

Water Reporting Summary - Victorian Murray Catchment

15 July 2020

Overview

- In the last month, most of the lower and central parts of the Victorian Murray catchment received less than 25 mm of rainfall, while parts of the upstream catchment near Dartmouth storage received up to 200 mm of rain (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 88 mm. However, this recent patchy rainfall is in the context of the extended dry period since January 2017 with rainfall across the Victorian Murray catchment mostly below average or very much below average (Figure 2).
- Recent rainfall has improved soil moisture and translated into higher runoff and inflows into storages (Figures 3 and 4). Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares are currently 15%, which for this time of year is 9% higher than last year, but the second lowest since 2010-11.
- Allocation prices have started the 2020-21 water year at \$200 to \$350 per ML which is significantly lower than their recent peak of over \$900 per ML in November 2019 (Table 1).
- Looking forward to the 2020-21, if storages experience average inflows similar to those received during 2005-06, announced allocations are expected to reach 100% for high-reliability water shares by February 2021 (Northern Victoria Resource Manager).

Recent conditions

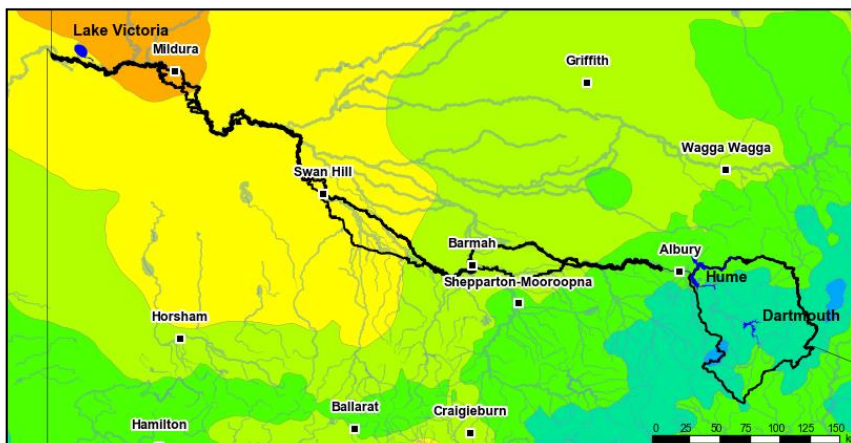


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (16 June to 15 July 2020)

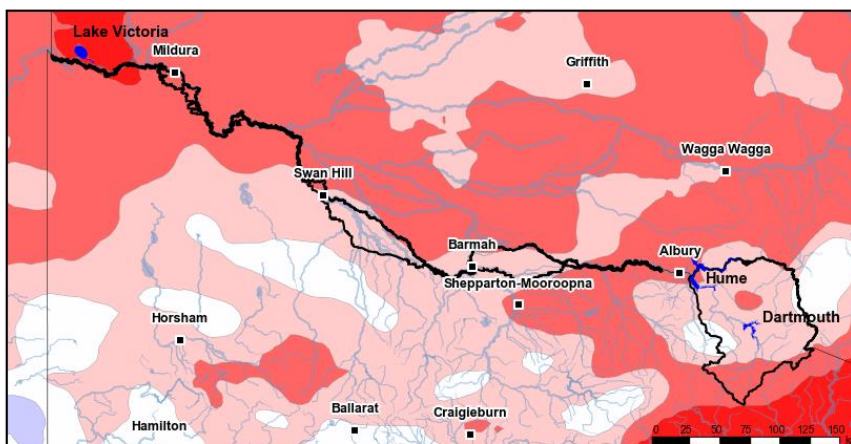


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to June 2020)
Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

How much water is in the storages?

