



Water Reporting Summary - South Australian Murray

17 February 2020



Overview

- In the last 30 days, the South Australian Murray catchment received varying amounts of rainfall. Most parts of the catchment received 25 to 50 mm rainfall, whereas areas near Geranium and north of Burra received up to 100 mm rainfall. The central and eastern parts of the catchment near Renmark largely missed out, receiving only 5 to 25 mm rainfall (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall was 37 mm. This patchy rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period from January 2017 with rainfall across most of the South Australian Murray catchment being very much below average (Figure 2).
- Water allocations to the majority of entitlement holders reached 100% on 15 November 2019. An update provided on 16 December 2019 confirmed 100% allocation for all entitlement holders (Figure 3 and Table 1).
- The trend of well below average rainfall will continue to impact storage volumes and future water resources into 2020-21 unless there is a substantial improvement in conditions (SA DEW).
- In seven out of the last ten years, 100% allocation was announced at the beginning of the water year (1 July).

Recent conditions

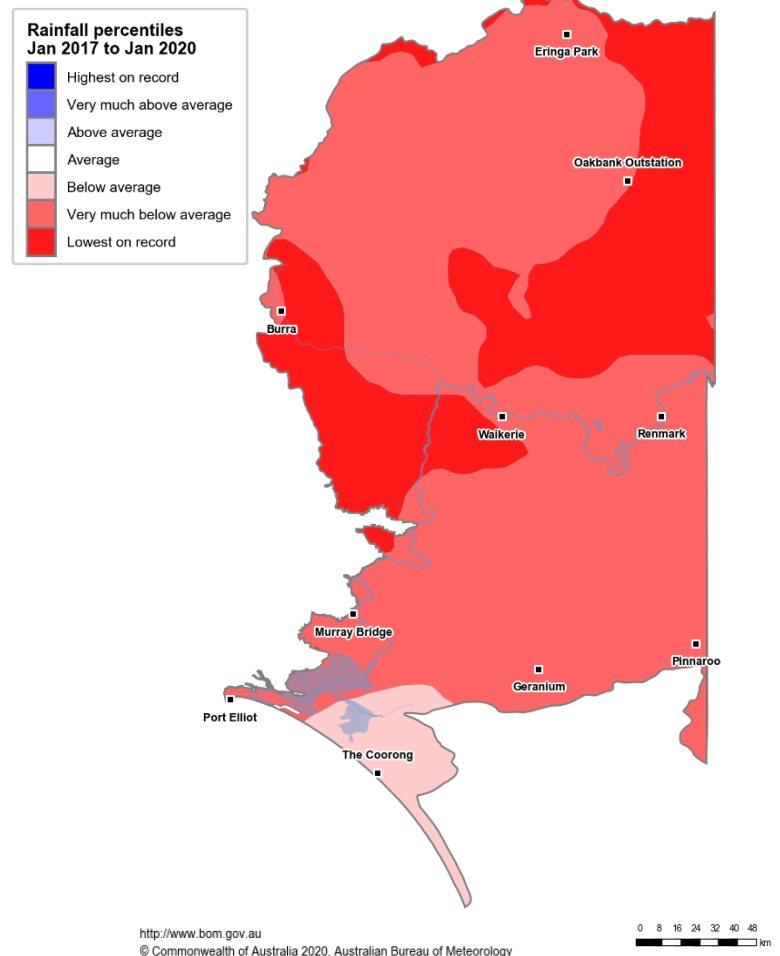
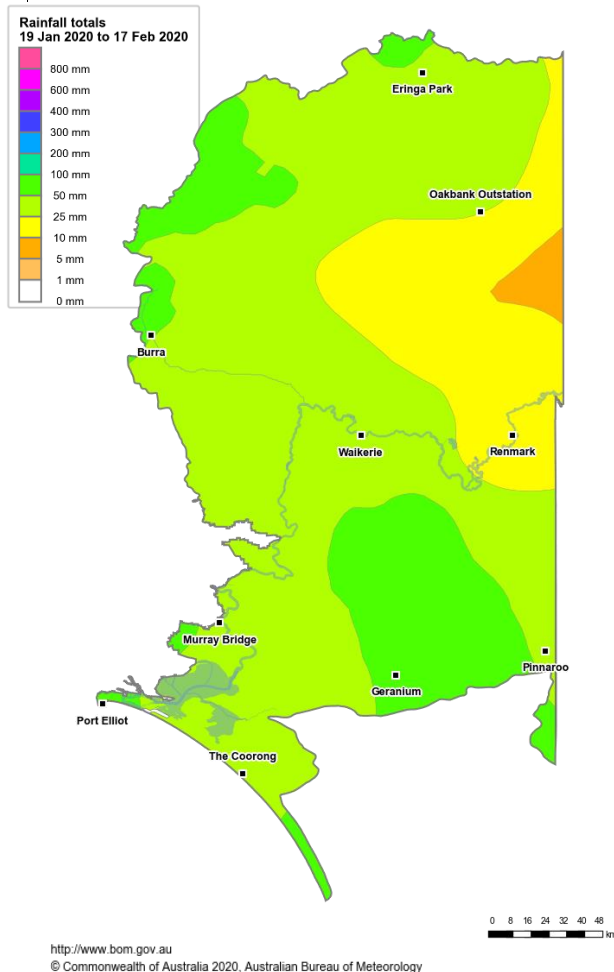


