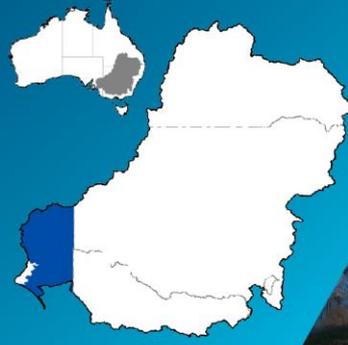




Water Reporting Summary – South Australian Murray

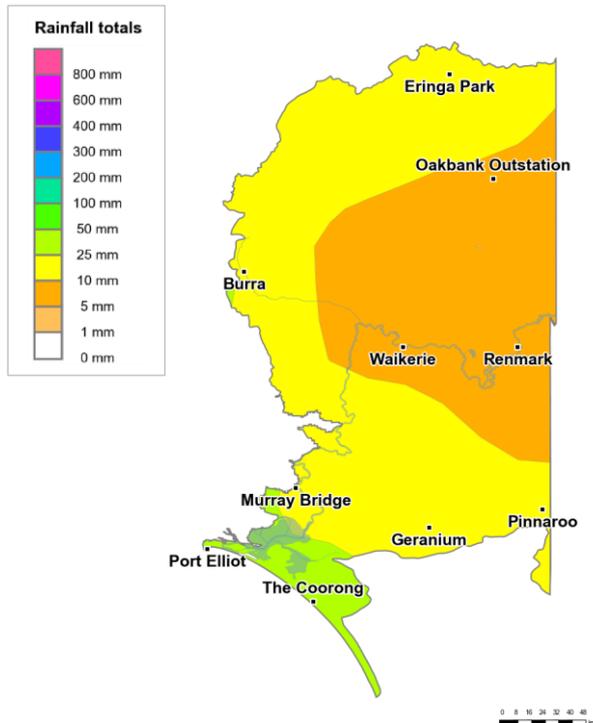
1 June 2021



Overview

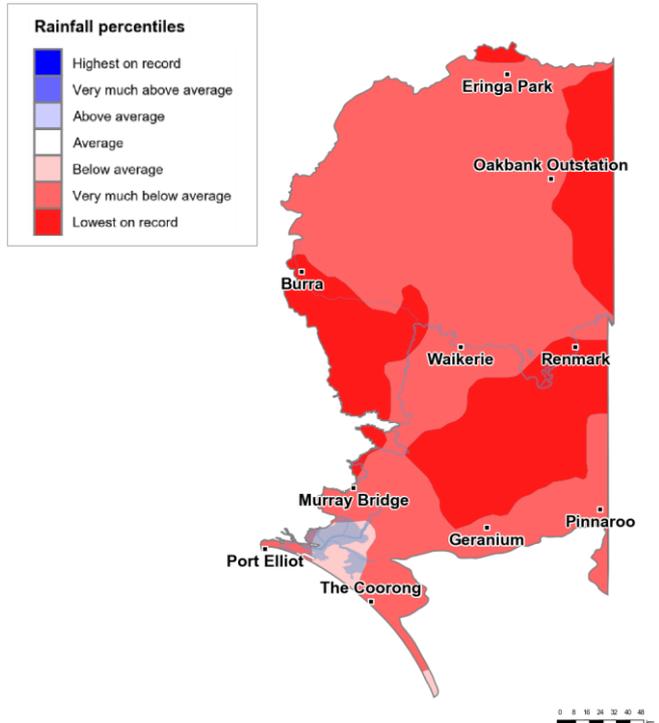
- Similar to the rainfall pattern reported in the previous Water Reporting Summary, total rainfall had a decreasing gradient from west to east in the South Australian Murray catchment in the last 30 days. The western part of the South Australian Murray catchment received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall, while areas along the coast received up to 50 mm. Moving east, rainfall decreased with areas around Oakbank Outstation, Waikerie and Renmark receiving less than 10 mm (Figure 1). The catchment area-average rainfall was 13 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 very much below average or lowest on record (Figure 2).
- In the last month, root zone soil moisture was below average to very much above average for the South Australian Murray catchment.
- Water allocations to the majority of entitlement holders reached 100% on 17 August 2020. An update provided on 17 May 2021 confirmed 100% allocation for all entitlement holders (Figure 4). The projected opening allocation for South Australian River Murray irrigators for the 2021-22 water year is likely to be 100% as well (SA DEW). 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 \$90 per ML, which is the same as prices paid last month but well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$200 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions



