

Water Reporting Summary – Victorian Murray Catchment

15 October 2020

Overview

- In the past month, most of the central and lower Victorian Murray catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall, except for areas near Swan Hill which received 10 to 25 mm. The Victorian Murray catchment upstream of Hume Dam received 50 to 100 mm of rain, with small areas near Dartmouth Dam and in the alpine region receiving up to 200 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 90 mm. However, 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).
- Soil moisture was average to below average in upstream areas near Dartmouth Dam and average elsewhere in the catchment. Recent rainfall has translated into some runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for high reliability water shares are currently 55%, which is 15% higher than the same time last year (Figure 4). Allocation prices are currently \$180-\$270 per ML (Table 1), which is similar to prices paid last month (\$180-\$285 per ML). This is significantly lower than the peak prices of over \$900 per ML in November 2019.
- Looking forward to the 2020–21 summer, if storages experience average inflows like those received during 2017–18, announced allocations are expected to reach 100% for high-reliability water shares by February 2021 (Northern Victoria Resource Manager).

Recent conditions

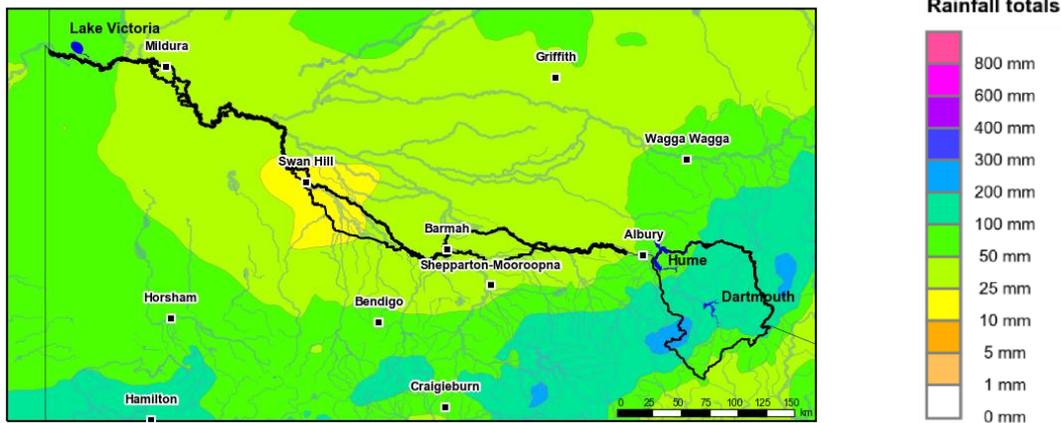


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Sept to 15 Oct 2020)

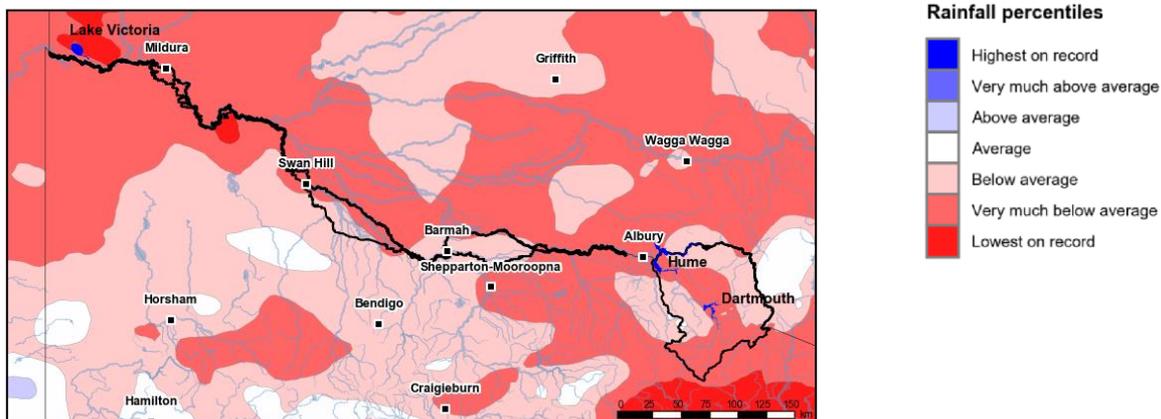


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Sept 2020)
Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages?

