



# Water Reporting Summary - Victorian Murray Catchment

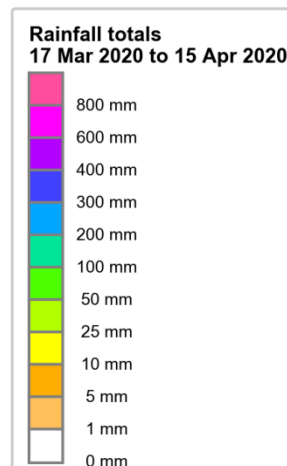
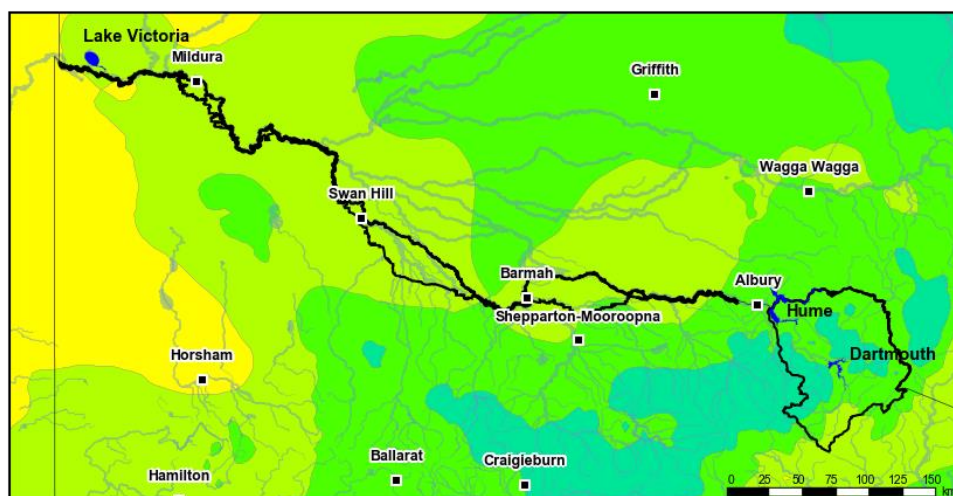
1 April 2020



## Overview

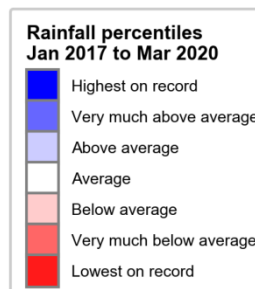
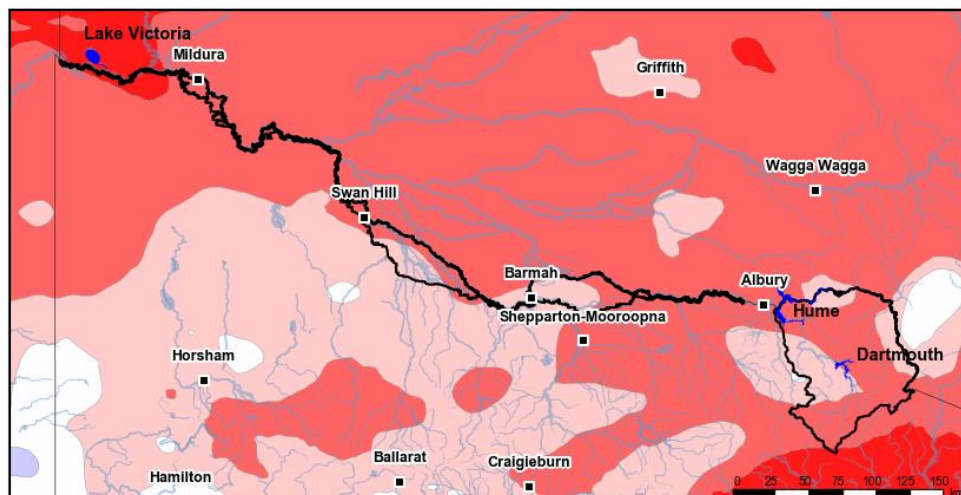
- In the last month, most of the Victorian Murray catchment received between 25 to 100 mm of rainfall, with up to 200 mm falling in parts of the upstream catchment (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 74 mm. This recent rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Victorian Murray catchment mostly being very much below average (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has improved soil moisture but has not translated into significantly higher runoff and inflows into most storages. Low storage volumes and inflows have led to relatively low allocation volumes (Figures 3 and 4). The last announced allocations (known as seasonal determinations) for the 2019-20 water year were provided on 1 April 2020. Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares have ended the water year at 66%, which is the lowest level for this time of year since 2008-09.
- Allocation prices remain historically high (\$400-500 per ML) due to relatively low water availability but have eased from their peak of over \$900 per ML in November 2019 (Table 1).
- Looking forward to the 2020-21 summer, if storages receive similar inflows to those received during 2019-20, announced allocations would only be expected to reach about 45% for high-reliability water shares. The next outlook update will be on 15 May 2020 (Northern Victoria Resource Manager).

## Recent conditions



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Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days



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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?

