

Water Reporting Summary - Victorian Murray Catchment

15 June 2020

Overview

- In the last month, most of the Victorian Murray catchment received between 10 to 50 mm rainfall. Some parts of the upstream catchment received rainfall up to 100 mm, while downstream areas near Mildura received less than 10 mm (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 47 mm. However, this recent 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. As the last announced allocations (known as seasonal determinations) for the 2019-20 water year were provided on 1 April 2020, improvements in storage volumes will not be allocated this season but will contribute to water available next season (Figures 3 and 4). Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares ended the water year at 66%, which was the lowest end of year allocations since 2008-09.
- As the end of the water year nears, allocation prices have declined significantly (currently \$200 per ML) compared to 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 be expected to reach about 60% for high-reliability water shares (Northern Victoria Resource Manager).

Recent conditions

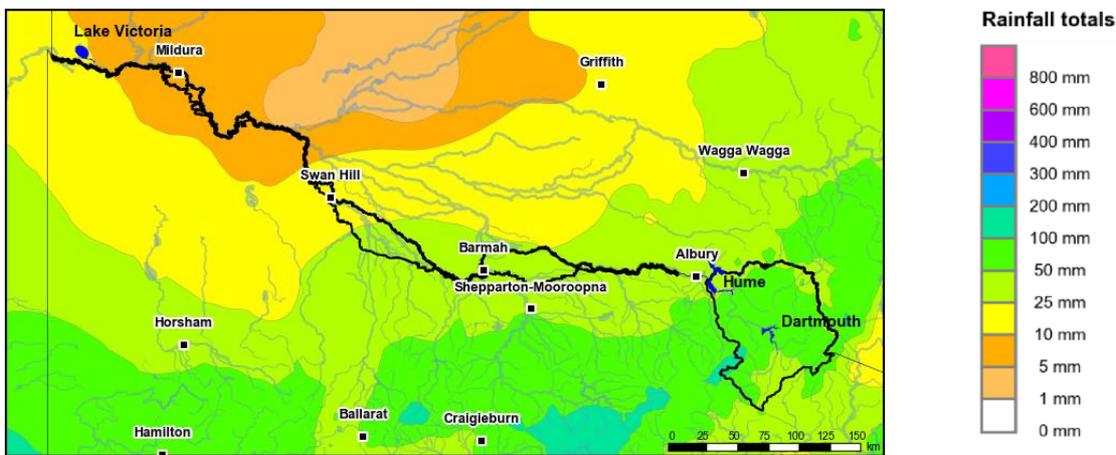


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (17 May to 15 June 2020)

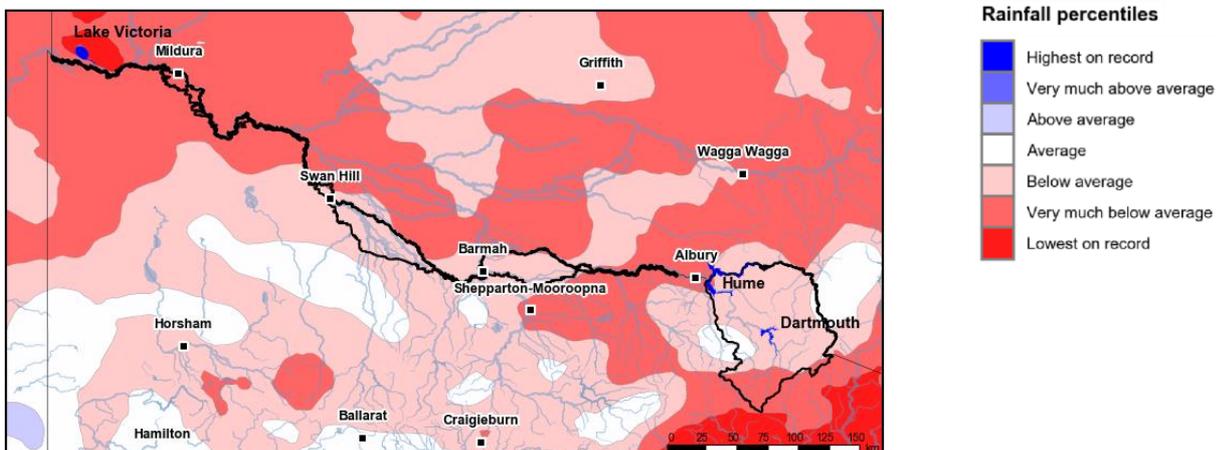


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to May 2020)
Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

