



Water Reporting Summary - South Australian Murray

16 March 2020



Overview

- There was not much rainfall over the South Australian Murray catchment in the last 30 days. Eastern parts of the catchment received 10 to 25 mm rainfall, while western parts received less than 10 mm (Figure 1). The catchment area-average rainfall was 10 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 3 and Table 1).
- The trend of well below average rainfall in upstream catchments 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

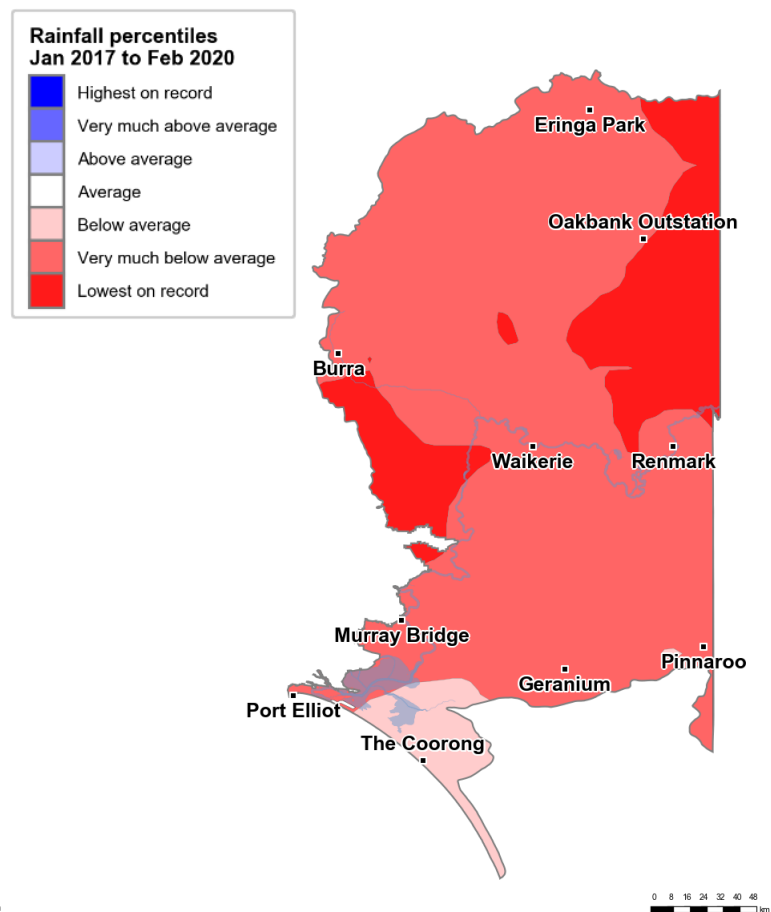
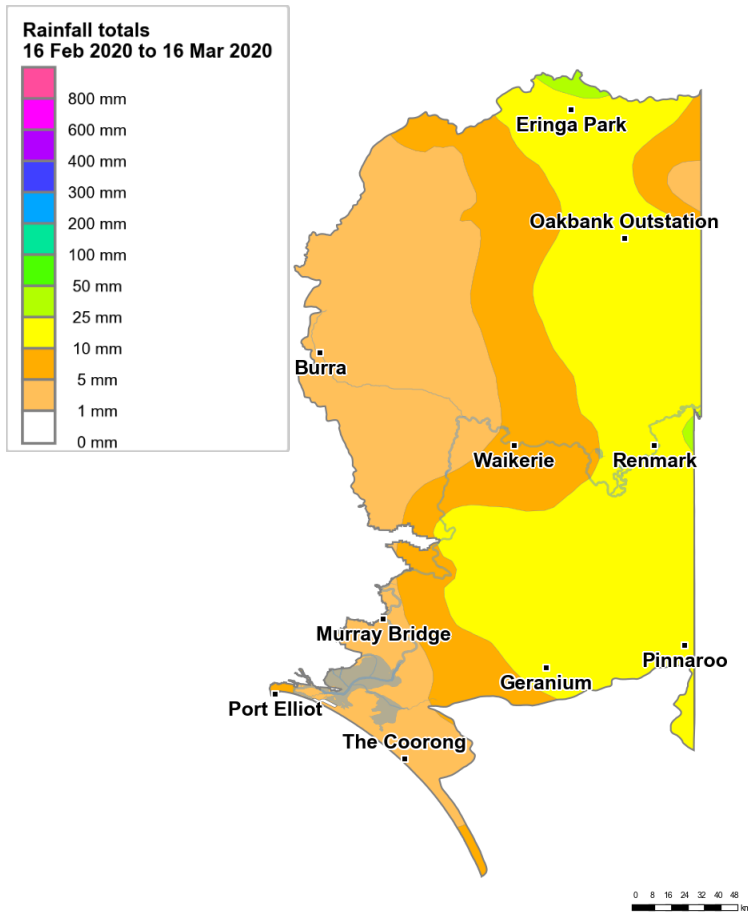


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

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: 1,645 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 February 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: 2,576 GL (as at 16 March 2020)

MDBA operated storages (relevant for SA Murray)	% Full (total storage capacity as at 16/3/2020)	% Full (same time last year)
Dartmouth	47%	63%
Hume	16%	23%
Lake Victoria	39%	41%
Menindee Lakes*	<1%	1%
Total	28%	37%

*not currently under MDBA operation/control

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

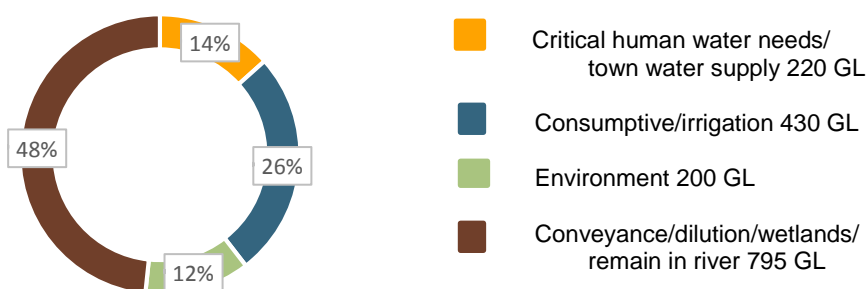


Figure 3: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 16 March 2020)

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 16 March 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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