**Combined total storage (VIC share\*): 1,102GL (as at end March 2020)**

\*Victoria's share of Dartmouth, Hume, Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes storages

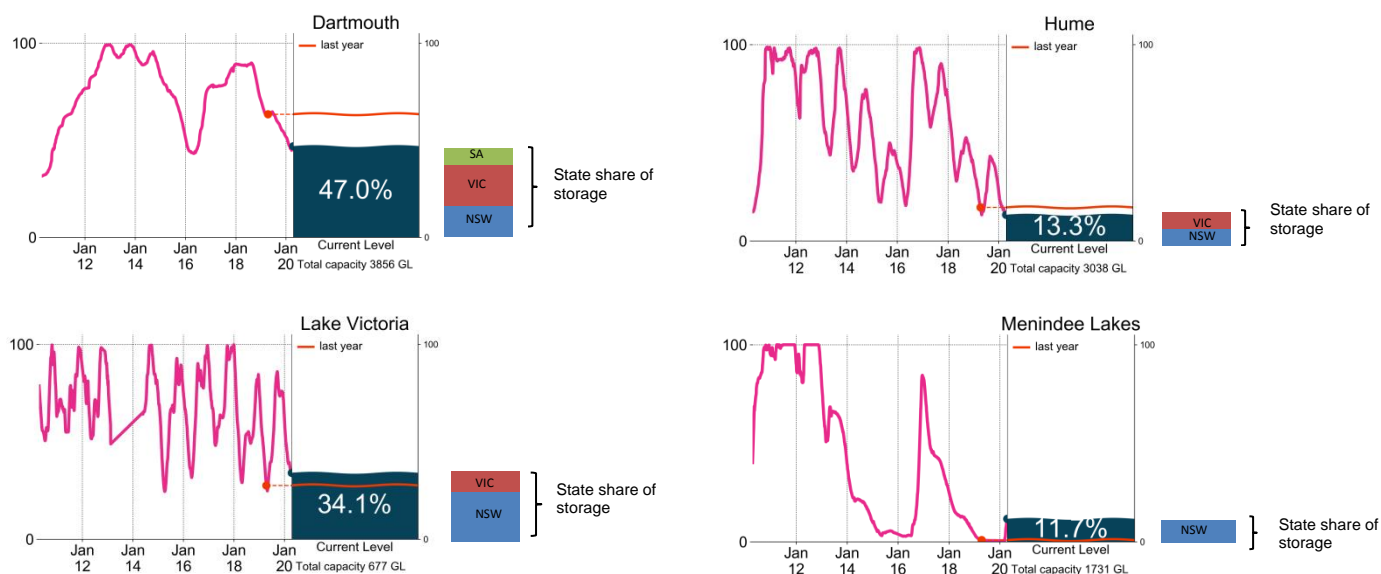


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 15 April 2020 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end Mar 2020)

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

## Who is the water for?

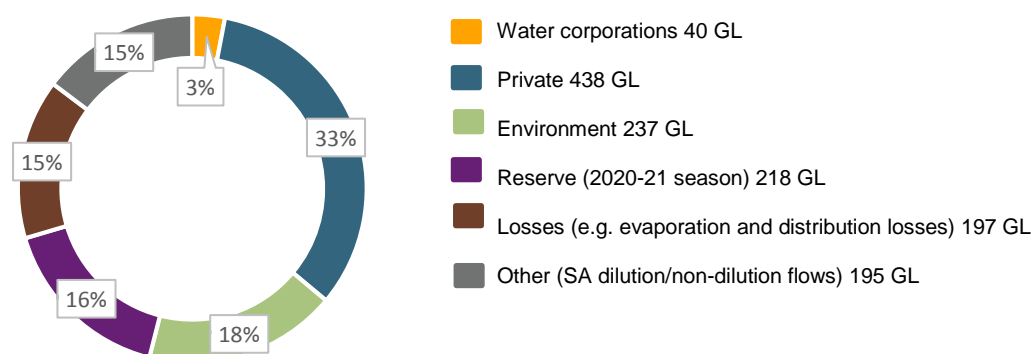


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available or remaining (% of total remaining) (last updated 1 April 2020)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 1 April 2020. 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 for operational use by Goulburn-Murray Water private water shareholders.

Table 1: Allocation announcements (seasonal determinations) as at 1 April 2020 and market prices as at 15 April 2020

Licence category	Announced allocation	Historic comparison (same time of year)	Entitlement prices* (monthly median \$/ML)	Allocation price* (median- last 7 days \$/ML)
VIC Murray High-Reliability Water Share	66%	Lowest since 2008-09	\$5,200 (Zone 6) \$6,275 (Zone 7)	\$405 (Zone 6) \$500 (Zone 7)
VIC Murray Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	\$550 (Zone 6) \$600 (Zone 7)	

\*Zone 6: Upper Victorian Murray (Dartmouth to Barmah); Zone 7 is lower Victorian Murray (Barmah to SA border)

Source: [Victorian Water Register](#) and [BoM water market dashboard](#)

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For more information email [water@bom.gov.au](mailto:water@bom.gov.au)



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