

For the week ending 13 August 1998.

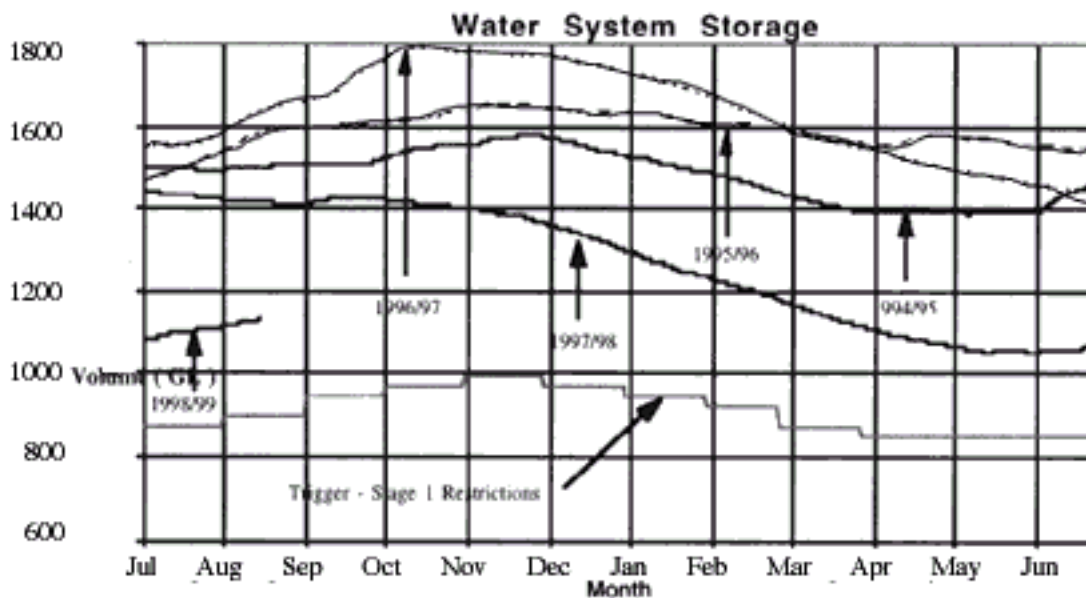
Rivers and reservoirs rising - but still below average

The seven day average flow in the Yarra at Warrandyte to 11 August 1998 was 621 million litres per day. After almost two weeks of August the average daily flow at Warrandyte is 829 million litres per day, 34% of the long term average flow.

Water system storage for week ending 14 August 1998 was 1,129,030 million litres, or 61.9 % full. This is an increase of 7,230 Megalitres since last week (07 August 1998), or 0.4 per cent of total system storage.

However, stream flow, the amount of water flowing from the catchment into the reservoir, continues to be below average. Streamflow was between 30 and 47 per cent below average for the major harvesting reservoirs.

For the same time last year water system storage was 1,415,780 million litres, or 77.6 % full.



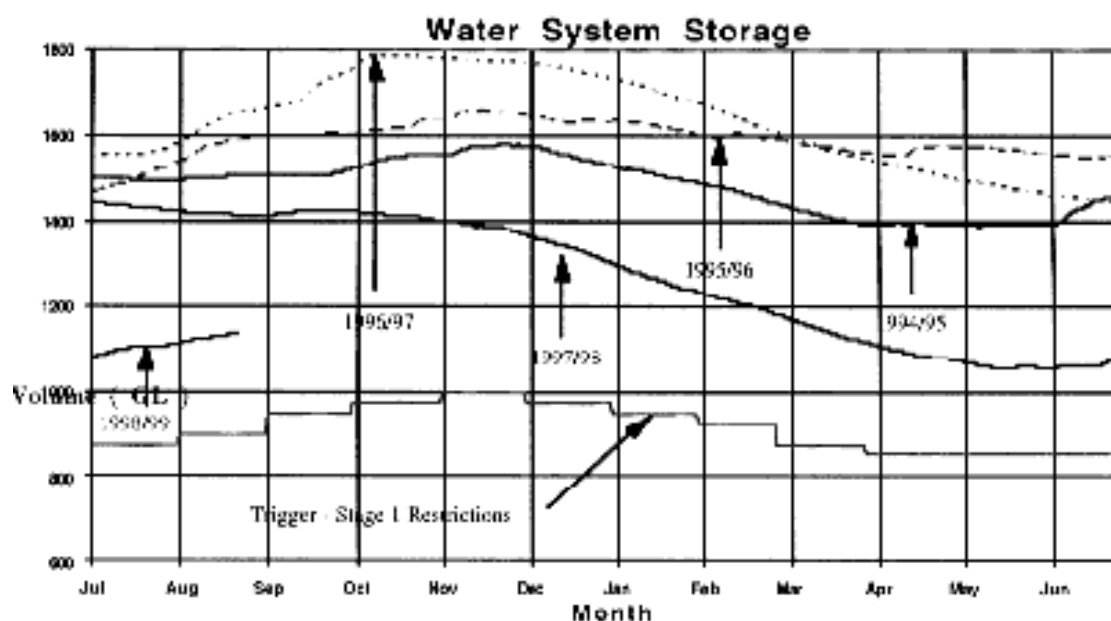
For the week ending 21 August 1998.