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

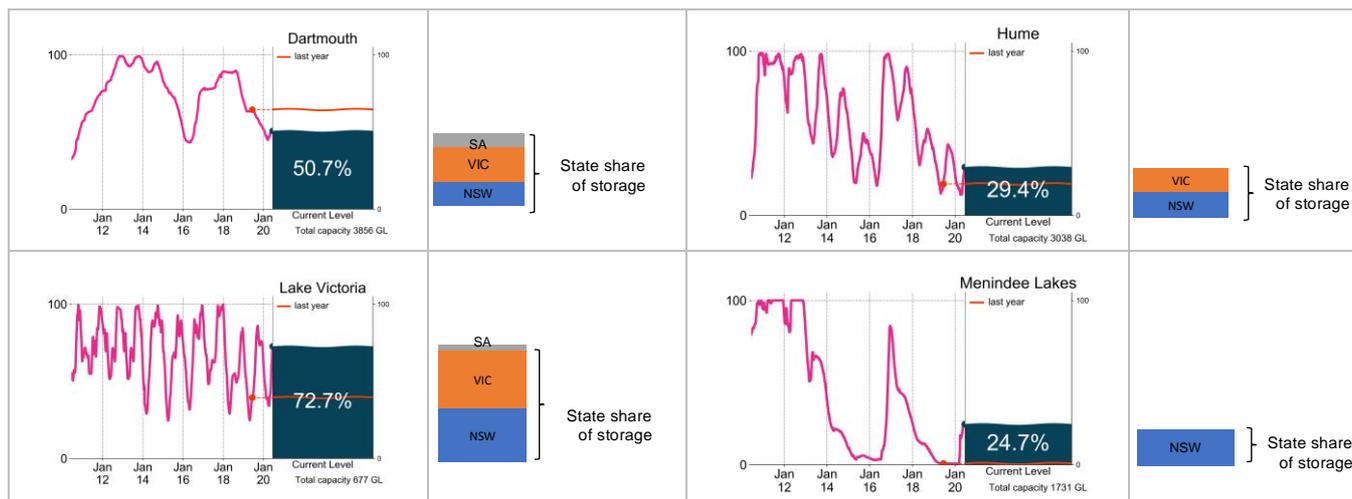


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 15 June 2020 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end May 2020)

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

Who is the water for?

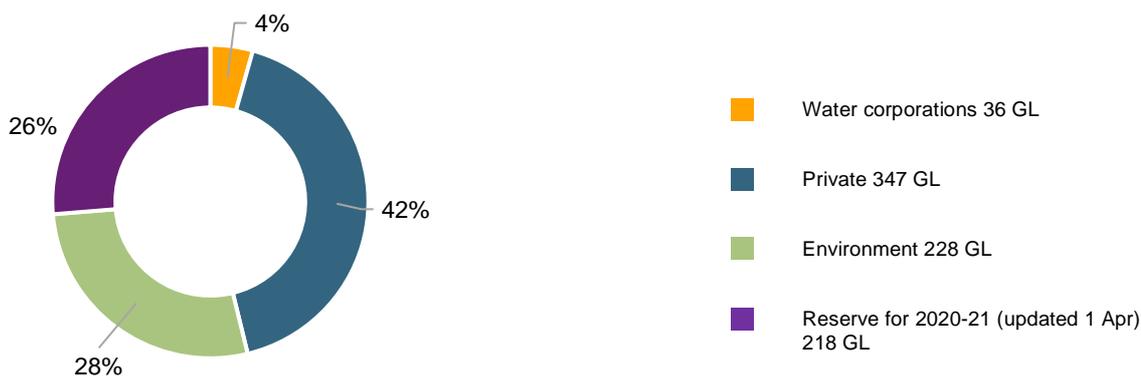


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 15 May 2020)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 15 May 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 June 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	66%	Lowest end of water year since 2008-09	\$4,500/ML (Zone 6) \$6,100/ML (Zone 7)	\$190/ML (Zone 6) \$200/ML (Zone 7)
VIC Murray Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	\$505/ML (Zone 6) \$650/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](#)

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For more information email water@bom.gov.au



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