Water storage levels

Historical reporting – changes since the 1940s

Melbourne’s total water storage capacity has changed over the years as reservoirs were built, upgraded, brought under Melbourne Water’s responsibility or disconnected from the water supply system. This has resulted in dramatic changes to the water storage levels reported, as these figures are expressed as a percentage of the total capacity of the water supply system.

The following table shows some of the major changes to the way we report water storage levels.

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| Date | Change | Total capacity (ML) |
| ​16 Sep 1957 | Upper Yarra Reservoir comes online​ | 296,230​ |
| 13 Aug 1971​ | Greenvale Reservoir comes online​ | 323,230​ |
| 7 Sep 1973​ | Cardinia Reservoir comes online​ | 610,230​ |
| 19 Jul 1980​ | Sugarloaf Reservoir comes online​ | 706,230​ |
| 31 Jul 1984​ | Thomson Reservoir comes online ​ | 1,774,230​ |
| 1 Jan 1986​ | O’Shannassy Reservoir’s total volume decreases | 1,773,000​ |
| 10 Sep 1991​ | Tarago and Devilbend reservoirs included after water authorities merge | 1,825,000​ |
| 1 Jan  1999​ | Tarago Reservoir taken offline | 1,787,500​ |
| 1 Jun 2002 | Devilbend Reservoir decommissioned​ | 1,773,000​ |
| 24 Jun 2009​ | Tarago Reservoir reconnected after major upgrade​ | 1,810,500​ |
| 1 Jul 2010​ | Water reporting aligned with Bureau of Meteorology (most reservoirs previously reported to the nearest 1,000 ML)​ | 1,812,175​ |
| ​1 Jan 2012 | Sugarloaf Pipeline allocation removed (water held in Lake Eildon on Melbourne's behalf) | 1,812,175 |