

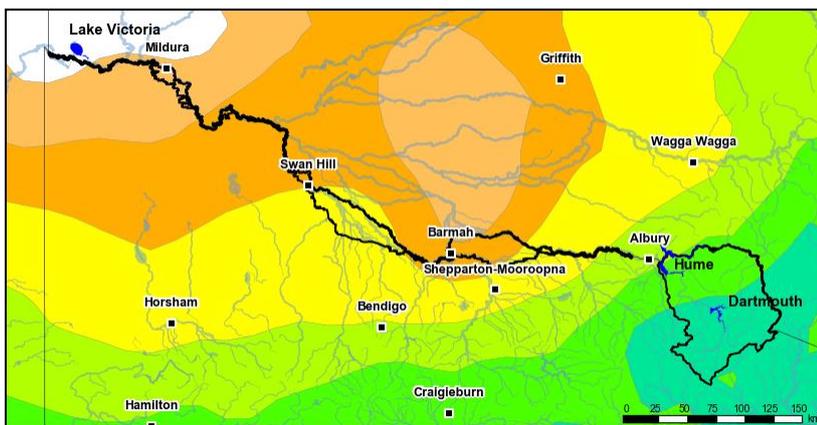
# Water Reporting Summary – Victorian Murray Catchment

17 May 2021

## Overview

- In the past month, rainfall in the Victorian Murray catchment had a decreasing gradient from east to west. The upstream areas of the catchment, including the catchment areas of Hume and Dartmouth Dams received 50 to 200 mm of rainfall. Areas downstream of Albury to Shepparton and from Barmah to Swan Hill received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall while areas downstream of Swan Hill received less than 10 mm with Lake Victoria receiving no rainfall (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 66 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 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 average in the upper and central Victorian Murray catchment and below average for the downstream areas of the catchment with some very much below average areas near Mildura. The recent rainfall has not generated significant runoff and inflows into Hume and Dartmouth storages. Floodwaters from the end of March rainfall in the northern Murray–Darling Basin have reached the Menindee Lakes and the storage volume has increased from 30.7% of capacity at the end of April to 44.9% on 17 May 2021 (Figure 3).
- Allocations for high-reliability water shares are currently 100%, which is 34% higher than the same time last year (Table 1). Allocation prices are currently \$95 per ML (Table 1), which are same as the prices paid last month and well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$280 per ML).

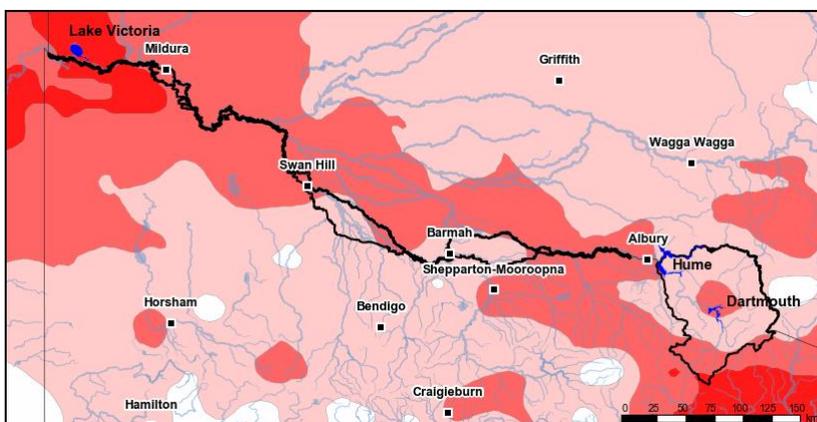
## Recent conditions



**Rainfall totals**



Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (18 April to 17 May 2021)



**Rainfall percentiles**

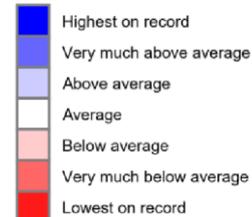


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to April 2021)  
Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

