

Water Reporting Summary – Victorian Murray Catchment

3 May 2021

Overview

- In the past month, total rainfall had a decreasing gradient from east to west in the Victorian Murray catchment. The upstream areas of the catchment, including areas near Dartmouth and Hume Dams received 10 to 50 mm of rainfall, while the rest of the catchment received up to 5 mm. (Figure 1). The total area-average rainfall for the catchment was 18 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 storages except for Menindee Lakes (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 \$80 per ML (Table 1), which are same as the prices paid last month and well below prices paid at the same time last year (\$400 per ML).

Recent conditions

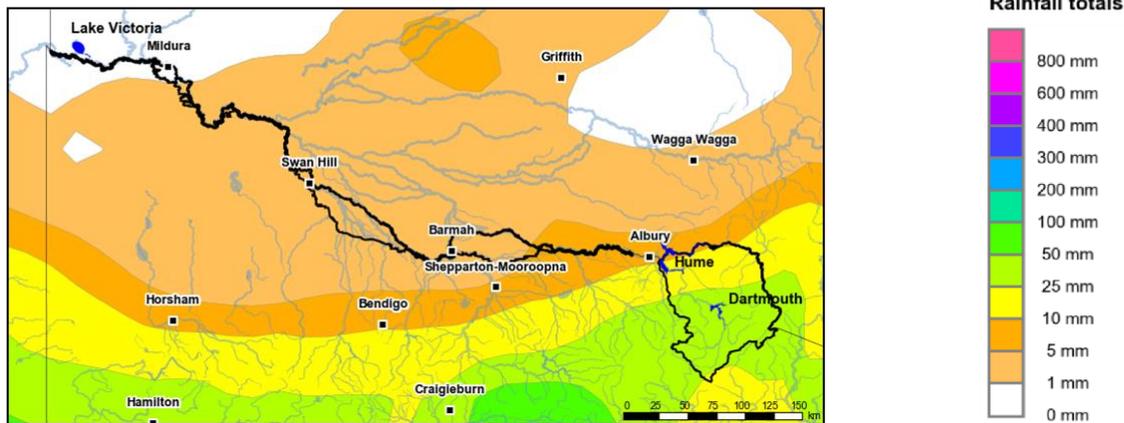


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (4 April to 3 May 2021)

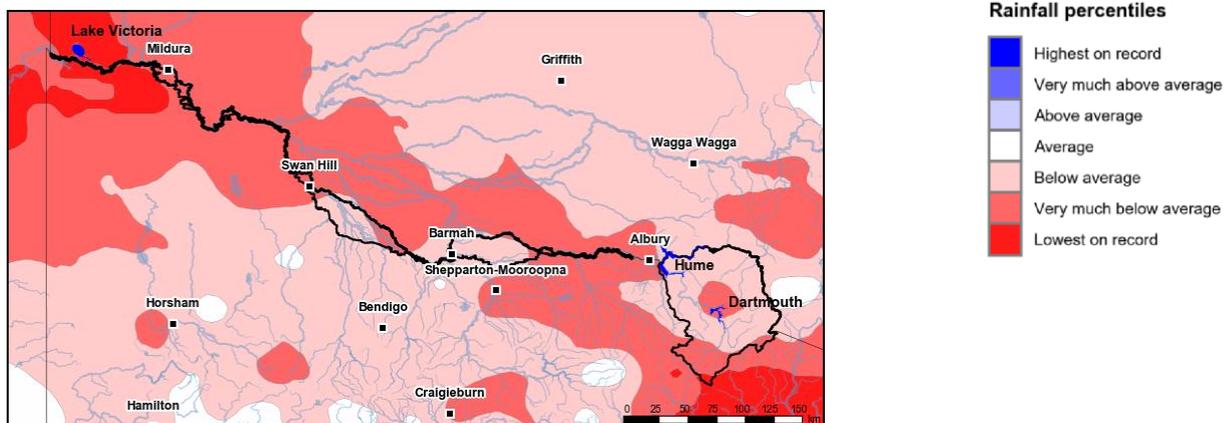


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to April 2021)

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*): 1 954 GL (as at end of March 2021)

