



Water Reporting Summary - Goulburn Catchment

1 October 2020



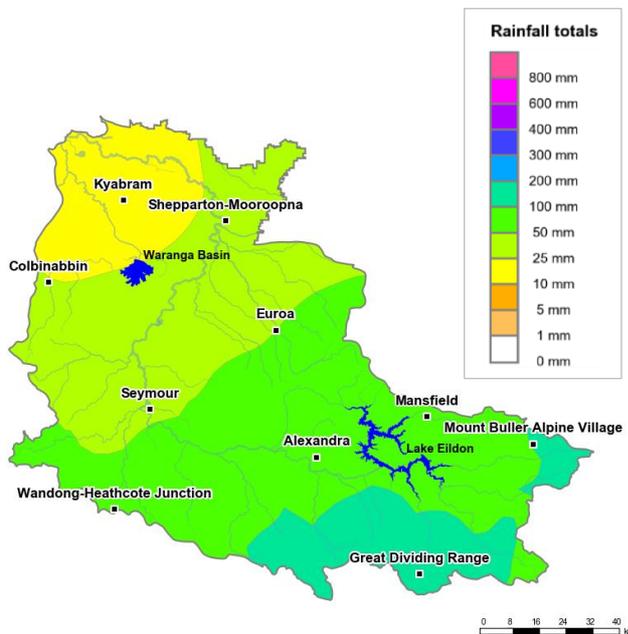
Photo: Goulburn River August 2018 by Nils Versemann



Overview

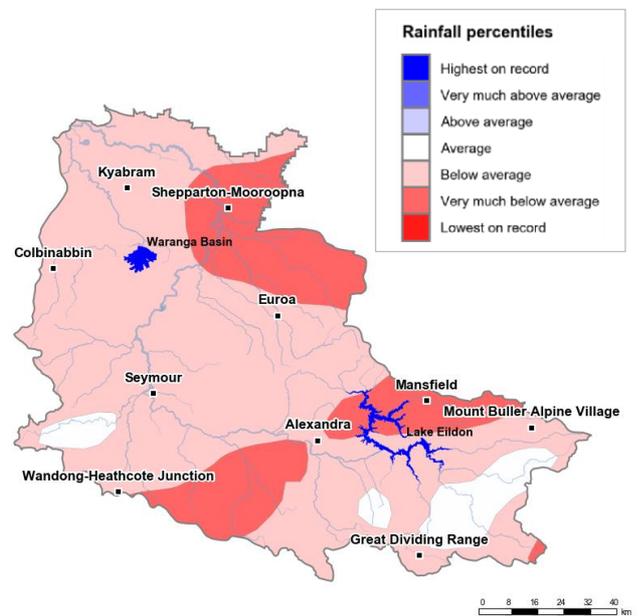
- In the last 30 days, the lower Goulburn catchment near Kyabram received 10 to 25 mm of rainfall, while the central areas near Shepparton received 25 to 50 mm. The catchment areas near Eildon Dam received 50 to 100 mm of rainfall, with the Great Dividing Range receiving up to 200 mm of rain and snow (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 59 mm. In some of the catchment, this recent rainfall has offset some of the rainfall deficiency experienced over the last three years. Rainfall from January 2017 to August 2020 is now considered to be average or below average for most of the Goulburn catchment (Figure 2). However, areas near Shepparton and Mansfield received very much below average rainfall during this period.
- The recent rainfall has helped to maintain average root zone soil moisture conditions for the lower and central areas of the Goulburn catchment during September. Some upper areas of the catchment have experienced below average soil moisture despite recent rainfall, however, as this is typically a wet time of year for the upper Goulburn catchment, the average is relatively high. Rainfall received in the last month has translated into some runoff and inflow into storages (Figure 3). Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares are currently 58%, which for this time of year is higher than last year but is the second lowest in the last ten years (Figure 4).
- Allocation prices are currently \$197 per ML, which is similar to prices paid last month (\$185 per ML) but significantly lower than the peak of \$700 per ML in January 2020 (Table 1).
- Looking forward to the 2020-21 summer, if storages experience average inflows similar to those received during 2013-14, announced allocations are expected to reach 100% for high-reliability water shares by February 2021 (Northern Victoria Resource Manager).

