Mid-Loddon GMA
2009/10 season wrap up

Fact Sheet

30 June 2010

Mid-Loddon GMA

For groundwater users from Laanecoorie Reservoir to Calivil the 2009/10 irrigation season saw the successful implementation of the Mid-Loddon Groundwater Management Area (GMA) Local Management Rules.

Allocations

Groundwater levels remained above trigger levels despite dry conditions, providing licence holders with a 100% allocation (Figure 1).

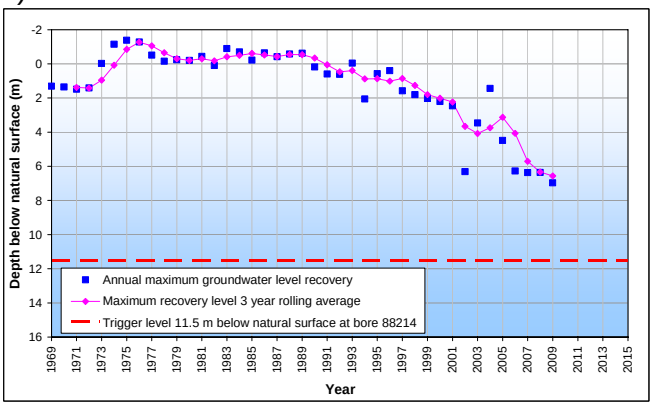

Figure 1 Maximum recovery level three year rolling average

Groundwater use

Groundwater use was down compared to recent seasons. Total metered usage was 14,504 ML, which is 39% of licensed volume (Figure 2).

Carryover

This season, Mid-Loddon GMA licence holders were the first in Victoria to be eligible for groundwater carryover. This has been an enormous success, providing users with greater flexibility to manage their licence entitlement. There is 8,834 ML of carryover available in the 2010/11 season. Groundwater users must amend their licence to be able to access carryover.

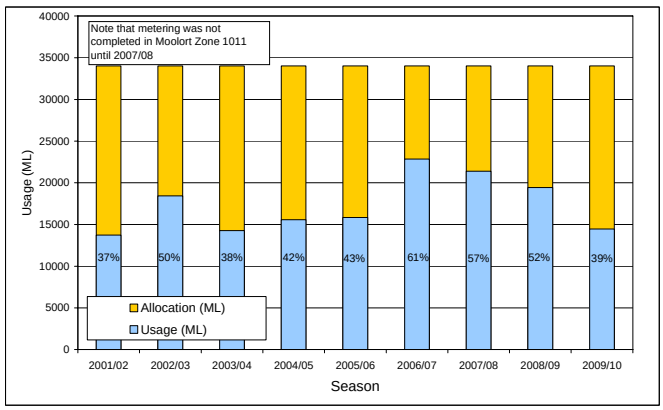

Figure 2 Metered groundwater extraction

Trading

While groundwater entitlement is capped in the Mid-Loddon GMA, new developments may occur through the transfer of licence entitlement either permanently or temporarily. This season 911 ML of temporary transfers occurred, which is less than half the volume traded in previous years.

Groundwater levels

G-MW in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) continues to monitor groundwater levels in more than one hundred observation bores in the Mid-Loddon GMA (*Figure 3* – 5).

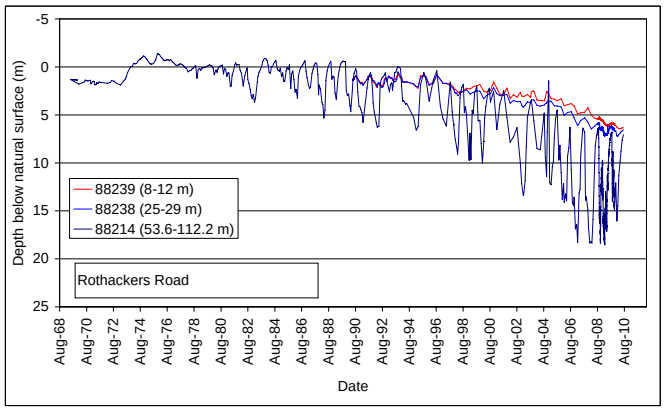

Figure 3 Laanecoorie-Serpentine Zone 1012

Generally groundwater levels continued to decline across the region in response to low recharge.