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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days
(3 May to 1 June 2021)



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Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017
(compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to May 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 (385.8 GL as at 1 June 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: 5 168 GL (as at 31 May 2021)

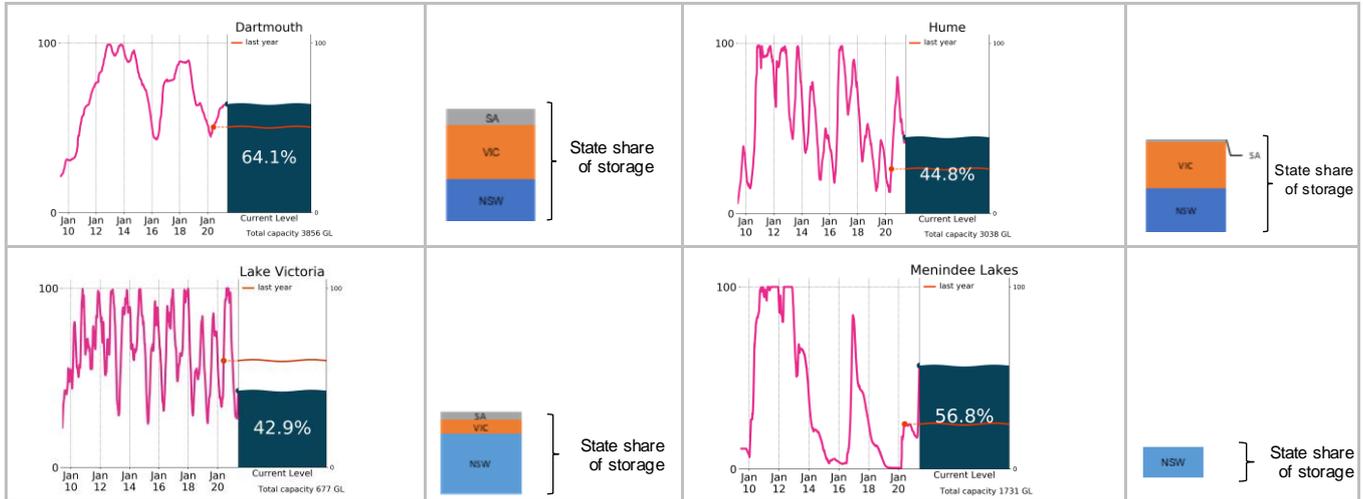


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 31 May 2021 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end April 2021)

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

Who is the water for?

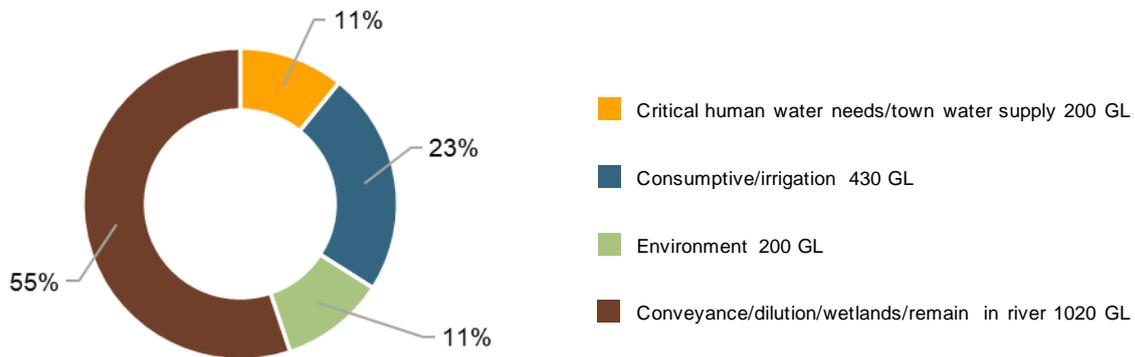


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2020-21 water year (as at 15 Oct 2021)

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 June 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	\$90/ML
SA Murray Class 3 (High Security)	100%	In six out of the last ten years, 100% allocation was announced on 1 July.	n/a	

Source: : [SA Department of Environment and Water](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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