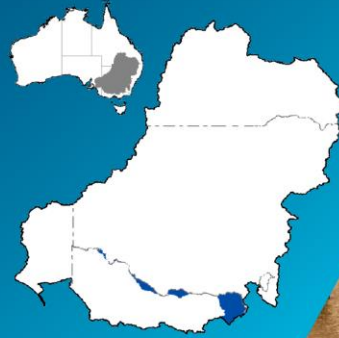




Water Reporting Summary – Victorian Murray Catchment

15 March 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 50 mm of rainfall, while central areas from Albury to Barmah mainly received between 5 to 10 mm. Areas around Swan Hill received 1 to 5 mm of rain (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 18 mm. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the central and downstream areas of the Victorian Murray catchment mostly very much below average. For the upper Victorian Murray catchment, recent rainfall has partly offset rainfall deficiencies over the last four years (Figure 2).
- Root zone soil moisture was above average in the upper Victorian Murray catchment with some very much above average areas, average for the central catchment and below average elsewhere in the catchment. Recent rainfall has not generated significant runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares are currently 100%, which is 35% higher than the same time last year (Table 1). Allocation prices are currently \$95–\$100 per ML (Table 1) which are similar to last month's prices (\$90–\$100 per ML) but are significantly lower than the same time last year (\$450–\$515 per ML).

Recent conditions

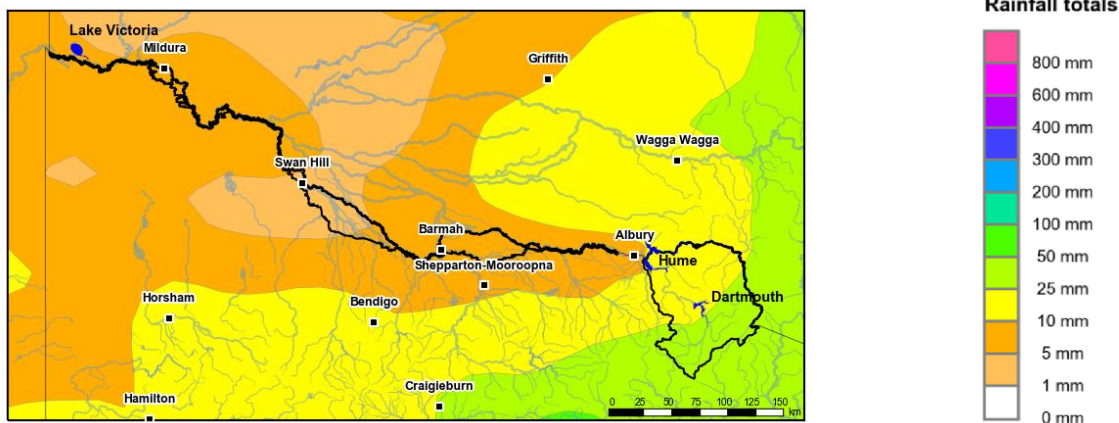


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (14 Feb to 15 March 2021)

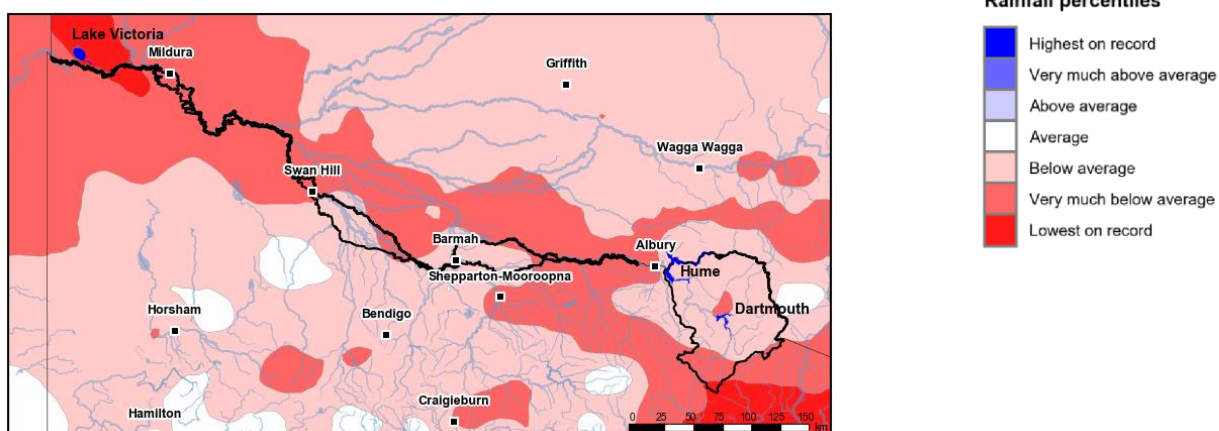


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Feb 2021)
Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages?

