Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Water Reporting Summary – Goulburn Catchment

4 January 2021

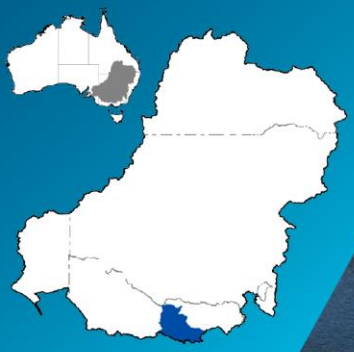

Photo: Goulburn River August 2018 by Nils Versemann

Overview

- In the last 30 days, most of the Goulburn catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall, while upstream areas received 50 to 100 mm, and parts of the Great Dividing Range received up to 200 mm (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 49 mm. In parts of the catchment, recent rainfall has offset the rainfall deficiency experienced over the last four years. Rainfall from January 2017 to December 2020 is now considered to be average or below average for most of the Goulburn catchment (Figure 2). However, areas near Shepparton and Mansfield have received very much below average rainfall during this period.
- The recent rainfall has helped to maintain average root zone soil moisture conditions for the catchment. Rainfall received in the last month has translated into some runoff and inflow into storages (Figure 3). Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares reached 100% on 15 November (Table 1). This was the earliest time in a water year 100% of high-reliability water entitlements has been reached since 2016–17.
- Allocation prices are currently $125 per ML, which is lower than prices paid in December ($138 per ML) and significantly lower than the same time last year ($650 per ML) (Table 1).

Recent conditions

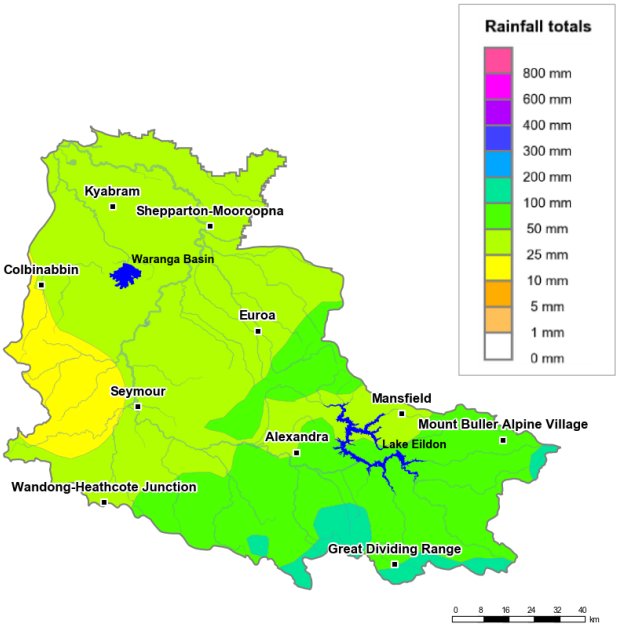

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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (6 Dec 2020 to 4 Jan 2021)

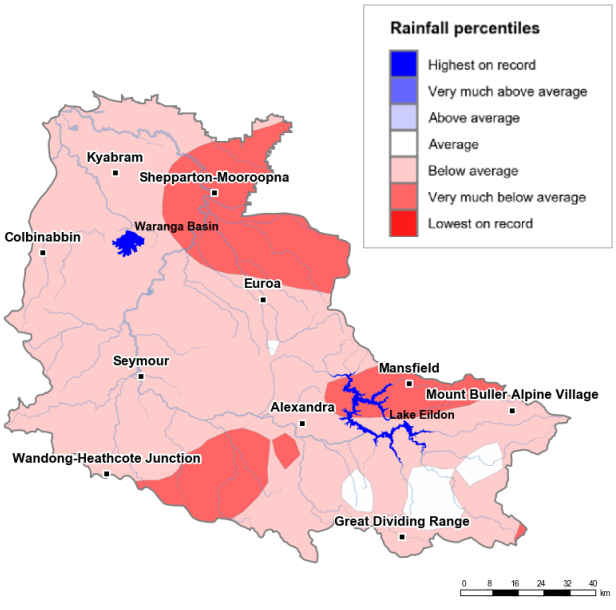

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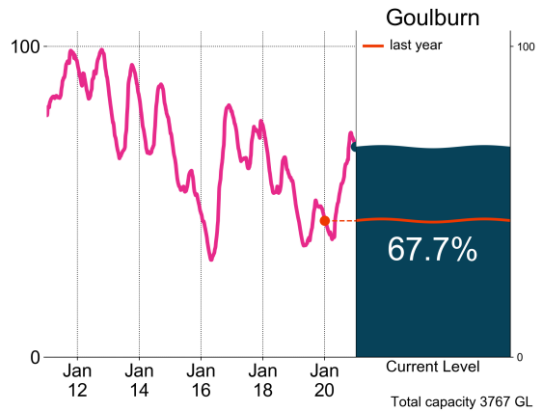
Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Dec 2020)

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 4 January 2021



Combined total storage	2 551 GL
Combined accessible storage*	2 340 GL

* Accessible storage volume is the volume of water stored excluding dead storage (water stored below the level of the lowest outlet)

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

Source: BoM water storages dashboard

Who is the water for?

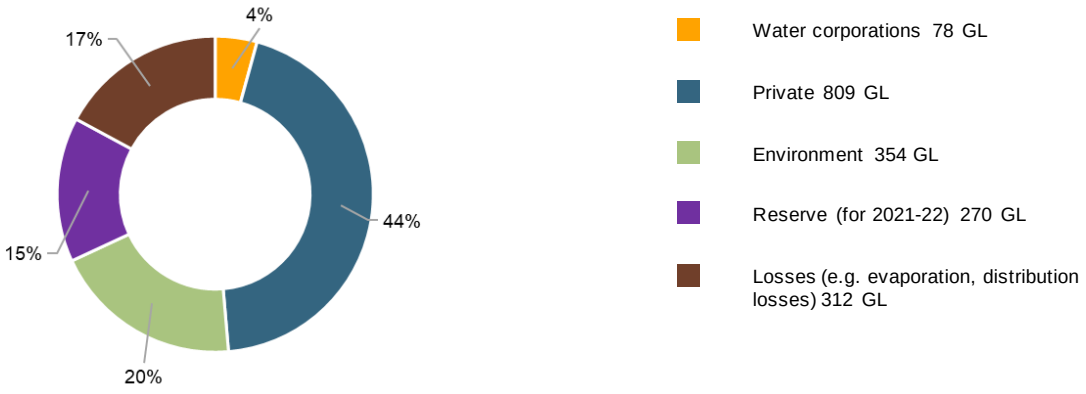


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 4 January 2021)

Source: Northern Victoria Resource Manager

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments at 4 January 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 4 January 2021

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	100%	Earliest time of year for 100% allocations since 2016–17	$4 000/ML	$125/ML
VIC Goulburn Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	$450/ML	

Source: Victorian Water Register and BoM water markets dashboard

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au