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

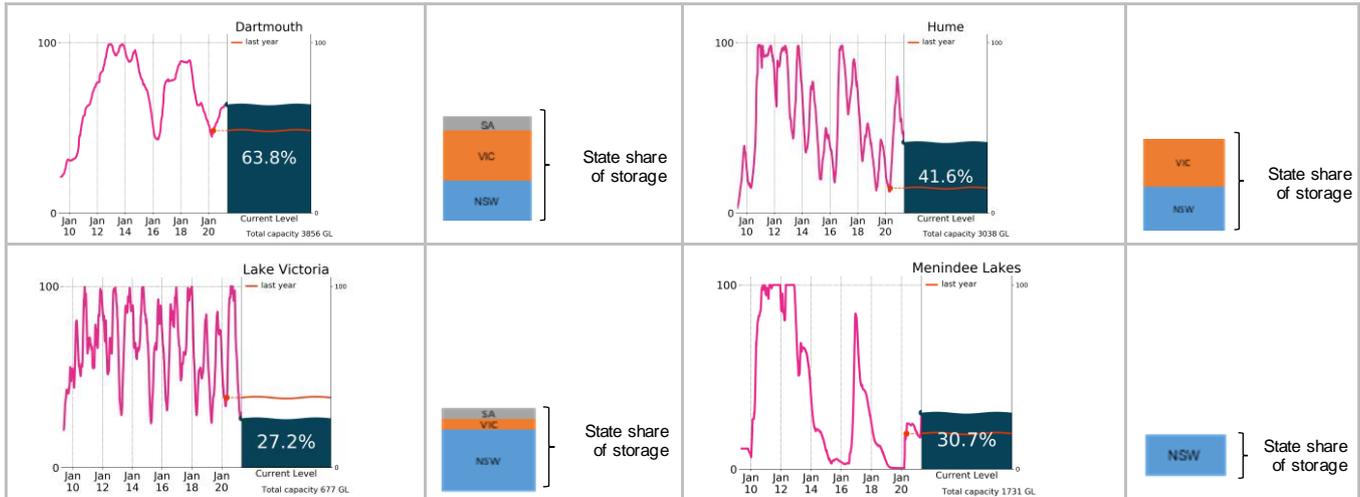


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 1 May 2021 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Mar 2021)

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

Who is the water for?

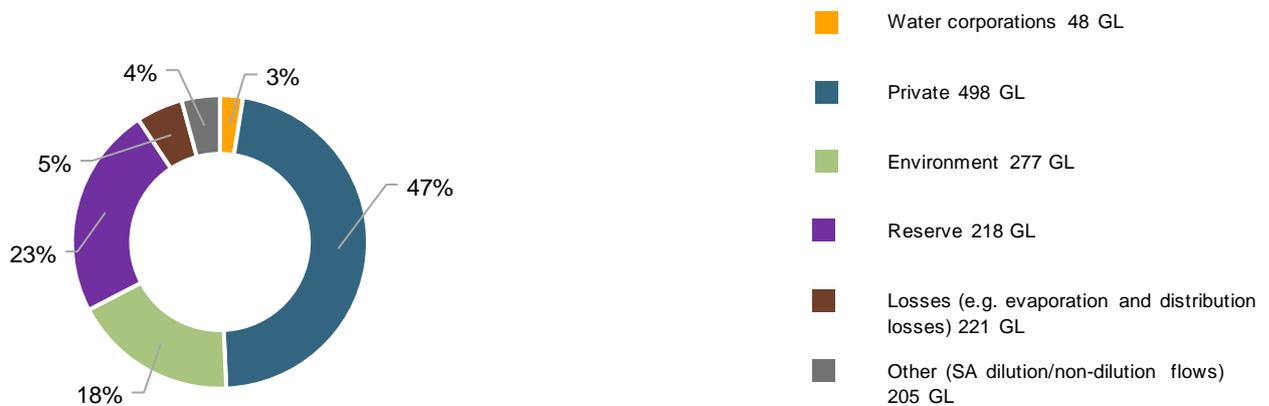


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 29 April 2021)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 29 April 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 3 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	\$4 425 (Zone 6) \$6 000/ML (Zone 7)	\$ 80/ML (Zone 6 & 7)
Vic Murray Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	\$550 (Zone 6) \$910/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](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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