Combined total storage (Vic share*): 2 064 GL (as at end of Feb 2021)

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

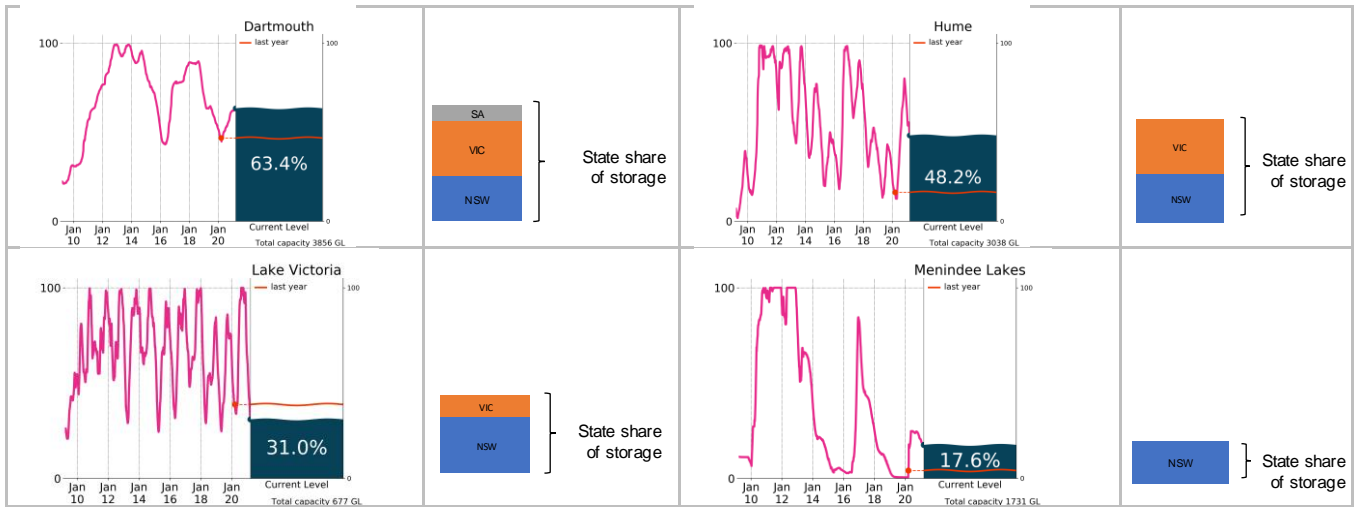


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 14 March 2021 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Jan 2021)

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

Who is the water for?

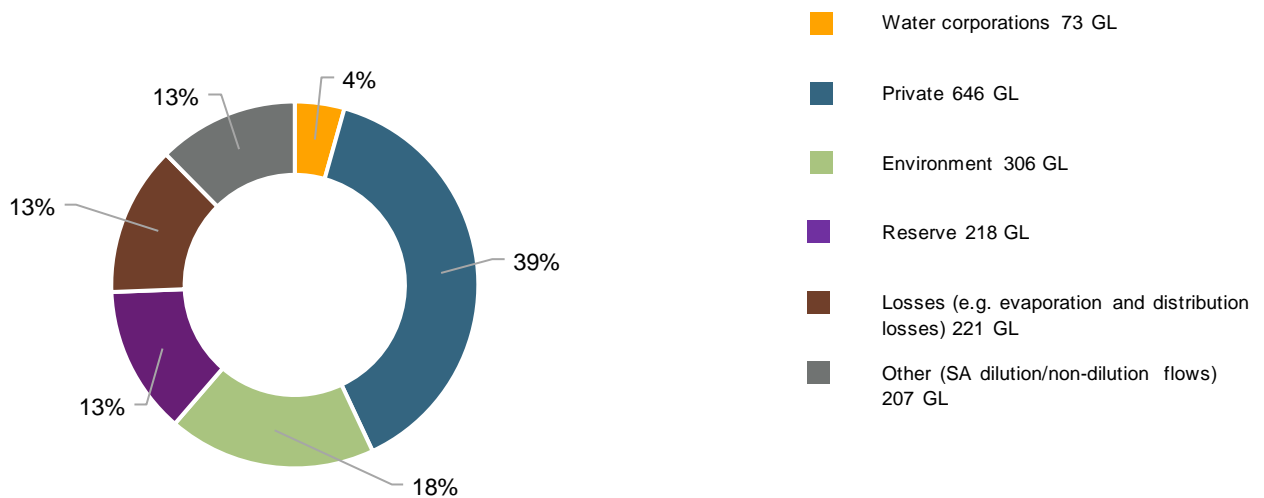


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 15 March 2021)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 15 March 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 March 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%	65% last year	\$4 400 (Zone 6) \$6 000/ML (Zone 7)	\$ 95/ML (Zone 6)
Vic Murray Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	n/a (Zone 6) \$1 150/ML (Zone 7)	\$ 100/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



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