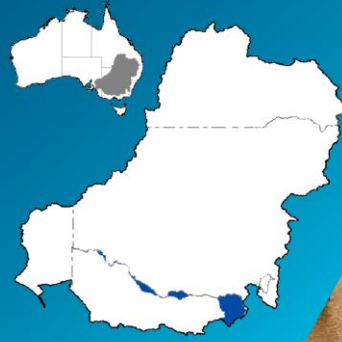




Water Reporting Summary – Victorian Murray Catchment

1 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 200 mm of rainfall, while central areas near Albury mainly received between 50 to 100 mm. Areas downstream of Barmah received 5 to 10 mm, while areas downstream of Swan Hill received less than 5 mm or no rainfall (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 80 mm, with most of this rain received in the first week of February. 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 is very much above average in the upper Victorian Murray catchment, above average for the central catchment and average elsewhere in the catchment, with recent rainfall translating into some runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares are currently 100%, which is 41% higher than the same time last year (Table 1). Allocation prices are currently \$100–\$105 per ML (Table 1) which are lower than last month's prices (\$130 per ML) and are significantly lower than the same time last year (\$530–\$660 per ML).

Recent conditions

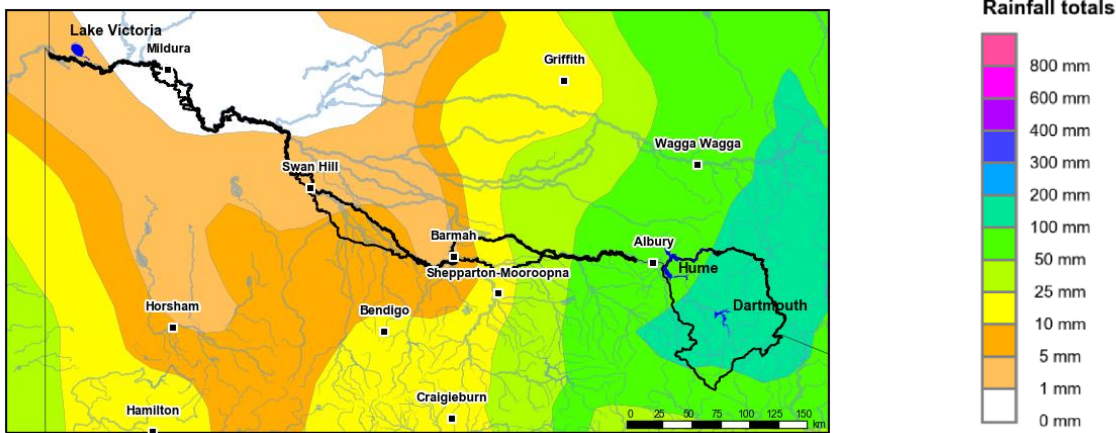


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (31 Jan to 1 March 2021)

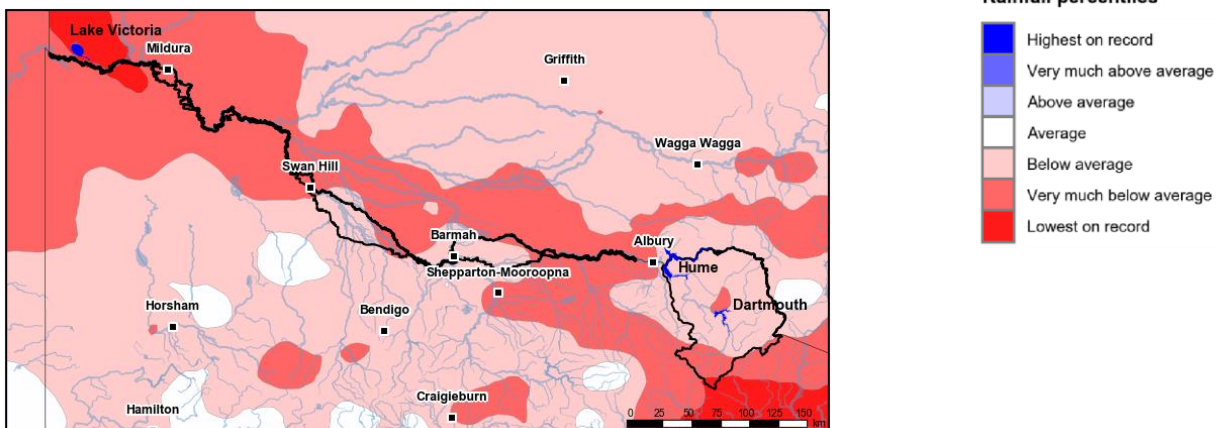


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Feb 2021)
Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages?

