

Eildon Groundwater Management Area

The Eildon Groundwater Management Area (GMA) extends from the Great Dividing Range north to Mansfield and Merton. It incorporates the towns of Mansfield, Jamieson, Bonnie Doon and Eildon (shown on map overleaf).

The 2016/17 season marks the first successful year of implementation of the Eildon GMA Local Management Plan to manage groundwater resources.

Groundwater resources

Groundwater resources with the Eildon GMA are held within two types of aquifers:

- fractured bedrock aquifers sedimentary, metamorphic and intrusive rocks; and
- alluvial aquifers river deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel which overlie bedrock, mostly occurring along the lower reaches of major waterways.

There are no observation bores currently monitoring groundwater levels in the Eildon GMA.

Historical records indicate that groundwater levels in both aquifers are generally within 5 m of the ground surface and fluctuate in response to climatic conditions.

Mansfield received 692.2 mm of rainfall in the 2016/17 water year; the long-term average is 703 mm (refer chart overleaf). This was 20% more than in 2015/16 when 579.6 mm was recorded.

Groundwater licensed volume and use

There is currently 586.5 megalitres per year (ML/yr) of groundwater licensed volume in the Eildon GMA (Table 1).

Table 1	Groundwater	licensed	volume	and	metered
use by management zone in 2016/17					

Management zone	Licensed volume (ML/yr)	Metered use (ML)
Alpine Southern Highlands	363.5	98.5
Eildon Northern Highlands	223.0	81.1
Total	586.5	179.6

Metered use in the Eildon GMA in 2016/17 was 179.6 ML which is 31% of total licensed volume. This is similar to the groundwater use recorded in 2015/16 (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Annual metered use as a proportion of licensed volume in the Eildon GMA

Groundwater trading

Licence holders may transfer licensed volume on a temporary or permanent basis, within the Eildon GMA or from other Groundwater Management Units, provided limits documented in the Local Management Plan are not exceeded.

No transfers were undertaken in the Eildon GMA in 2016/17.

Looking to buy or sell licensed volume?

Watermatch is an online forum where licence holders can advertise their interest to buy or sell licensed volume; either groundwater or unregulated surface water.

Visit www.watermatch.com.au

Transferring licensed volume can provide an opportunity to generate income from unused entitlement for sellers, or increase production for buyers.

Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the Local Management Plan from the Goulburn-Murray Water website <u>www.gmwater.com.au</u> or call GMW on 1800 013 357.

September 2017; DM #4423561



September 2017; DM #4423561