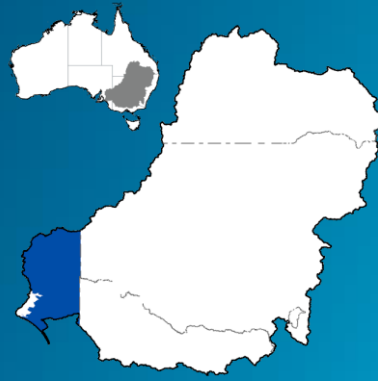




Water Reporting Summary - South Australian Murray

15 April 2020



Overview

- In the last month, it has been fairly dry across the South Australian Murray catchment. Central and southern parts of the catchment received 10 to 25 mm rainfall, while northern parts received less than 5 mm (Figure 1). The catchment area-average rainfall was 13 mm. This limited 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 or lowest on record (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 4).
- In seven out of the last ten years, 100% allocation was announced at the beginning of the water year (1 July).
- Allocation prices remain historically high (\$400 per ML) due to relatively low water availability but have eased from their peak of over \$950 per ML in November 2019 (Table 1).
- The trend of low inflows into most upstream catchments since 2017 has impacted storage volumes (Figure 3) and will influence future water resources into 2020-21 unless there is a substantial improvement in conditions (SA DEW). For information on 1 July 2020 allocation outlooks, refer to [South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement \(15 April 2020\)](#).

Recent conditions

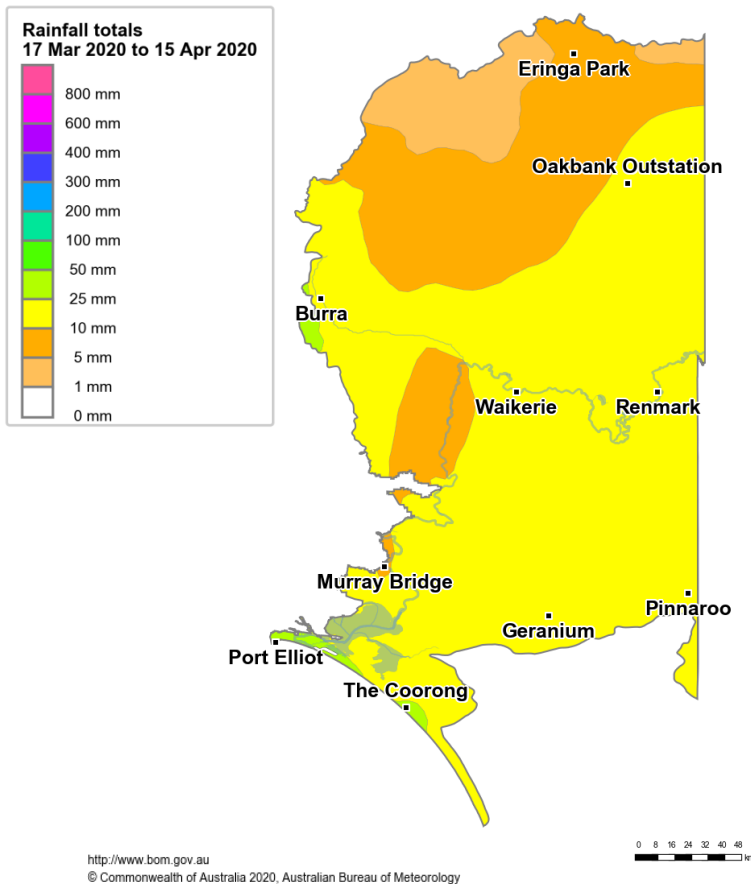


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

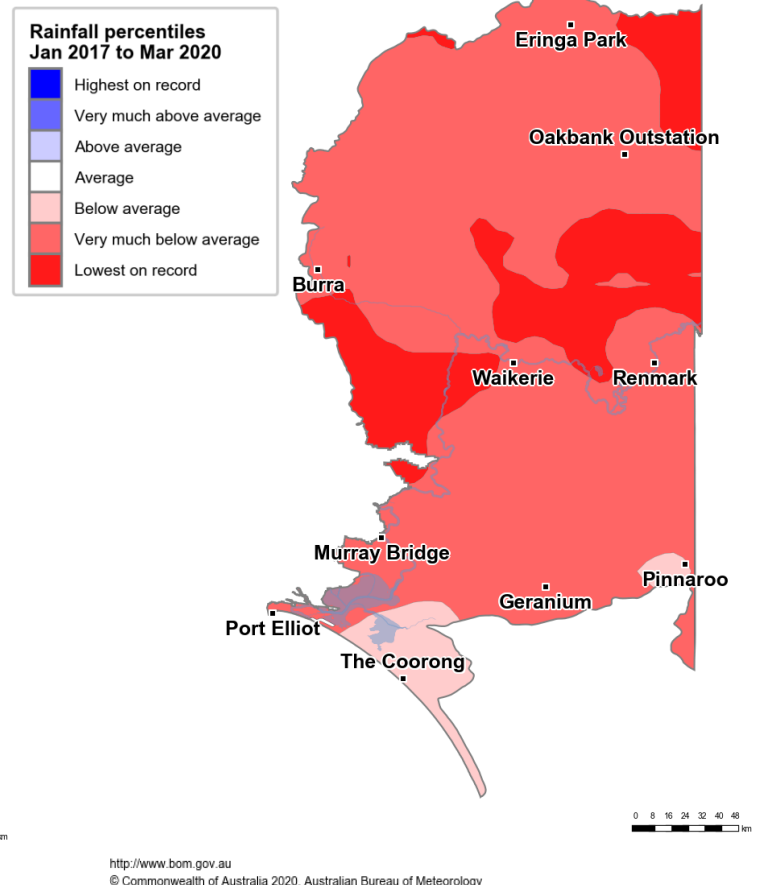


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average)

