



Water Reporting Summary - Goulburn Catchment

16 March 2020



Photo: Goulburn River August 2018 by Nils Versemann

Overview

- In the last 30 days, most of the Goulburn catchment received 50 to 100 mm rainfall, with parts of the Great Dividing Range receiving up to 200 mm, falling mainly in the first week of March. In contrast, downstream parts in the north of the catchment received less than 50 mm rainfall (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 86 mm. However, this recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Goulburn catchment being below average to very much below average (Figure 2).
- The recent rainfall has done little to improve storage volumes and inflows, resulting in relatively low current allocation volumes (Figure 3). Looking forward to the 2020-21 summer, if storages receive similar inflows to those received during 2019-20, announced allocations (known as seasonal determinations) would only be expected to reach 60% for high-reliability water shares (Northern Victoria Resource Manager).
- Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares are currently 78%, which is the lowest level for this time of year since 2009-10 (Table 1).

Recent conditions

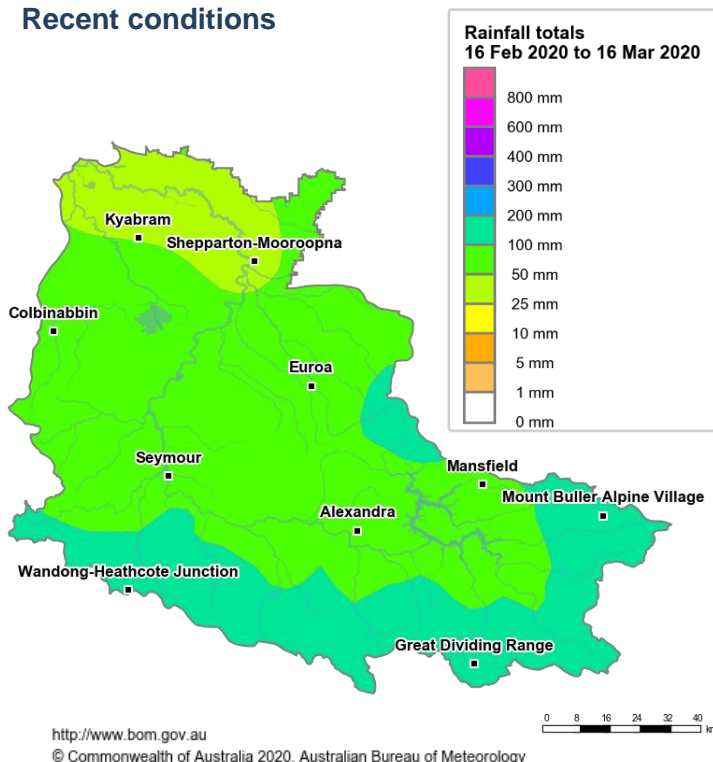


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days

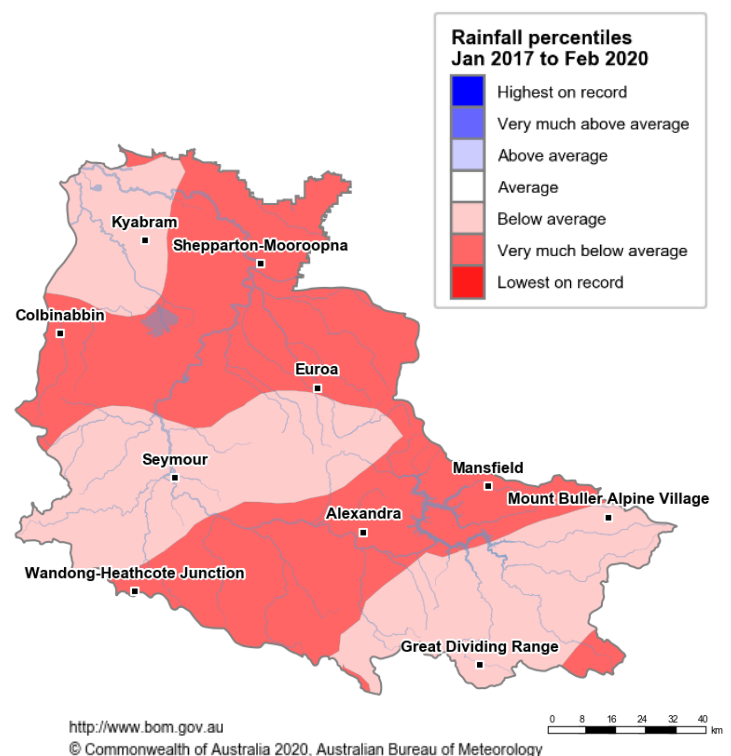


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017
(Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average)

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 in the storages (as at 16 March 2020)?

Storage volume: Eildon and Waranga basin storages

Combined total storage	1,499 GL
Combined accessible storage*	1,288 GL
%Full (total storage capacity)	40%
%Full (same time last year)	42%

*Accessible storage volume is the volume of water stored excluding dead storage (water stored below the level of the lowest outlet)

Source: [BoM water storages dashboard](#)

Who is the water for?

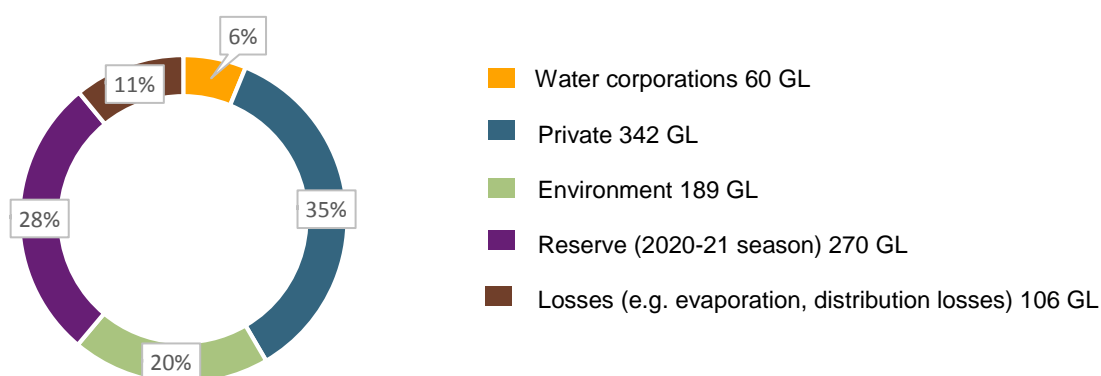


Figure 3: Volumes of water allocations currently available or remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 16 March 2020)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water currently available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments. 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 (seasonal determinations) (%) - Selected licence categories as at 16 March 2020

Licence category	Current announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)
VIC Goulburn High-Reliability Water Share	78%	Lowest in the last ten years
VIC Goulburn Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years

Source: [Victorian Water Register](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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