Rivers and reservoirs rising - but still below average

The seven day average flow in the Yarra River at Warrandyte has been 785 million litres per day. This is close to the overall average flow for August to date and about one third of the long term average flow. By comparison, the average monthly flow at Warrandyte for August last year was even lower at just 536 million litres per day.

Melbourne's water storages continued to rise this week. The storages currently hold 1,134,650 megalitres or are 62.2 per cent full. This is an increase of 5,620 megalitres since last week, or 0.3 per cent of the total system storage.

However, streamflow, the amount of water flowing from the catchment into the reservoir, continues to be well below average. Streamflow for the week was between 37 and 66 per cent below average for the major harvesting reservoirs. For the same time last year the water system storage was 77 per cent full. The amount of rainfall over the catchments during the next few months will be extremely important in planning ahead for next Summer.



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For the week ending 25 September 1998

Good news - good rainfall

Water system storage for the week ending 25 September 1998 was 1,166,820 Megalitres (63.9 % full) - 22,990 Megalitres since last week (17 September 1998). This increase represents 1.2 percent of total system storage. For the same time last year (25 September 1997) water system storage was 1,424,660 Megalitres (78.1 % full). Metropolitan water consumption for the week was 8,256 megalitres. For the same period last year, it was 8,513 megalitres.

Stream Flow for the Major Harvesting Catchments:

CATCHMENT	19 Sep - 25 Sep	Long Term Ave*	Variation	Last Year
THOMSON	15,347 MI	10,430 MI	48.1 % above	3,415 MI
UPPER YARRA	6,780 MI	7,640 MI	11.3 % below	1,962 MI
O'SHANNASSY	3,336 MI	3,670 MI	9.1 % below	1,728 MI
MAROONDAH	2,593 MI	2,800 MI	7.4 % below	1,291 MI
TOTAL	28,056 MI	24,540 MI	14.3 % above	8,396 MI

Rainfall for the Major Harvesting Catchments:

CATCHMENT	19 Sep - 25 Sep	Long Term Ave*	Variation	Last Year
THOMSON	42.0mm	28.1mm	49.5 % above	4.2mm
UPPER YARRA	59.4mm	26.0mm	128.5 % above	1.6mm
O'SHANNASSY	74.6mm	33.8mm	120.7 % above	1.4mm
MAROONDAH	43.0mm	27.5mm	56.4 % above	1.4mm

* Long Term Weekly Average (30 year mean 1968 - 1997)

Rainfall and river levels

The Yarra peaked this morning around 5:30 am at Yarra Glen at a level of 2.92 m and is currently 2.90

and falling slowly. This resulted from a peak flow upstream of 4,078 ML/day nine hours earlier at the Yarra Grange gauge where the river is now falling steadily. This was the highest flow in the Upper Yarra since mid-October 1996. Maroondah Reservoir is now at capacity and beginning to spill slowly. The Yarra at Warrandyte will continue to rise slowly and should peak later today.