# How much water is in the storages?

**Combined total storage (Vic share\*): 1 850 GL (as at end of April 2021)**

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

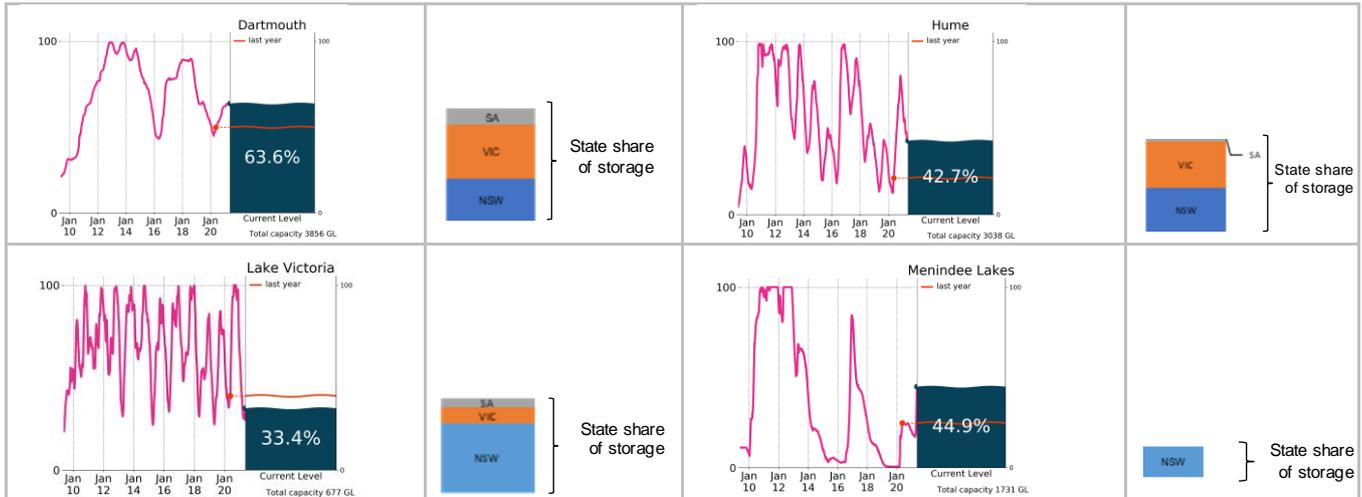


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 16 May 2021 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end April 2021)

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

## Who is the water for?

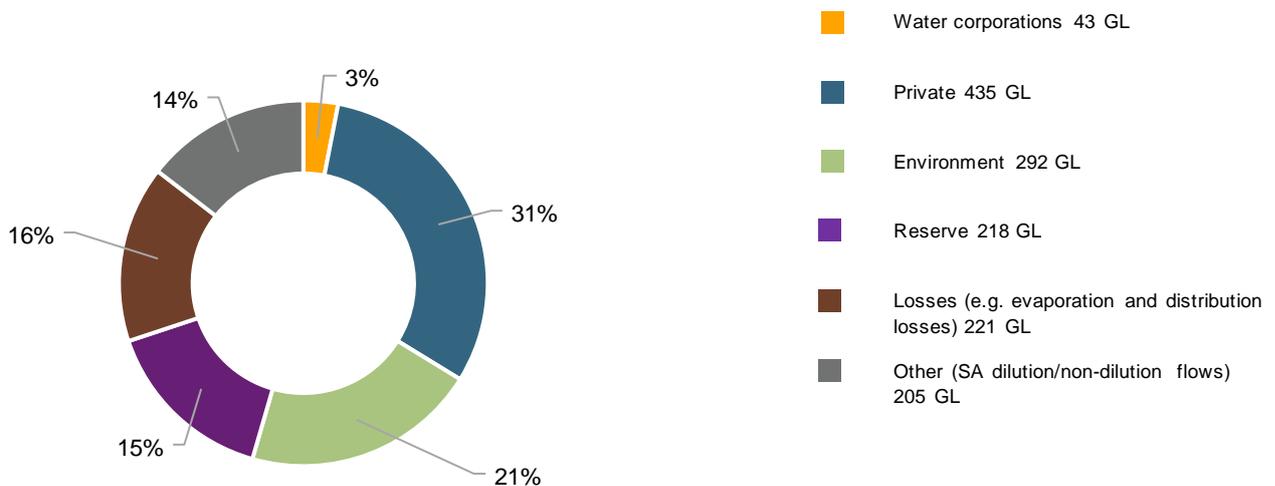


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 17 May 2021)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 17 May 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 17 May 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%	66% last year	\$4 400 (Zone 6) \$6 000/ML (Zone 7)	\$ 95/ML (Zone 6 & 7)
Vic Murray Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	n/a \$1000/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](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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