Recent conditions



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



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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?

Storage volume: Eildon and Waranga basin storages as at 1 October 2020

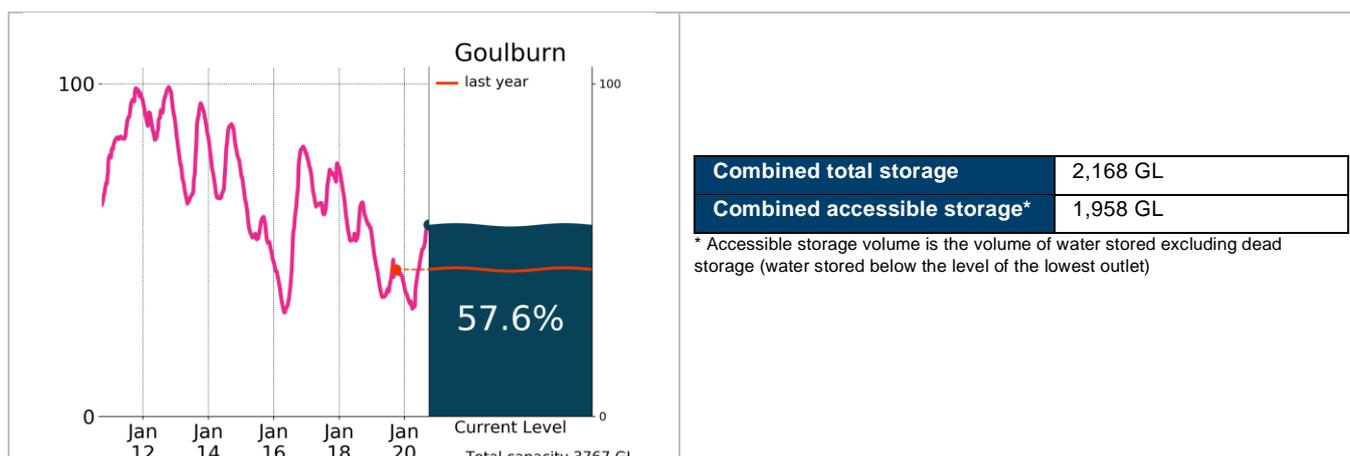


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) compared to the last ten years

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

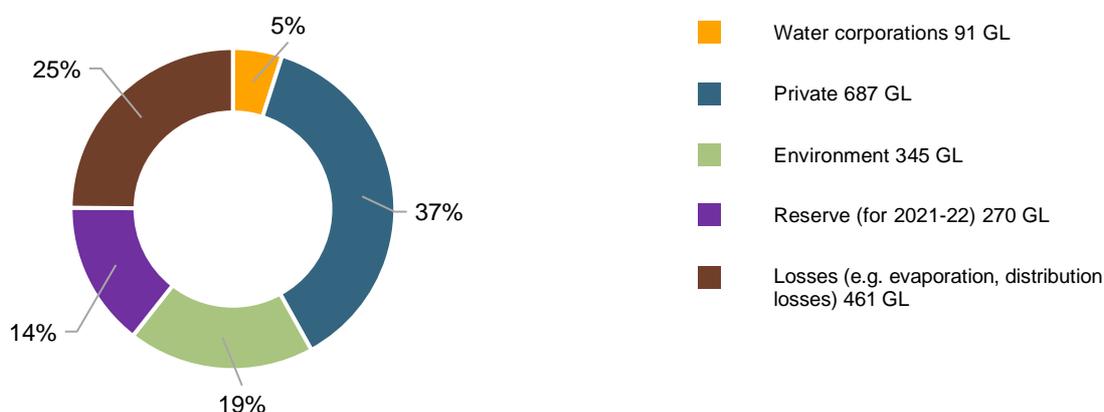


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 1 October 2020)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments at 1 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 1 October 2020

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement Prices (monthly median)	Allocation Price (median - last 7 days)
VIC Goulburn High-Reliability Water Share	58%	Higher than last year but second lowest in last ten years	\$4,050/ML	\$197/ML
VIC Goulburn Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	\$395/ML	

Source: [Victorian Water Register](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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