Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Reporting Summary – South Australian Murray

1 February 2021

Overview

- In the last 30 days, central and southern areas of the South Australian Murray catchment mostly received 10 to 25 mm, with the exception of areas between Burra and Waikerie which received less than 10 mm. In contrast, northern parts of the catchment around Eringa Park and Oakbank Outstation received 25 to 100 mm of rainfall (Figure 1). The catchment area-average rainfall was 22 mm for the last month. Rainfall in the last month is in the context of the extended dry period from January 2017 with rainfall across most of the South Australian Murray catchment being below or very much below average (Figure 2).
- Water allocations to the majority of entitlement holders reached 100% on 17 August 2020. An update provided on 2 November 2020 confirmed 100% allocation for all entitlement holders (Figure 4). In six out of the last ten years, 100% allocation was announced at the beginning of the water year (1 July).
- Allocation prices are currently $150 per ML, which is lower than prices in December ($210 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

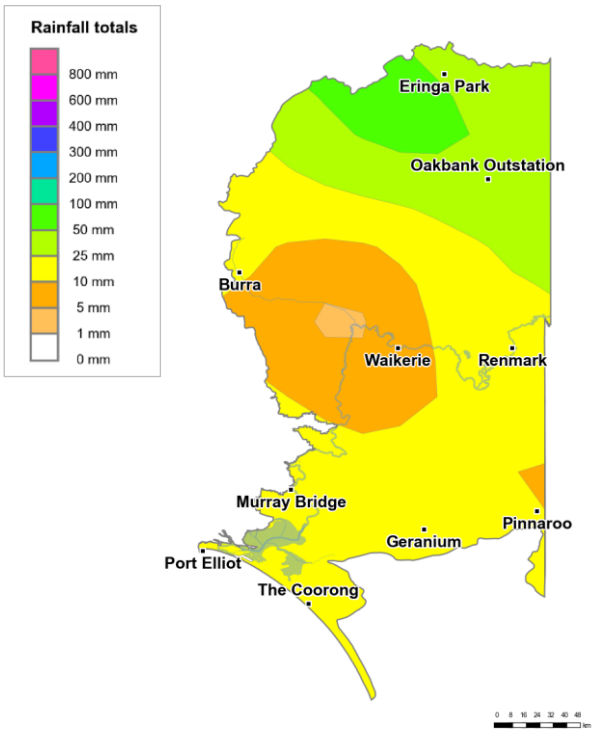

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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (3 Jan to 1 Feb 2021)

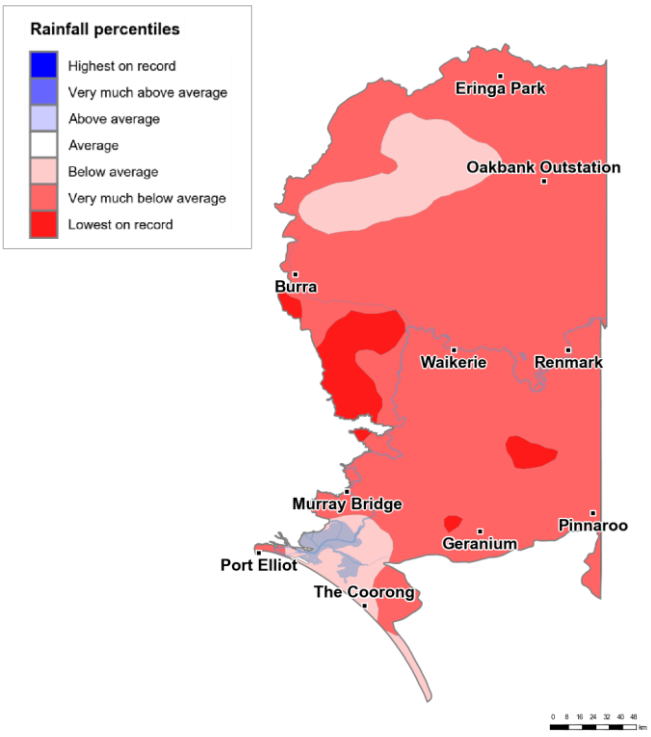

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Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Jan 2021)

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 there for the South Australian Murray?

The current projected minimum volume of water available to South Australia by the end of 2020–21: 1 850 GL*

*Based on the MDBA's current assessment of water resource availability. It provides for an allocation of 830 GL for consumptive entitlements and an allowance for dilution and losses, and excludes water held under South Australia's Storage Right (338.6 GL as at 1 Jan 2021). The storage right has been set aside under Schedule G of the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement to meet future critical human water needs and private carryover.