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For the week ending 9 October 1998

High rainfall in catchments this week

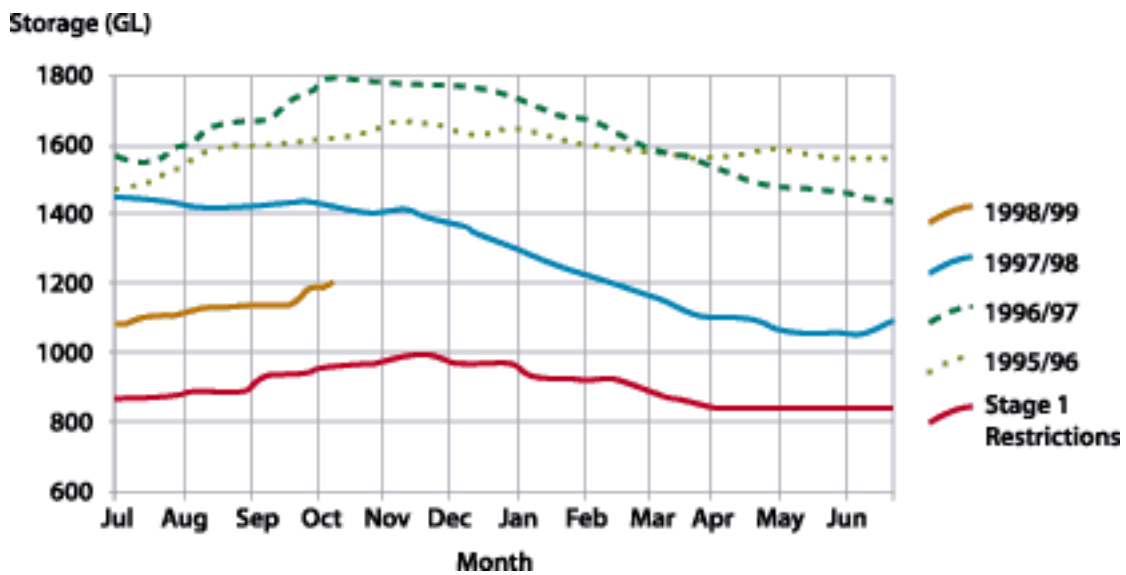
Melbourne's water supply catchments received good rainfall this week. All catchments recorded above average rainfall varying from 17.3% at Maroondah to a massive 175.5% at Thomson.

The water storages currently hold 1,194,600 megalitres or are 65.5% full. This is an increase of 14,600 megalitres since last week. At the same time last year the water system storage was 77.6 % full. For the week to 8 October 1998, the metropolitan consumption was 7,386 megalitres. This is the lowest consumption on record back to 1986. For the same period last year, the weekly consumption was 9,374 megalitres.

Rainfall in the harvesting catchments:

CATCHMENT	3 Oct - 9 Oct	Long Term Ave*	Variation	Last Year
THOMSON	70.8mm	25.7mm	175.5 % above	12.0mm
UPPER YARRA	77.6mm	29.5mm	163.1 % above	11.6mm
O'SHANNASSY	93.6mm	36.6mm	155.7 % above	14.4mm
MAROONDAH	34.6mm	29.5mm	17.3 % above	18.4mm

* Long Term Weekly Average (30 year mean 1968 - 1997)



