

The Hon Harriet Shing MLC Minister for Water



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
2023-24 Budget Estimates Hearing
8 June 2023



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

October 2022 Floods – water sector response and recovery program

Agencies, communities and all levels of government worked together to assess risks and interventions

Water sector responded to over 220 incidents, such as:

- water service disruptions
- inundation of water assets, such as sewerage pump stations
- dam safety events
- fish death incidents, and
- sewer spills

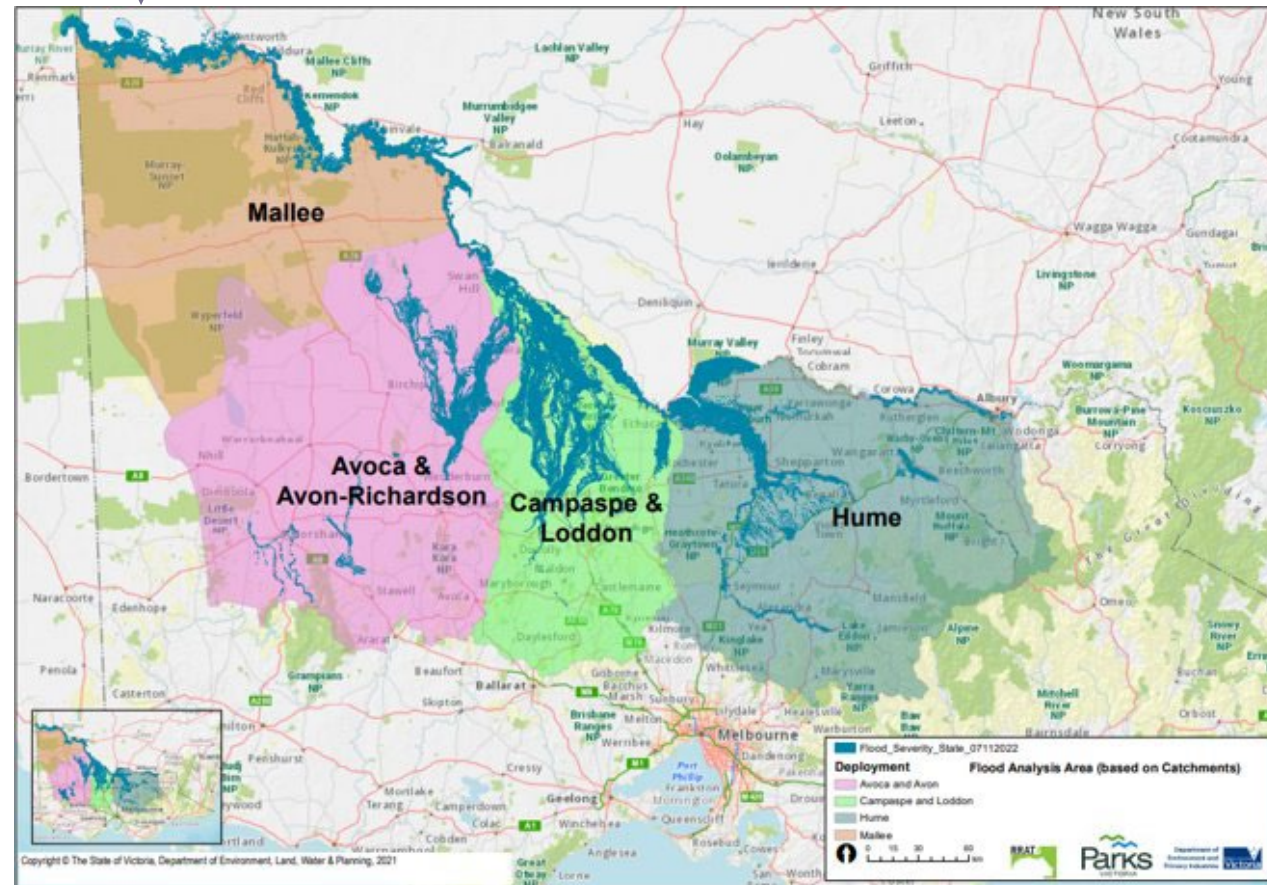
DEECA worked with Victoria's water sector to address immediate safety risks and hazards, and support the relief and early recovery of impacted communities, local economies and the natural environment

Priority recovery work continues throughout the water sector, including:

- repairs to damaged water infrastructure and
- early waterway and catchment restoration works

Long-term objective to build resilience into our waterways and water infrastructure to adapt to future emergency events that will likely be more extreme and more frequent