Combined total storage (Vic share*): 2 326 GL (as at end Sept 2020)

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

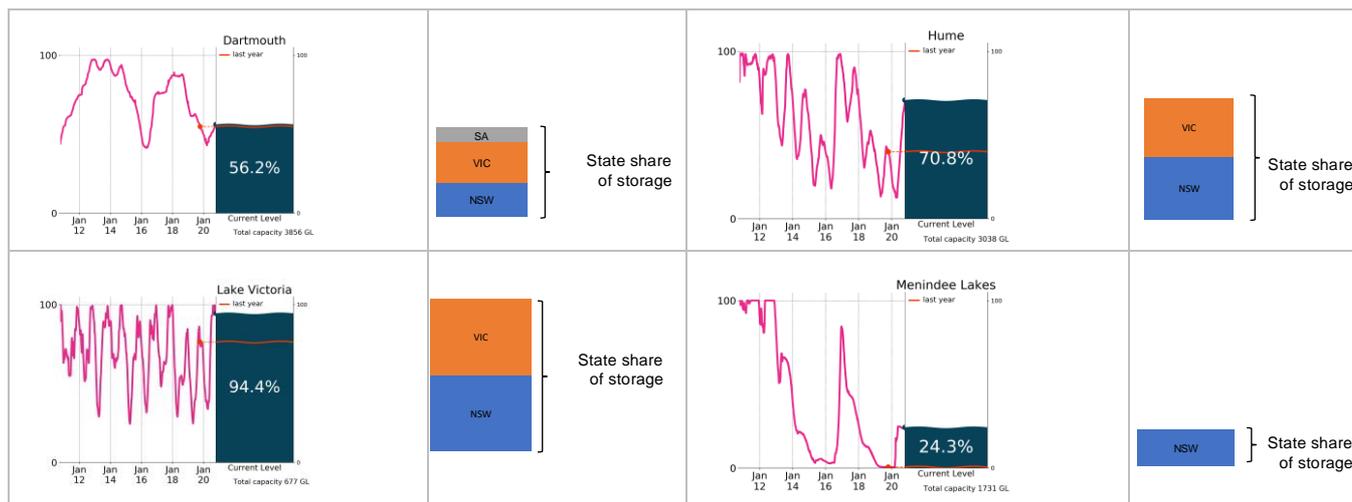


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 15 October 2020 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Sept 2020)

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

Who is the water for?

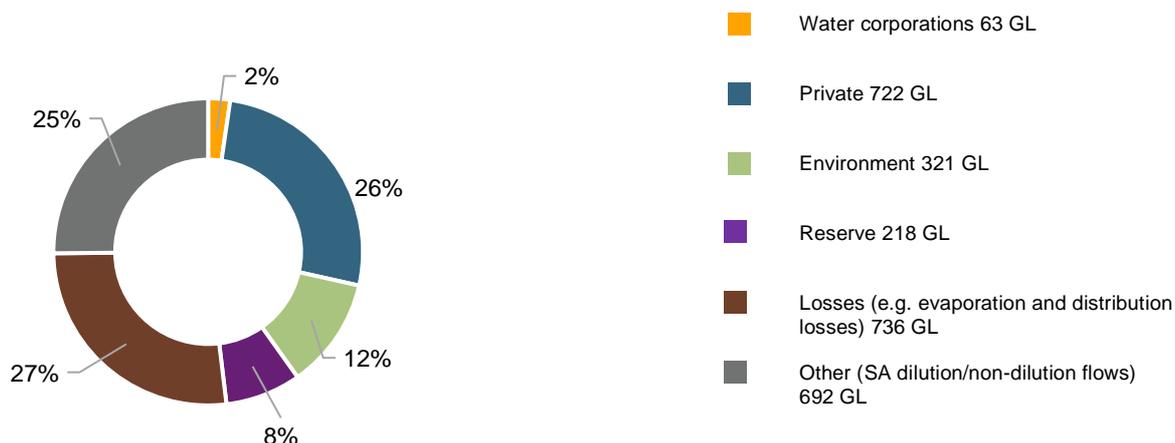


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 15 October 2020)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 15 October 2020. 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 October 2020

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	55%	40% last year	\$4 500/ML (Zone 6) \$5 900/ML (Zone 7)	\$180/ML (Zone 6) \$270/ML (Zone 7)
Vic Murray Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	\$550/ML (Zone 6) \$650/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) 2020.