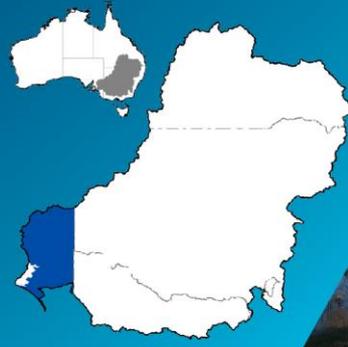




Water Reporting Summary - South Australian Murray

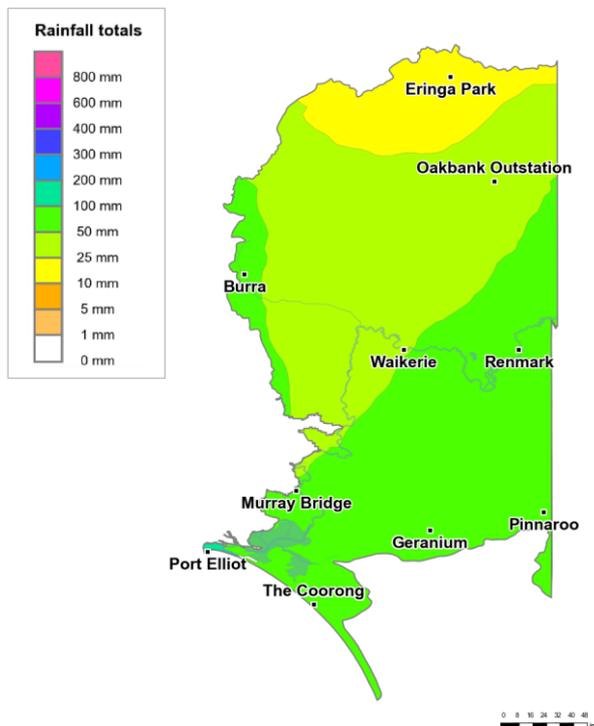
1 May 2020



Overview

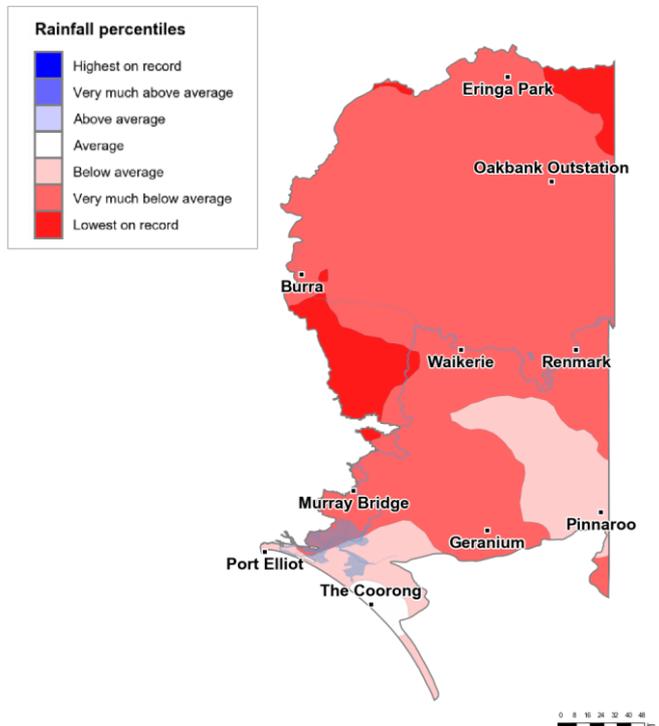
- Compared to previous months, last month was relatively wet across the South Australian Murray catchment. In the last 30 days, most parts of the catchment received 25 to 100 mm of rainfall, with only the northern parts missing out with less than 25 mm rain (Figure 1). The catchment area-average rainfall was 48 mm. This 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 (\$410 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



<http://www.bom.gov.au>
© Commonwealth of Australia 2020, Bureau of Meteorology

Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (2 April to 1 May 2020)



<http://www.bom.gov.au>
© Commonwealth of Australia 2020, Bureau of Meteorology

Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to Apr 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 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: 2,810 GL (as at 1 May 2020)