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017
(Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average)

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 there for the South Australian Murray?

The current projected minimum volume of water available to South Australia by the end of 2019-20: 1,580 GL*

*Based on the current MDBA's assessment of water resource availability. It provides for an allocation of 870 GL for consumptive entitlements and an allowance for dilution and losses, and excludes water held under South Australia's Storage Right (340 GL as at end January 2020). The storage right has been set aside under Schedule G of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement to meet future critical human water needs and private carryover.

Source: [SA Department of Environment and Water](#) and [MDBA](#)

How much water is in the MDBA operated storages?

Total volume in the MDBA operated storages: 2,667 GL (as at 17 February 2020)

MDBA operated storages (relevant for SA Murray)	% Full (total storage capacity as at 17/2/2020)	% Full (same time last year)
Dartmouth	47%	65%
Hume	18%	29%
Lake Victoria	43%	53%
Menindee Lakes*	<1%	2%
Total	29%	41%

*not currently under MDBA operation/control

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

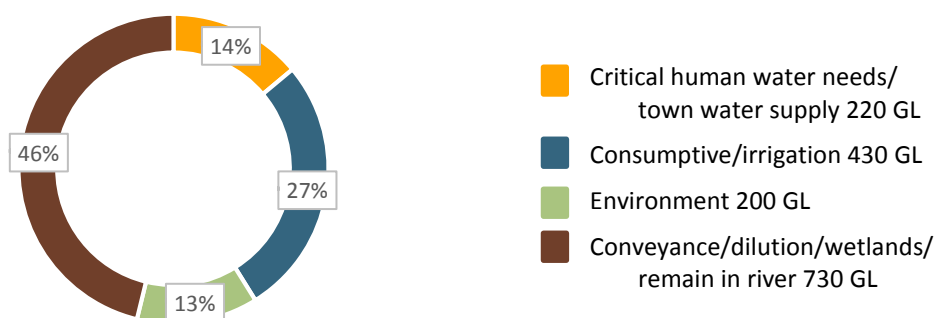


Figure 3: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 17 February 2020)

Source: [SA Department of Environment and Water](#)

NB: Allocation information shown is water allocated for various purposes in 2019-20. It is not adjusted for water usage to date or water traded.

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) - Selected licence categories as at 17 February 2020

Licence category	Current announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)
SA Murray Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%	Same as most years
SA Murray Class 3 (irrigation)	100%	100% allocation as of 15 November. In seven out of the last ten years, 100% allocation was announced on 1 July.

Source: [SA Department of Environment and Water](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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