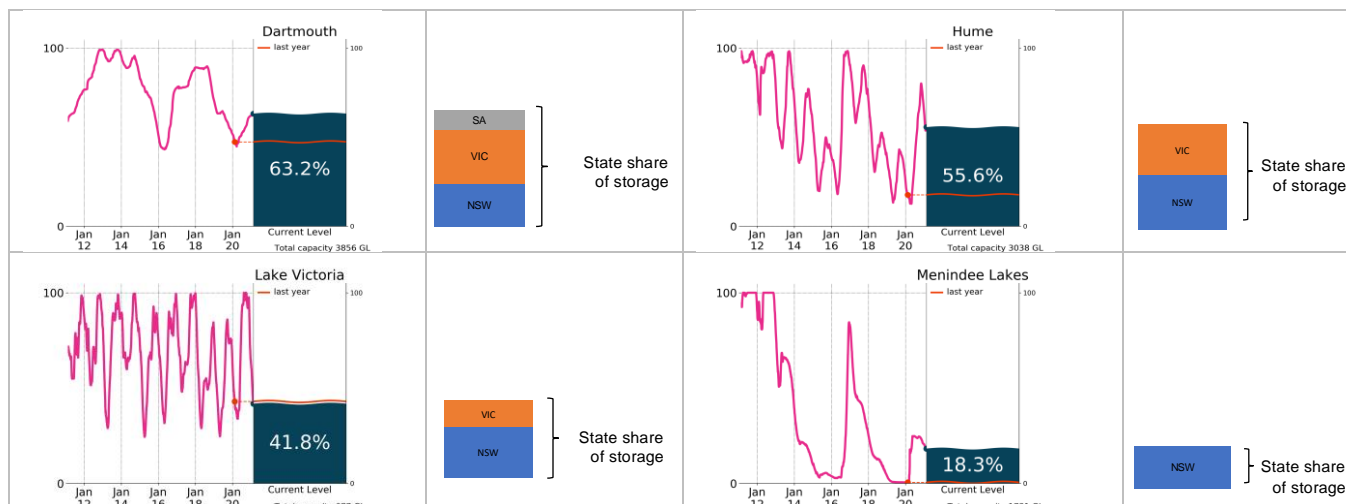


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 13 February 2021 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Jan 2021)

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#) and [MDBA](#)

Who is the water for?

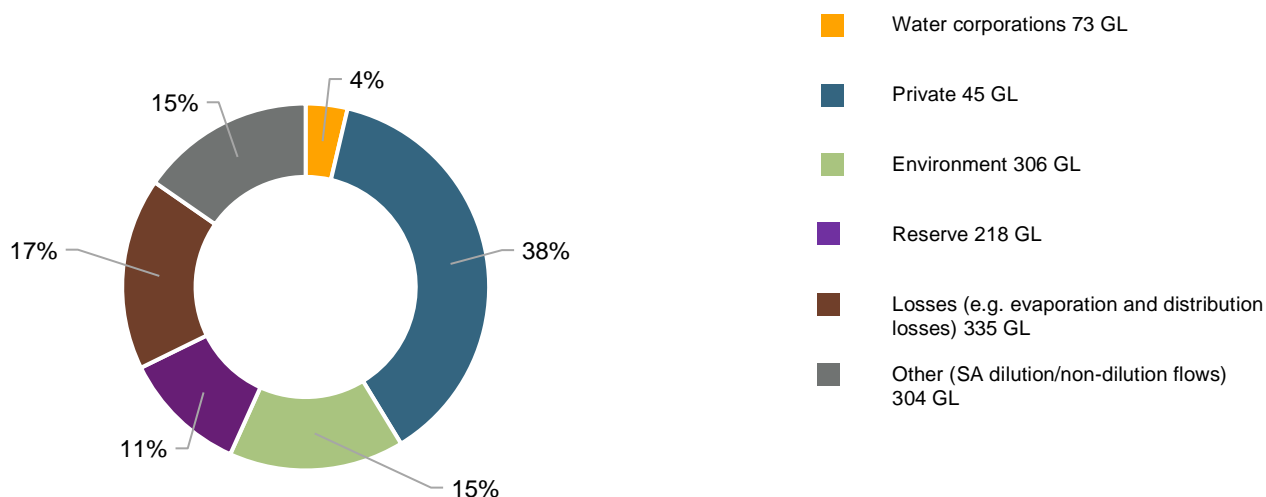


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 15 February 2021)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 15 February 2021. Information published by the Northern Victoria Resource Manager differs from information published on the Victorian Water Register as the former includes preliminary environmental water holder use and volumes of operational use by Goulburn-Murray Water private water shareholders.

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) and market prices – selected licence categories as at 15 February 2021

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement prices (monthly median)	Allocation price (median – last 7 days)
Vic Murray High-Reliability Water Share	100%	56% last year	\$4 375 (Zone 6) \$6 180/ML (Zone 7)	\$ 99/ML (Zone 6) \$120/ML (Zone 7)
Vic Murray Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	n/a (Zone 6) \$1 000/ML (Zone 7)	

Zone 6: Upper Victorian Murray (Dartmouth to Barmah); Zone 7 is lower Victorian Murray (Barmah to SA border)

Source: [Victorian Water Register](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



With the exception of logos, photography and data referenced as being from other organisations, this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence. The terms and conditions of the licence are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>. Attribution for this publication should be: © Commonwealth of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology) 2021.