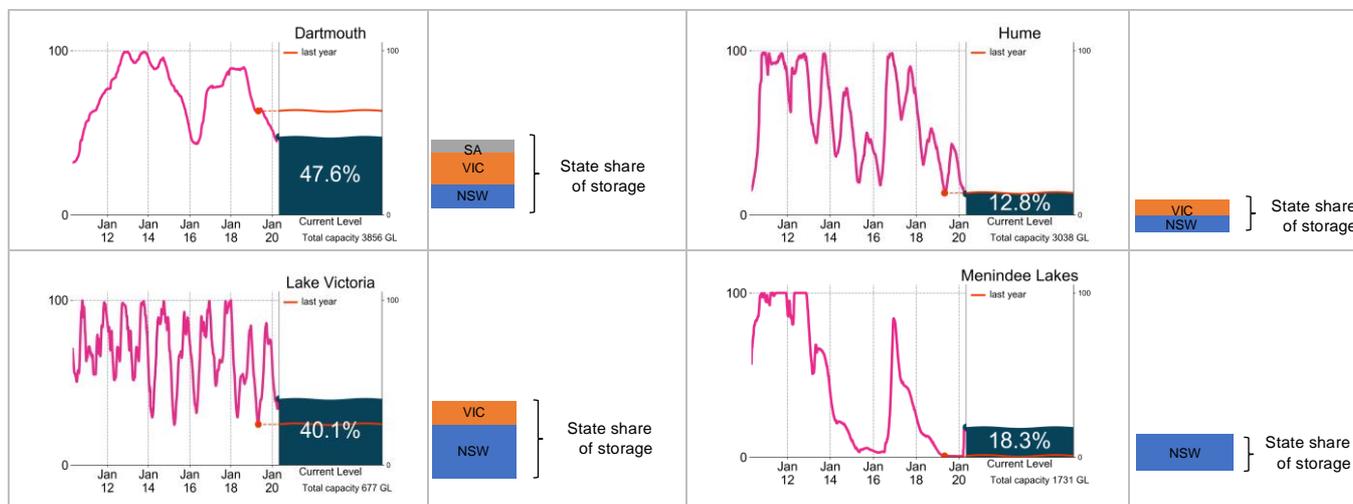


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 1 May 2020 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Mar 2020)

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

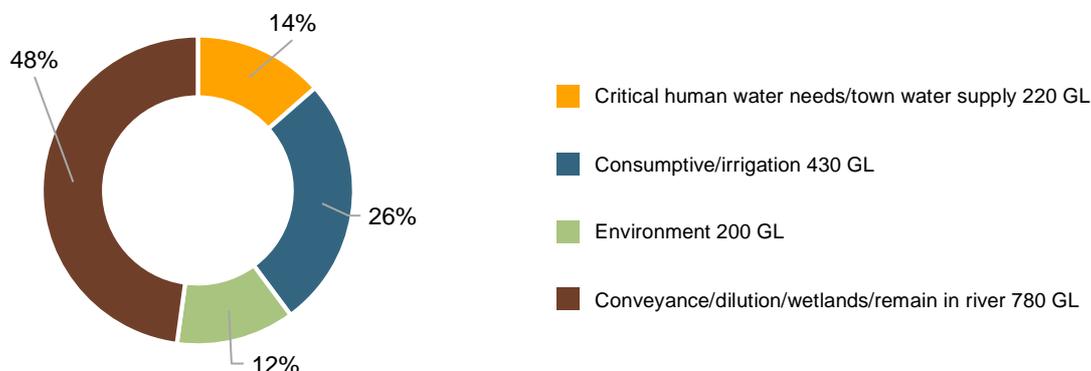


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocated (% of total) for the 2019-20 water year (as at 1 May 2020)

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

NB: Information shown is water allocated for various purposes in 2019-20 and is not adjusted for water used or traded.

Table 1: Allocation announcements (%) and market prices – Selected licence categories as at 1 May 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	\$410/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.	\$7,400/ML	

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

FIND OUT MORE

For more information email water@bom.gov.au



With the exception of logos, photography and data referenced as being from other organisations, this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence. The terms and conditions of the licence are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>. Attribution for this publication should be: © Commonwealth of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology) 2020.