

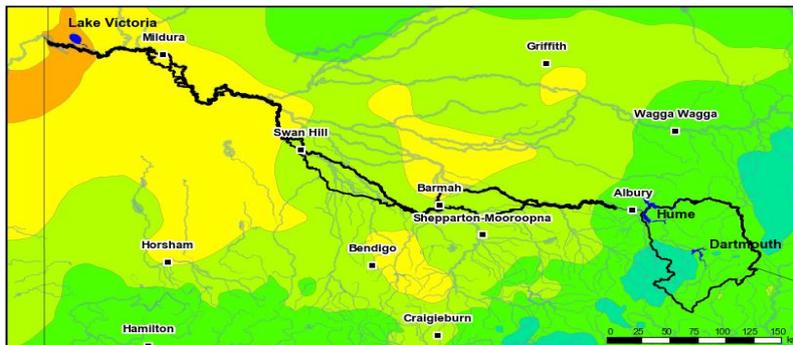
Water Reporting Summary – Victorian Murray Catchment

04 January 2021

Overview

- In the past month, total rainfall decreased from east to west in the Victorian Murray catchment. The upper parts of the catchment, including areas near Hume Dam received 50 to 200 mm of rainfall, while central areas received between 25 to 50 mm. The exception was a small area north of Barmah which received less than 25 mm. Lower catchment areas near Lake Victoria and Mildura also received less than 25 mm (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 69 mm. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Victorian Murray catchment mostly below average or very much below average (Figure 2).
- Root zone soil moisture was average across most of the catchment and the recent rainfall has translated into some runoff and inflows into storages (Figure 3).
- Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares are currently 90% which is 60% higher than the same time last year (Table 1). Allocation prices are currently \$155–\$195 per ML (Table 1) which, at the higher end, is lower than prices paid in December (\$158–\$215 per ML) and significantly lower than the same time last year (\$640–\$820 per ML).
- Looking forward to the 2020–21 summer, if storages experience average inflows, similar to those received during 2017–18, announced allocations are expected to reach 100% for high-reliability water shares by February 2021 (Northern Victoria Resource Manager).

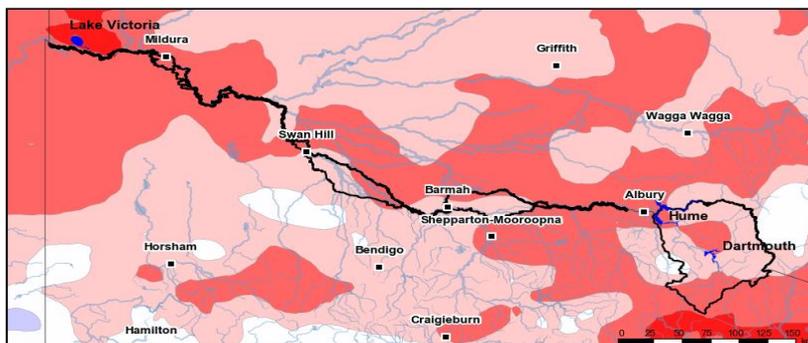
Recent conditions



Rainfall totals



Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 Dec to 04 Jan 2021)



Rainfall percentiles

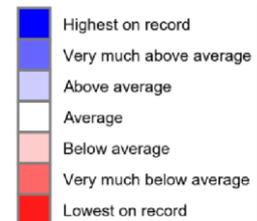


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (compared to 1900–2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Dec 2020)

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?

Combined total storage (Vic share*): 2 597 GL (as at end of Nov 2020)