Agency interoperability is a crucial part of long-term resilience



2020-21 Victorian Budget - \$26.7 million over four years to prepare communities for future floods and implement actions prioritised by locals through their regional floodplain management strategies

Additional funding committed in 2022-23

Flood study plan - \$10m over 5 years for 32 flood studies prioritised by LGAs, CMAs and local VICSES in Regional Floodplain Management Strategies

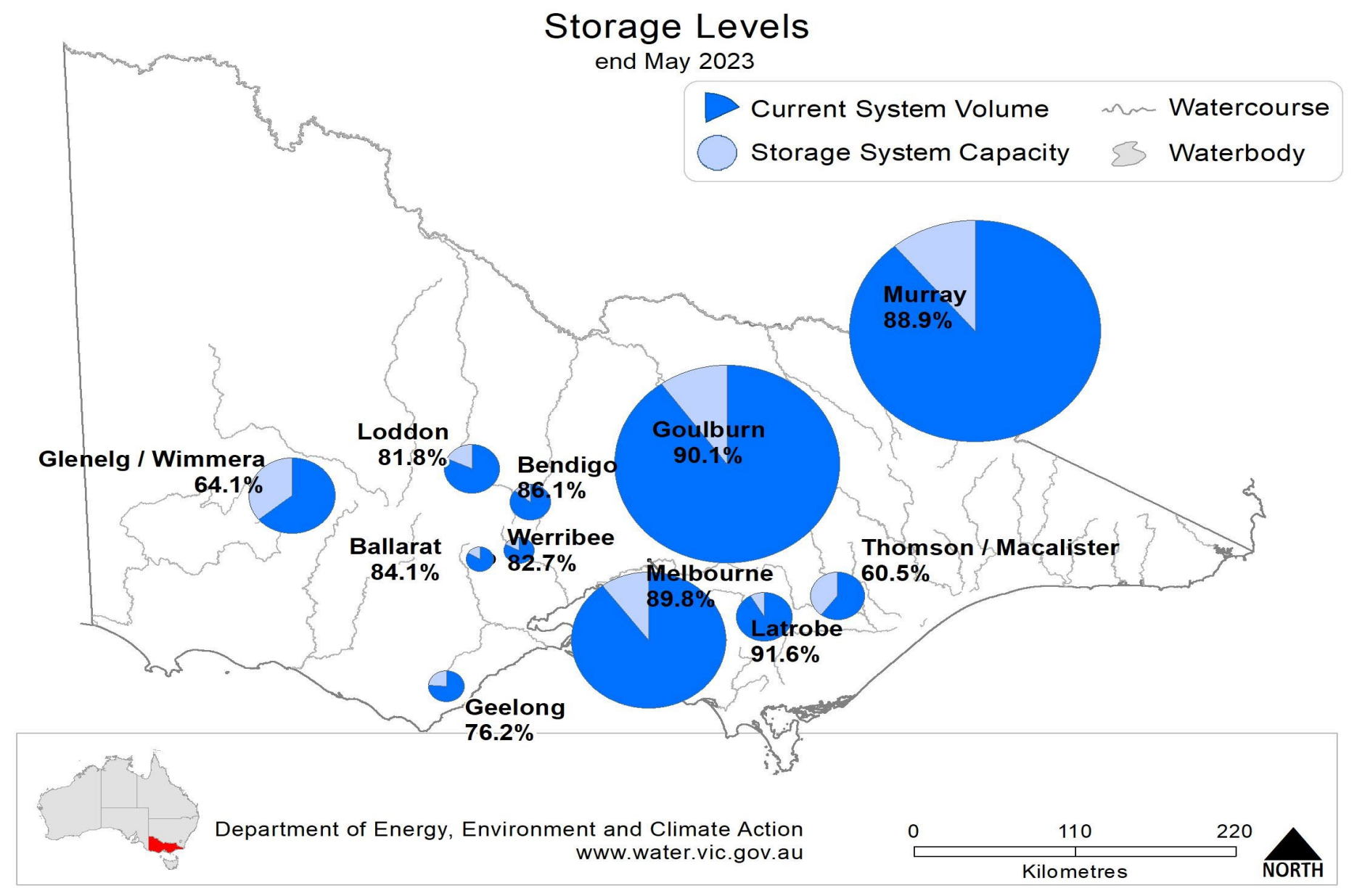
Levee stocktake - \$2.7m for 4 CMAs, working with 16 LGAs and VICSES to catalogue and assess levees in northern Victoria