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Week

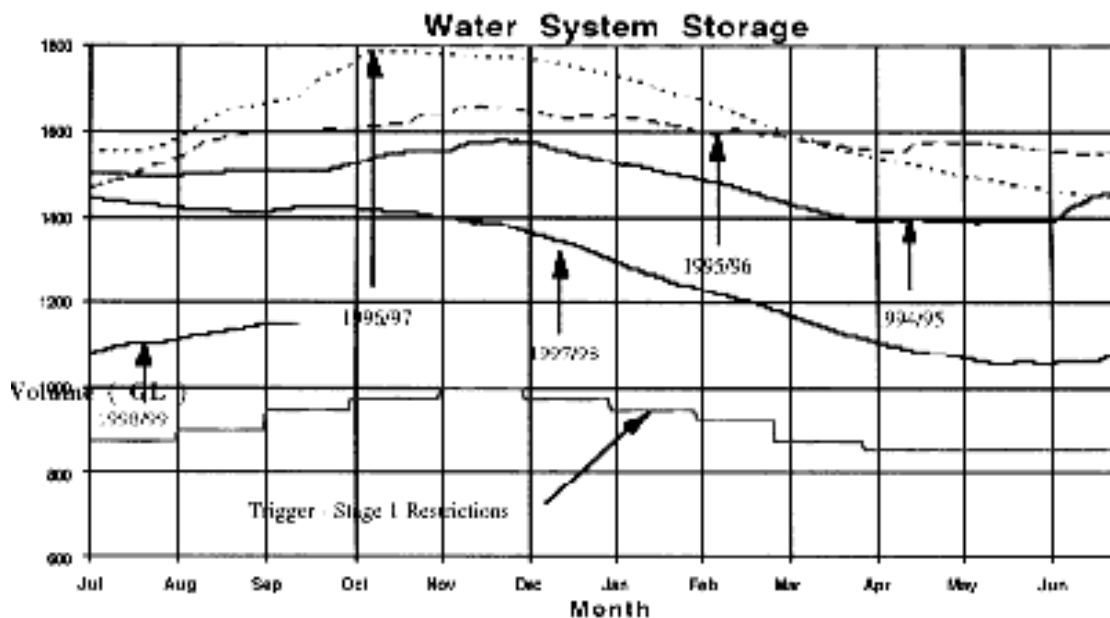
Need to "go easy" on water use

Melbourne's water storages currently hold 1,140,630 megalitres or are 62.5 per cent full. At the same time last year the water system storage was 77.9 per cent full. Streamflow, the amount of water flowing from the catchment into the reservoir, continues to be well below average. Streamflow for the week was between 53 and 70 per cent below average for the major harvesting reservoirs. The amount of rainfall over the catchments during spring will be extremely important in planning ahead for next summer.

The seven day average flow in the Yarra at Warrandyte was 397 megalitres per day. This is only 15 per cent of the long term average flow and about 580 megalitres per day less than was flowing at Warrandyte for the same period last year.

Highest weekly consumption on record

For the week 4 September to 10 September 1998, the metropolitan consumption was 8,393 megalitres (a megalitre is one million litres). This week's consumption was the highest on record back to 1985 for this period.



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For the week ending 18 September 1998

NEED TO "EASE UP" ON WATER USE

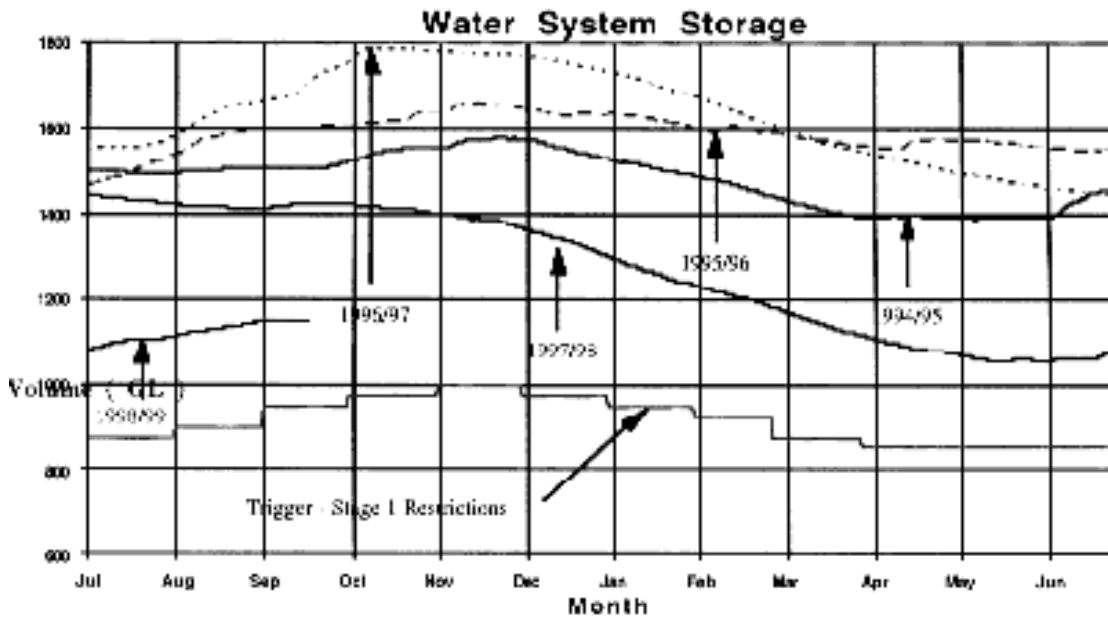
Melbourne's water storages currently hold 1,143,830 megalitres or are 63 per cent full. At the same time last year the water system storage was 78 per cent full. Streamflow, the amount of water flowing from the catchment into the reservoir, continues to be well below average. The amount of rainfall over the catchments during spring will be extremely important in planning ahead for next summer.