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

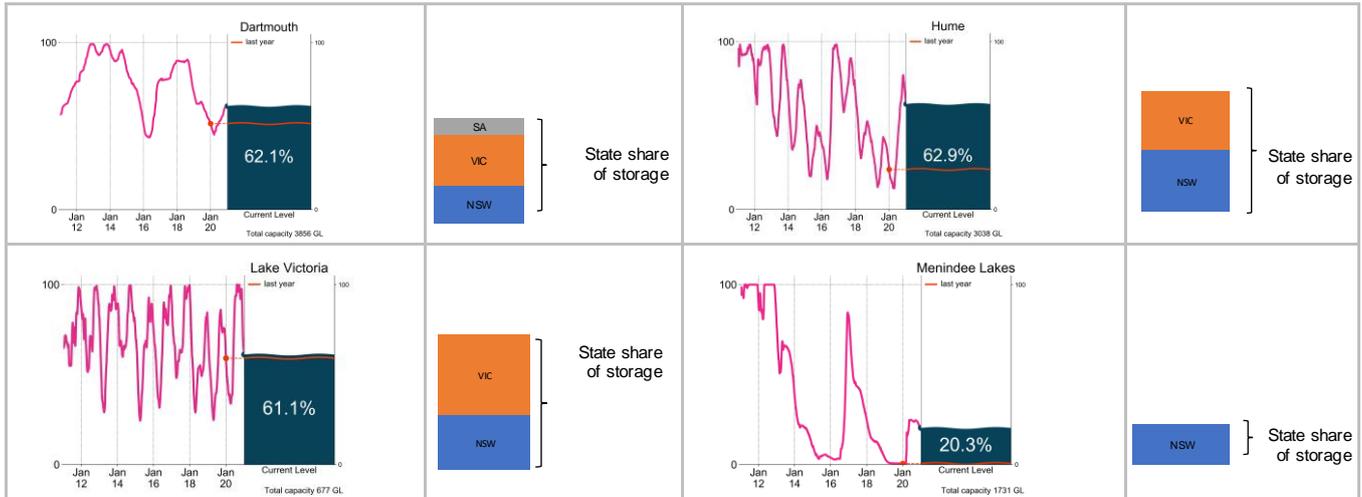


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 04 January 2021 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Nov 2020)

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

Who is the water for?

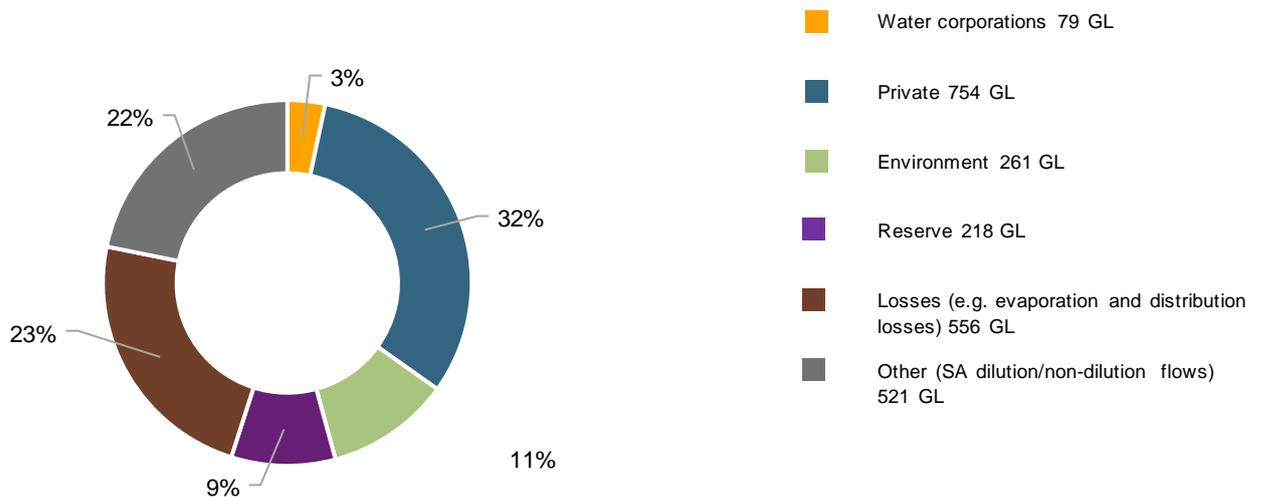


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 04 January 2021)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 04 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 04 January 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 | 90% | 56% last year | \$4 250 (Zone 6) \$6 000/ML (Zone 7) | \$155/ML (Zone 6) |
| Vic Murray Low-Reliability Water Share | 0% | Same as most years | \$475/ML (Zone 6) \$895/ML (Zone 7) | \$195/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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