Source: SA Department of Environment and Water and MDBA

How much water is in the MDBA operated storages?

Total volume in the MDBA operated storages: 4 684 GL (as at 31 January 2021)

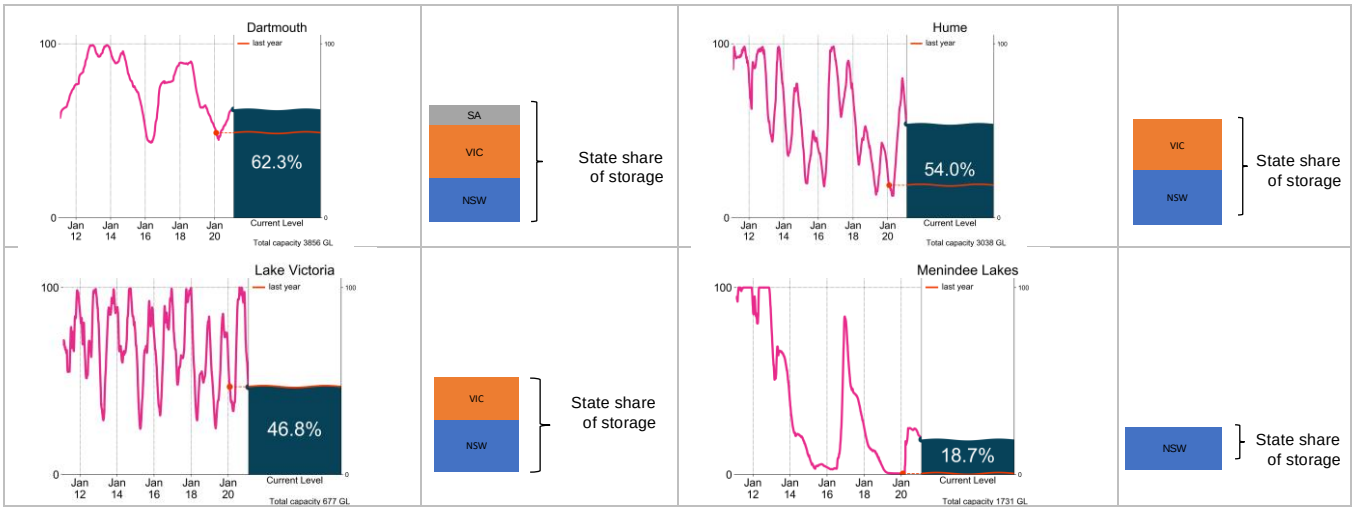

Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 31 January 2021 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Dec 2020)
Source: BoM water storages dashboard and MDBA

Who is the water for?

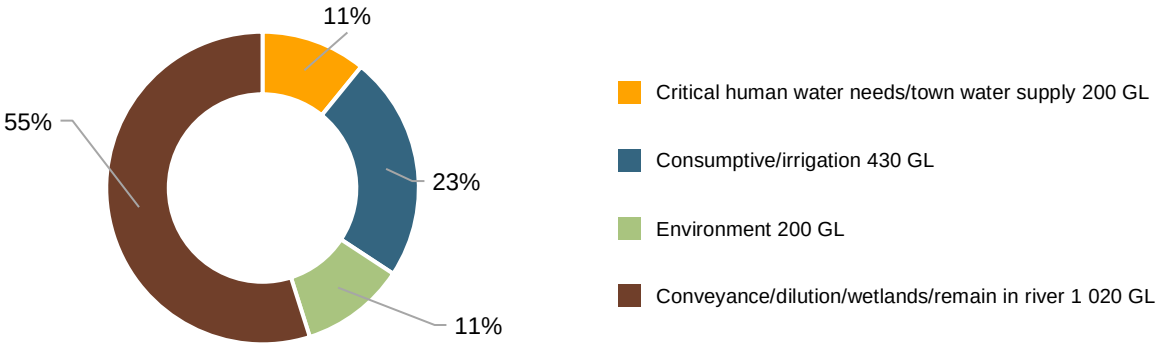

Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020-21 water year (as at 1 February 2021)

Source: SA Department of Environment and Water

NB: Information shown is water allocated for various purposes in 2020–21 and is not adjusted for water used or traded.

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

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement prices (monthly median)	Allocation price (median – last 7 days)
SA Murray Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%	Same as most years	n/a	$150/ML
SA Murray Class 3 (High Security)	100%	In six out of the last ten years, 100% allocation was announced on 1 July.	$6 400/ML	

Source: : SA Department of Environment and Water and BoM water markets dashboard

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au