Combined total storage (VIC share*): 1,493 GL (as at end May 2020)

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

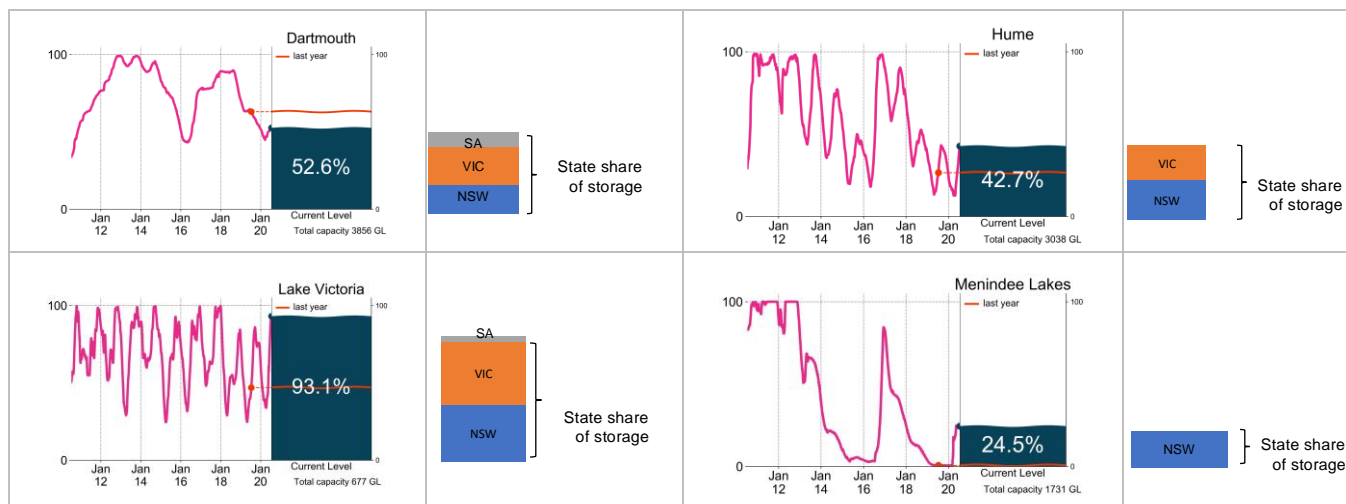


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 15 July 2020 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end May 2020)

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

Who is the water for?

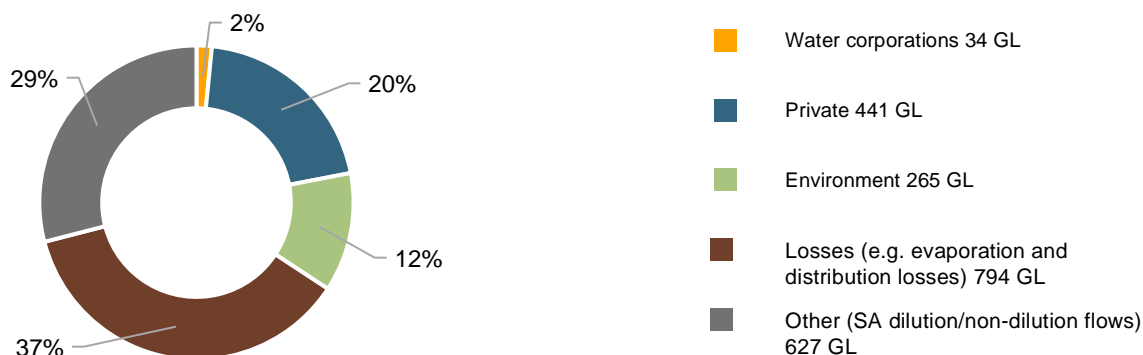


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 15 July 2020)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 15 July 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 of operational use by Goulburn-Murray Water private water shareholders.

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

| Licence category | Announced allocation | Historic comparison (same time of year) | Entitlement Prices (monthly median) | Allocation Price (median - last 7 days) |
|---|----------------------|---|--|---|
| VIC Murray High-Reliability Water Share | 15% | 9% higher than same time last year | \$5,000/ML (Zone 6) \$5,250/ML (Zone 7) | \$205/ML* (Zone 6) |
| VIC Murray Low-Reliability Water Share | 0% | Same as most years | \$550/ML (Zone 6) n/a (Zone 7) | \$350/ML (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 markets dashboard](#)

*Indicative - limited trade data

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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