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: 1,630 GL*

*Based on the MDBA's current 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 (339 GL as at end March 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: 2,649 GL (as at 15 April 2020)

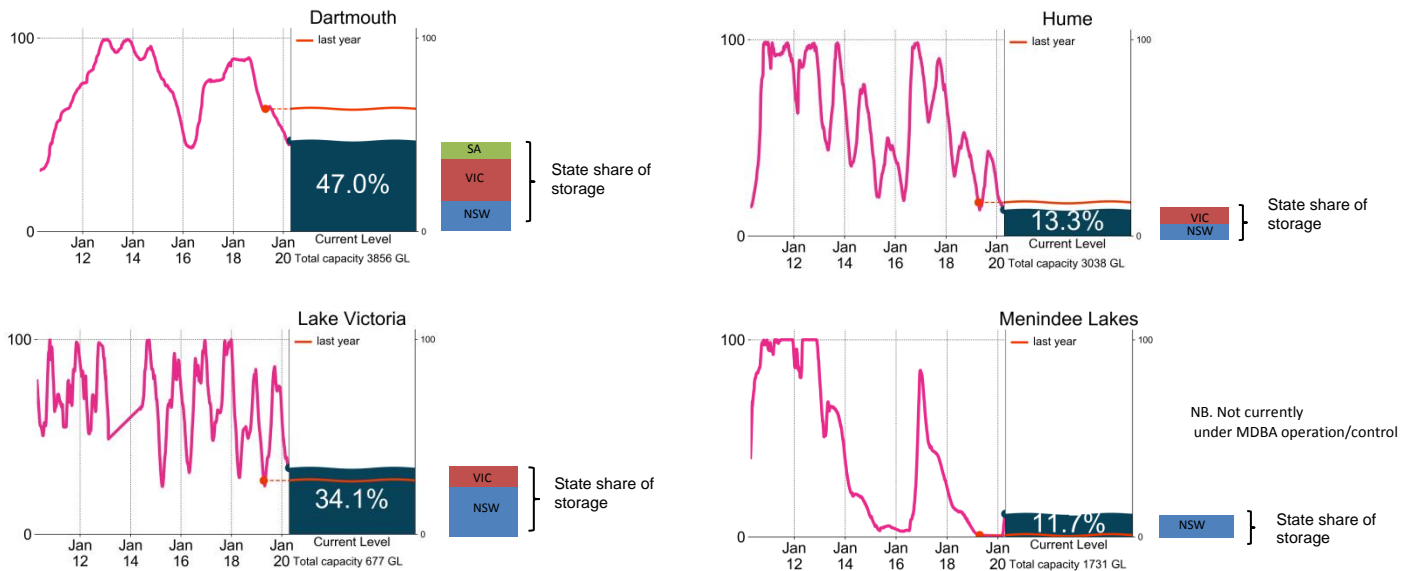


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 15 April 2020 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Mar 2020)

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

Who is the water for?

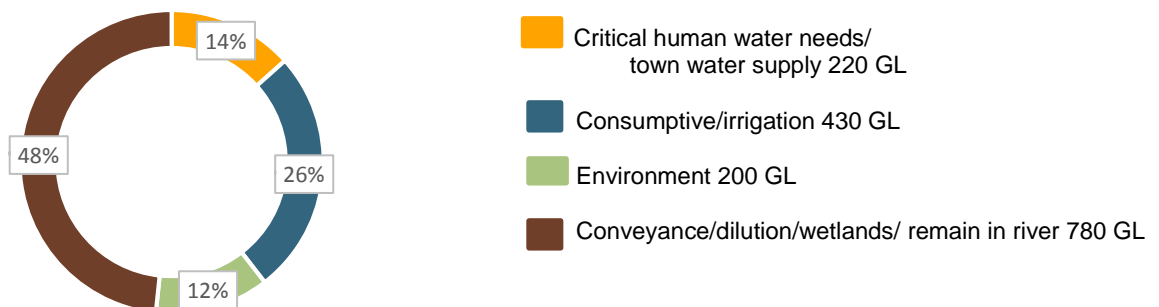


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 15 April 2020). NB: Allocation information shown is water allocated for various purposes in 2019-20. It is not adjusted for water usage to date or trade.

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

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) and market prices - Selected licence categories as at 15 April 2020

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement Prices (monthly median)	Allocation Price (median- last 7 days)
SA Murray Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%	Same as most years	n/a	\$400/ML
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.	\$6,540/ML	

Source: [SA Department of Environment and Water](#) and [BoM water markets dashboard](#)

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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