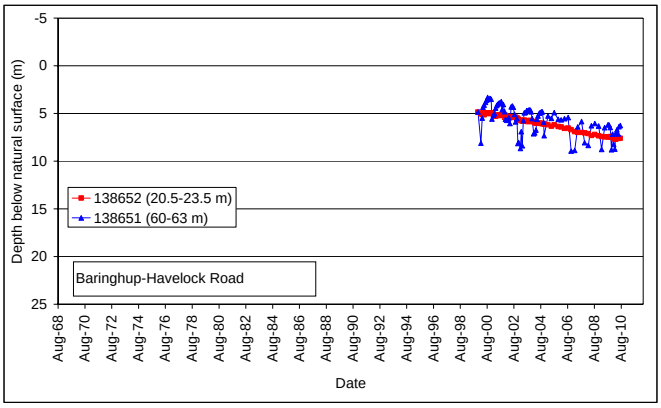

Figure 4 Moolort Zone 1011

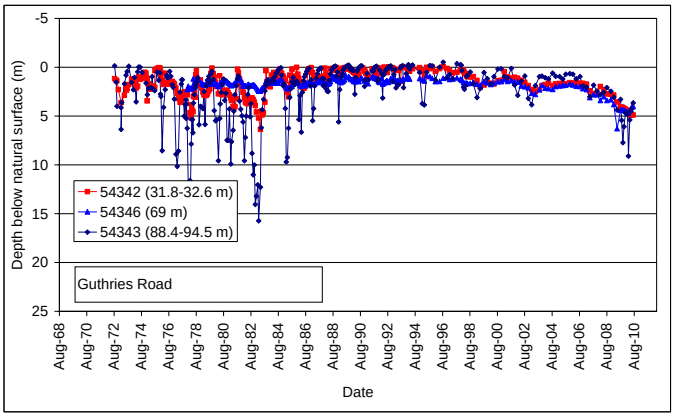

Figure 5 Jarklin Zone 1013

Groundwater levels from key bores along a north-south section illustrate that the system response is consistent over time. Greater drawdown levels in parts of the Moolort and Jarklin Zones were observed during the irrigation season in response to increased local pumping (Figure 6).

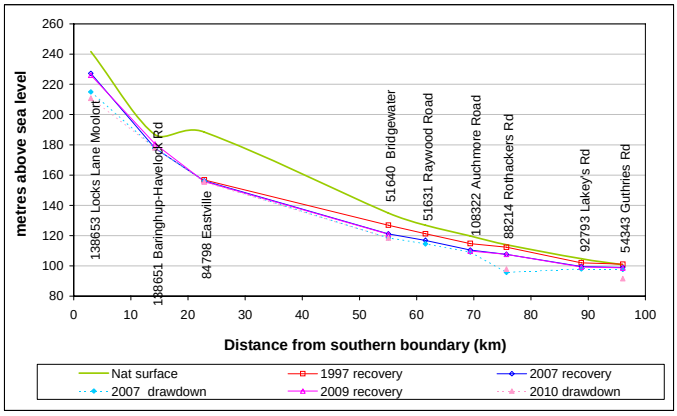

Figure 6 North-south section levels

Groundwater salinity

Groundwater salinity from State observation bores ranged between 1,760 and 4,840 EC which is within expected ranges.

Samples from private bores had an average of around 2,700 EC. Groundwater users are encouraged to return samples for analysis, when requested, so trends over time can be determined.

New monitoring bores in the Moolort Zone

On behalf of DSE, G-MW has installed two new monitoring bores in the Moolort Zone as part of a state-wide refurbishment of the State observation bore network (Figure 7). The bores, on Donovans Road near Carisbrook, will improve the understanding of the relationship between groundwater in the basalt and the deep lead aquifers.

Figure 7 Two new State observation bores

Moving forward

G-MW met with the Mid-Loddon GMA Groundwater Reference Committee in August 2010 to review the Rules.

The key outcome from the meeting was a proposal to amend the boundary to better align with the Loddon Highlands Water Supply Protection Area to the south.

G-MW will advertise the boundary amendments and provide the community with an opportunity to comment.

Where can I get more information?

Download a copy of the Rules or the 2010 annual report from the G-MW website www.g-mwater.com.au or call Brendan Cossens on 0408 527 735.