

# Water Reporting Summary - Victorian Murray Catchment

17 August 2020

## Overview

- In the past month, most of the lower Victorian Murray catchment received 25 to 50 mm of rainfall, while most of the upper catchment received 50 to 100 mm. Some alpine parts of the upper Victorian Murray near Dartmouth storage received up to 200 mm of rain and snow (Figure 1). The area-average rainfall for the catchment was 76 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 helped to maintain mostly average soil moisture conditions, with rainfall also translating into some runoff and inflows into storages (Figures 3 and 4). Announced allocations for high-reliability water shares increased to 24% which, for this time of year, is 2% lower than last year and the lowest since 2010-11.
- Allocation prices are currently \$250-\$365 per ML, which is similar to prices paid over the last month but significantly lower than the peak of over \$900 per ML in November 2019 (Table 1).
- Looking forward to the 2020-21 summer, 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



**Rainfall totals**

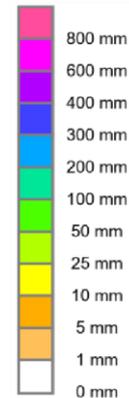
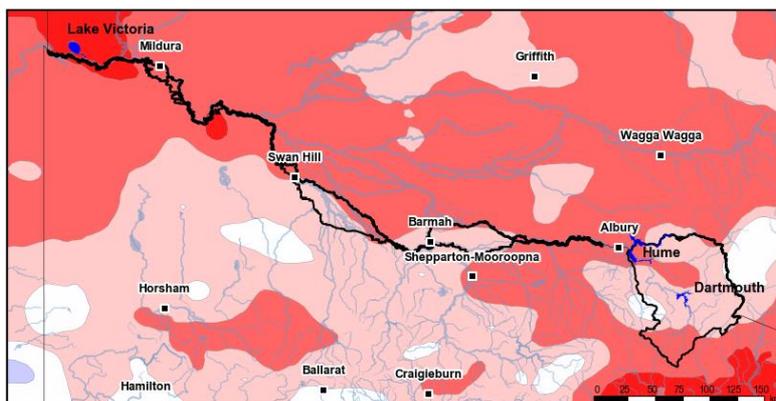


Figure 1: Rainfall totals for the last 30 days (19 July to 17 Aug 2020)



**Rainfall percentiles**

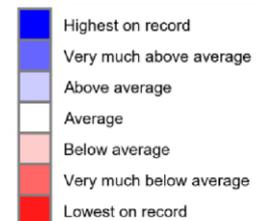


Figure 2: Rainfall percentiles since January 2017 (Compared to 1900-2019 long-term average) (Jan 2017 to July 2020)  
Note: Rainfall percentiles for the period from January 2017 are shown as the Bureau of Meteorology considers January 2017 to be the start of the current dry period for eastern Australia.

# How much water is in the storages?

**Combined total storage (VIC share\*): 1,992 GL (as at end July 2020)**

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

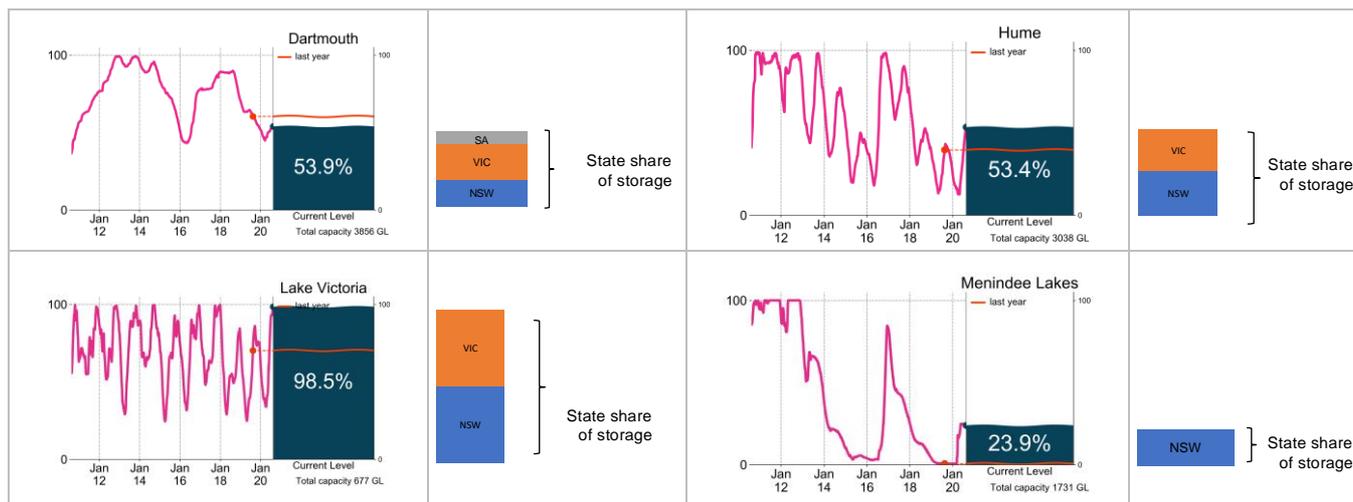


Figure 3: Current total storage (% of total capacity) as at 17 August 2020 compared to the last ten years (State shares updated end July 2020)

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

## Who is the water for?

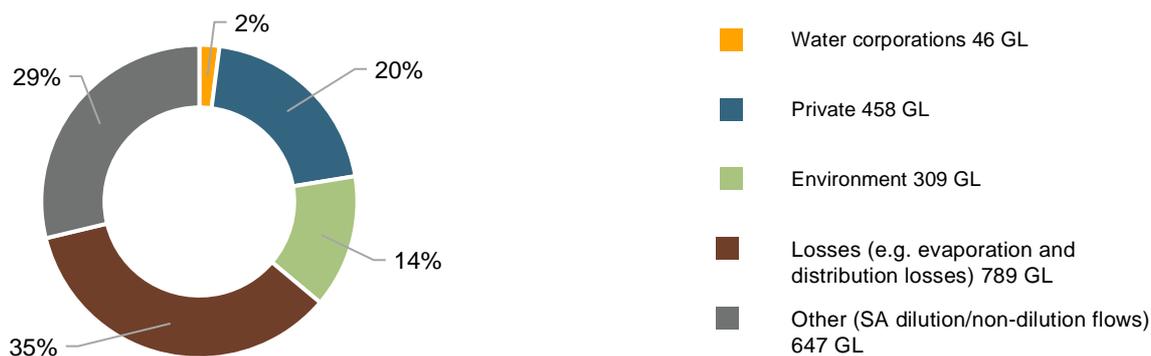


Figure 4: Volumes of water allocations currently available/remaining (% of total remaining) (as at 17 August 2020)

Source: [Northern Victoria Resource Manager](#)

NB: Allocation information shows water available in allocation accounts and remaining commitments as at 17 August 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 17 August 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	24%	Lowest since 2010-11	\$4,250/ML (Zone 6) \$6,000/ML (Zone 7)	\$250/ML (Zone 6) \$365/ML (Zone 7)
VIC Murray Low-Reliability Water Share	0%	Same as most years	n/a (Zone 6) n/a (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](#)

FIND OUT MORE

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



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