Stream Flow Into Water Catchments:

CATCHMENT	11 Sep - 17 Sep	Long Term Ave*	Variation	Last Year
THOMSON	2,231 MI	11,030 MI	79.8 % below	5,886 MI
UPPER YARRA	3,395 MI	6,750 MI	49.7 % below	2,898 MI
O'SHANNASSY	1,619 MI	3,670 MI	55.9 % below	2,409 MI
MAROONDAH	1,550 MI	2,500 MI	38.0 % below	1,808 MI
TOTAL	8,795 MI	23,950 MI	63.3 % below	13,004 MI

* Long Term Weekly Average (30 year mean 1968 - 1997)

The seven day average flow in the Yarra at Warrandyte to 16 September was 442 megalitres per day. This is still only 17% of the long term average flow for September and less than half the flow in the Yarra for the same time last year.



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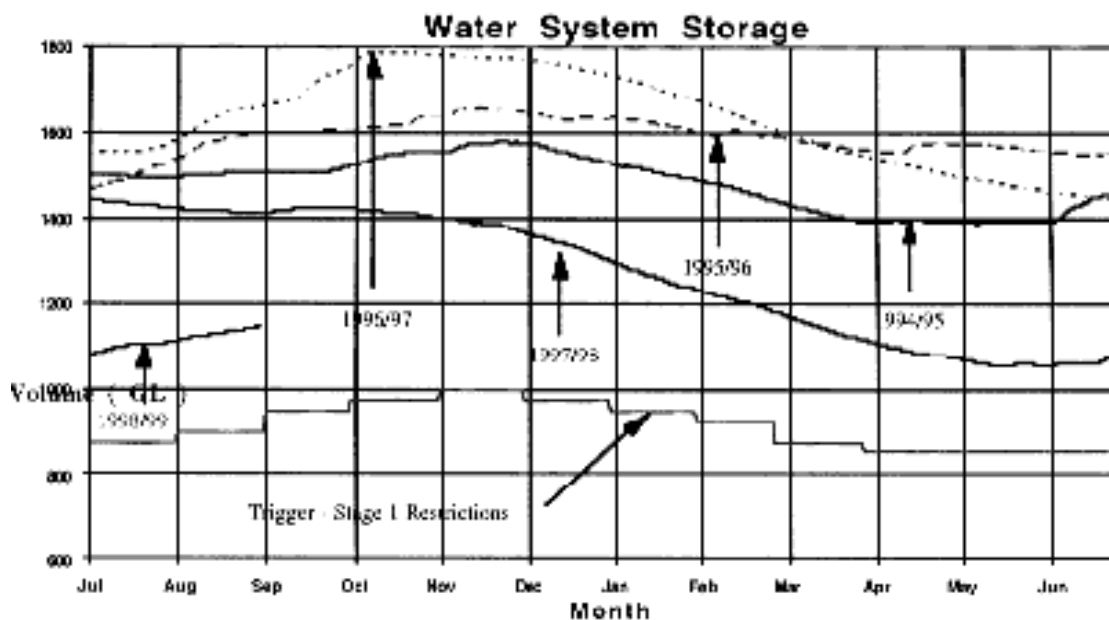
For the week ending 28 August 1998.

Rivers and reservoirs - still below average

The seven day average flow in the Yarra River at Warrandyte to 25 August was 563 million litres per day. This is less than 25 per cent of the long term average flow for August and only marginally higher than the average flow for August last year - 536 million litres per day.

Melbourne's water storages continued to rise this week. The storages currently hold 1,139,780 megalitres or are 62.4 per cent full. This is an increase of 5,130 megalitres since last week, or 0.2 per cent of the total system storage.

However, streamflow, the amount of water flowing from the catchment into the reservoir, continues to be well below average. Streamflow for the week was between 33 and 67 per cent below average for the major harvesting reservoirs. For the same time last year the water system storage was 77 per cent full. The amount of rainfall over the catchments during the next few months will be extremely important in planning ahead for next Summer.



The seven day average flow in the Yarra at Warrandyte to 25/8/98 was 563 ML/day. This is less than 25% of the long term average flow for August and only marginally higher than last year's average flow for August of 536 ML/day. The average flow for the month has been 743 ML/day, 70% lower than normal.

A total of 12mm of rain was recorded in the Upper Yarra catchment during the week. In Melbourne, just 21 mm has fallen for the month, less than half the average for August.

In summary, August has been well below average for both rainfall and streamflow and, with temperatures expected in the low 20's on the weekend, there appears to be no sign of the ongoing twenty three month long drought ending. With only five days remaining of August the record 23 month Oct 1981 - Aug 1983 low rainfall of 884 mm for Melbourne seems certain to be shattered by over 60 mm by the renewed onset of drought.

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