Annual Newsletter 2014/15

September 2015

WATER

Upper Murray GMA

The Upper Murray Groundwater Management Area (GMA) covers the Upper Murray River catchment from the Omeo to Corryong and Tallangatta and includes the Mitta Mitta, Corryong Creek and Murray catchments (shown on map overleaf).

Groundwater resourcs in the Upper Murray GMA are managed under the Local Management Plan that was approved in 2014.

Groundwater entitlement and use

There is currently 3,346.6 megalitres per year (ML/yr) of licensed groundwater entitlement in the Upper Murray GMA. The majority of licensed groundwater entitlement is held in the Indi-Upper Murray Zone (Table 1).

| Table 1 Licensed groundwater | entitlement and use | in | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----|--|
| the Upper Murray GMA in 2014/15 | | | |

| Management zone | Entitlement (ML/yr) | Use (ML/yr) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Dartmouth - Upper Murray | 223 | 0 |
| Hume - Upper Murray | 984.2 | 117.6 |
| Indi - Upper Murray | 2139.4 | 331.4 |
| Total | 3,346.6 | 449.0 |

Metered use in the Upper Murray GMA in 2014/15 was 449 ML or 13% of total entitlement. This is the first time usage in the Upper Murray GMA has been measured.

Groundwater trading

Customers may transfer entitlement on a temporary or permanent basis within or between zones provided entitlement caps documented in the Upper Murray GMA Local Management Plan are not exceeded.

There were no permanent or temporary transfers during the 2014/15 season.

Groundwater levels

There are 10 State observation bores located across the Upper Murray GMA to monitor groundwater levels. Groundwater levels fluctuate seasonally in response to climate conditions and groundwater extraction. Higher than average summer rainfall during the 2014-2015 season meant groundwater levels did not fall as much as previous seasons.

Groundwater levels within the Upper Murray GMA show no impact from groundwater extraction (Figures 1 and 2).

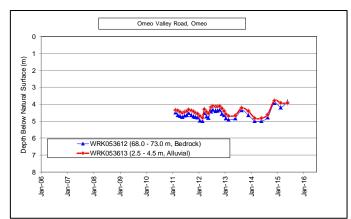
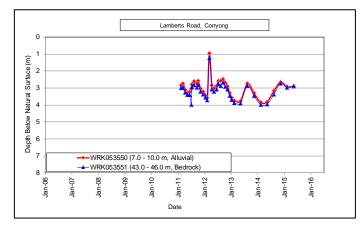
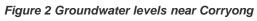


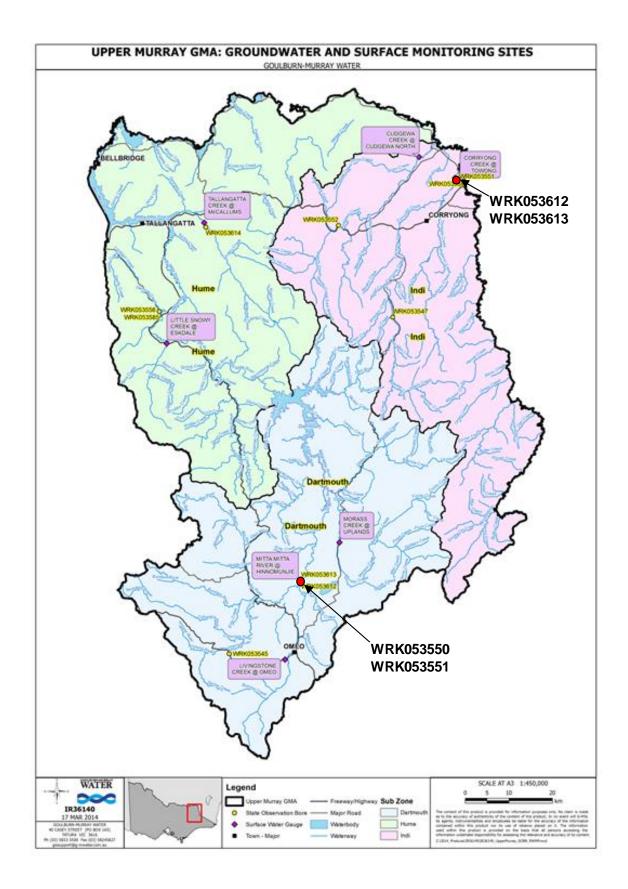
Figure 1 Groundwater levels in Omeo





Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the Upper Murray Groundwater Management Plan from the GMW website www.gmwater.com.au or call Luke Richards on 1800 013 357.



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