Combined total storage (Vic share*): 2 089 GL (as at end of Jan 2021)

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

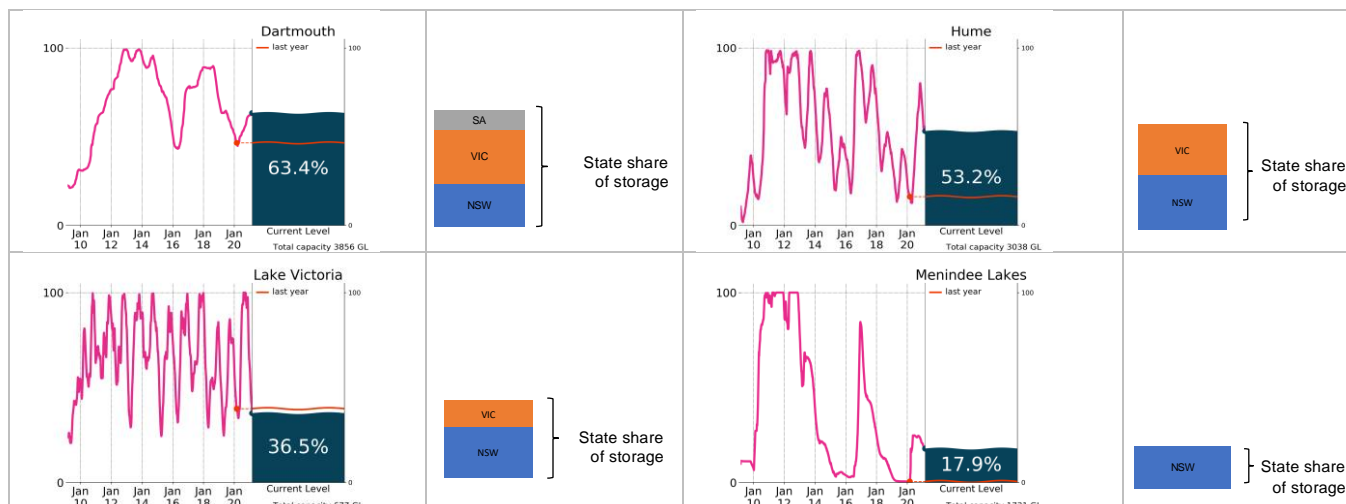


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 28 February 2021 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Jan 2021)

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

Who is the water for?

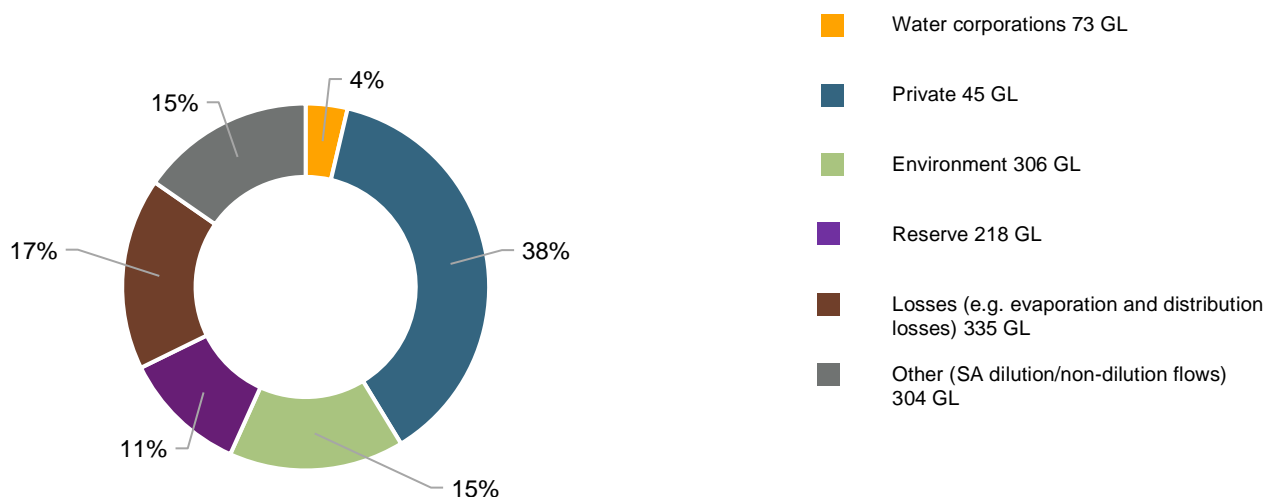


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 15 February 2021)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 15 February 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 1 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%	59% last year	\$4 375 (Zone 6) \$6 100/ML (Zone 7)	\$ 100/ML (Zone 6)
Vic Murray Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	\$550/ML (Zone 6) n/a (Zone 7)	\$ 105/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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