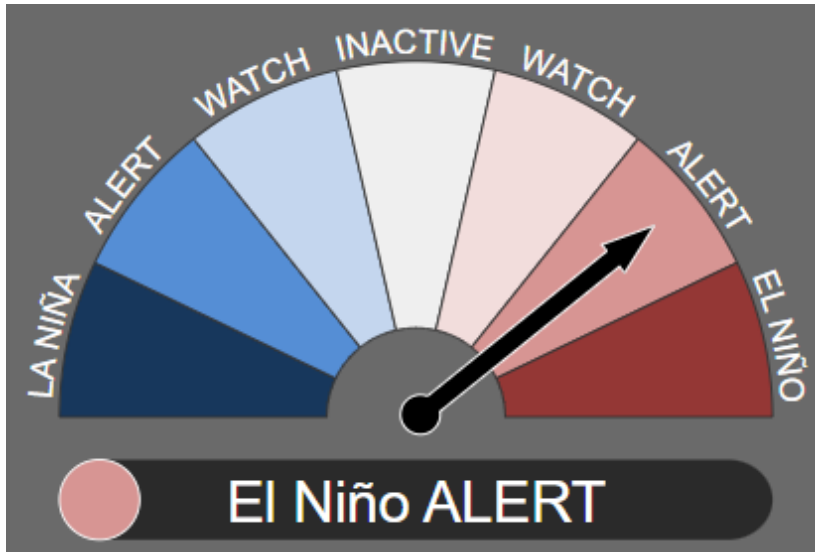
Levees business case development - \$5m in 2023-24 to develop business cases for levees with community support

Storage Operations

- Technical review of Lake Eppalock and Lake Eildon operations will identify any opportunity to improve flood protection for downstream communities
- The rights of existing water entitlement holders is a key consideration

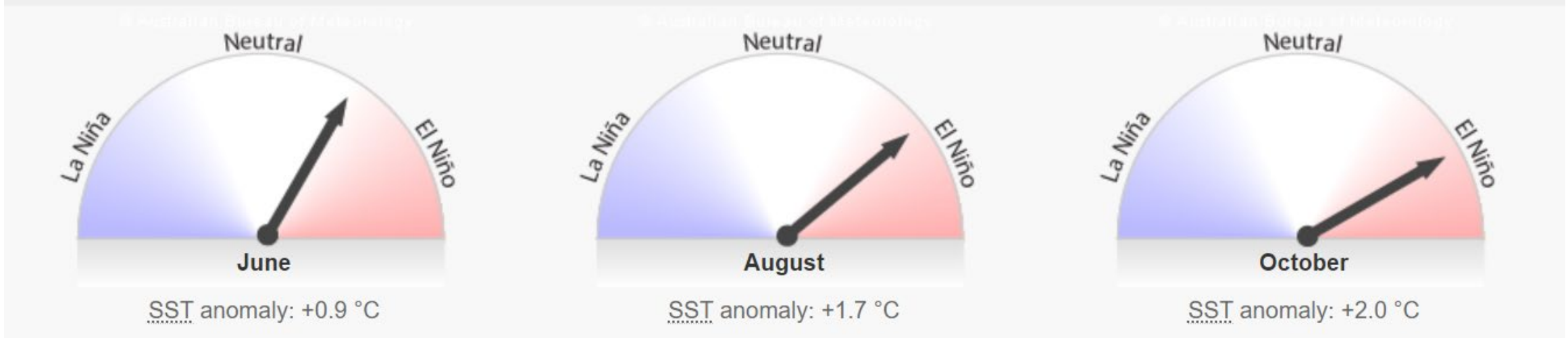






- Forecast is for a dry winter with rainfall below median likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance)
- Forecast for dry winter is influenced by several factors, including likely warming in the tropical Pacific Ocean towards El Niño thresholds

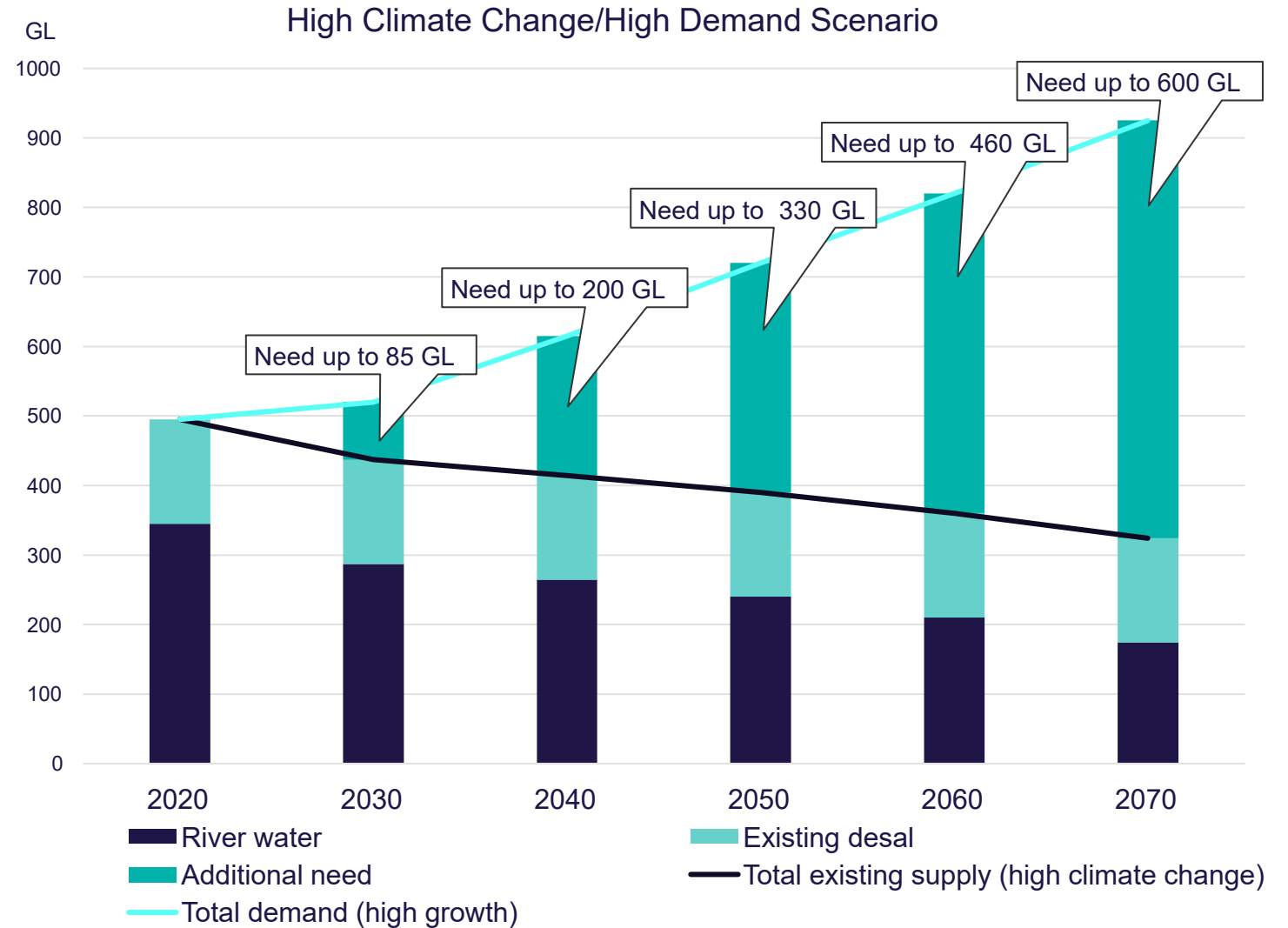
Average of international model forecasts for NINO3.4 Issued 6 June 2023



Source: [http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/BOM Long-range forecast](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/BOM%20Long-range%20forecast)
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/>

Managing water supply and demand in Melbourne and connected regions

- Demand is increasing with population growth
- River water supply is expected to reduce under climate change
- Need to prepare for up to 85 GL by 2030 and 200 GL by 2040 so that we are ready when we need to be

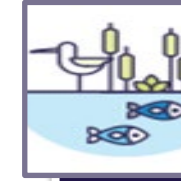


Government's investment in water security, waterway health and infrastructure is over \$793 million over five years (2020-21 to 2024-25)

This includes more than \$215 million in initiatives to be delivered in 2023-24



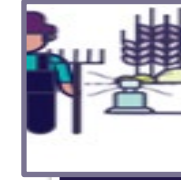
Support people, businesses and schools to continue to use water efficiently and save water



Protect and enhance the health of our waterways and catchments



Plan for preferred future water supply options so they are ready when needed



Support farmers to adapt and thrive in a drying climate



Improve how we share the benefits of our limited water resources



Restore water justice and return water to Traditional Owners

The 2023-24 Budget provides **\$19.2 million** for water including:

- \$10 million for the establishment of the Green Links Fund to deliver the *Protecting Waterways so our Wildlife can Thrive* LFS commitment
- \$12.4 million for Activating Tarago Reservoir for On-Water Recreation to deliver part of the *More piers, jetties and opportunities for little anglers* LFS commitment
- \$1.2 million to deliver community benefits through implementation of the *Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy*



2023-24 Budget Estimates Hearing Water Portfolio



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