



Lower Ovens GMA

The Lower Ovens Groundwater Management Area (GMA) extends from Myrtleford in the south, including the Buffalo and King Rivers, northward to the River Murray.

Groundwater resources in the GMA are managed under the Local Management Plan (LMP) that was approved in 2012.

Allocations

In 2014/15 allocations were 100% for both Murray Zone and Ovens Plain Zone groundwater users accessing deep lead groundwater as groundwater levels were well above the restriction trigger levels (Figures 1 and 2).

Based on the three year rolling average recovery levels, allocations for the 2015/16 season will be 100% for all zones.

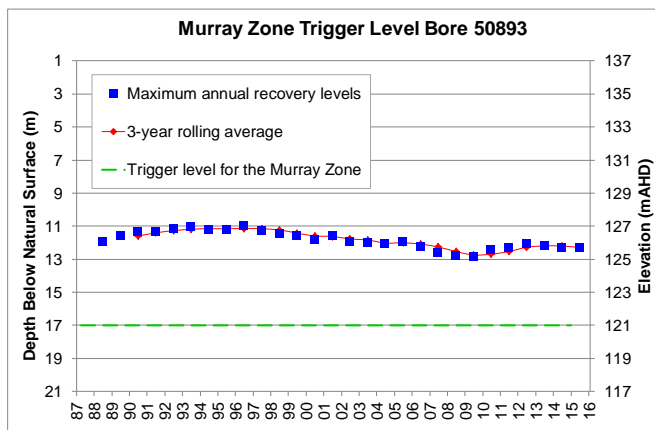


Figure 1 Murray Zone - Three year rolling average recovery level compared with trigger level

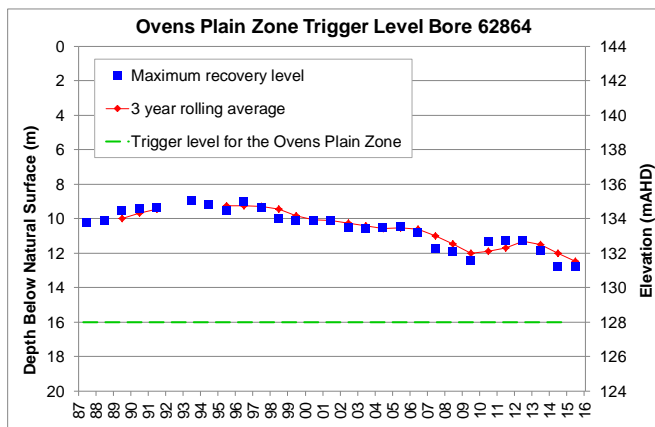


Figure 2 Ovens Plain Zone - Three year rolling average recovery level compared with trigger level

Metered groundwater use

Metered groundwater use in 2014/15 was above the historical average but less than the previous two years. The total metered use across all zones was 4,721.9 ML (Table 1).

Table 1 Licensed groundwater entitlement and use in the Lower Ovens GMA

Management Zone	Metered Use (ML)	Total Entitlement (ML/yr)
Ovens Plain	1,256.5	3,109
Mid Ovens	2,137.6	11,877.5
Bedrock	139.4	1,360.5
Murray	1,188.4	3,656
Total	4,721.9	20,003.0

The total metered usage was around 24% of the total licence entitlement in the Lower Ovens GMA (Figure 3). Use is consistent with the previous two seasons.

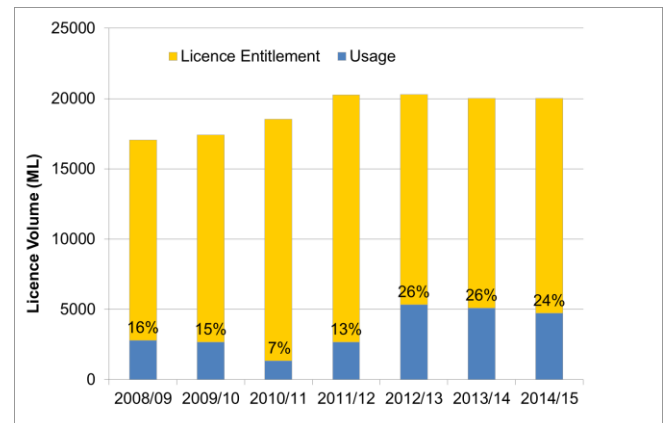


Figure 3 Metered groundwater extractions

Licence transfers

Customers may transfer entitlement on a permanent or temporary basis in the Lower Ovens GMA.

The 2014/15 season saw an increase in the volumes of licence entitlement transferred, with 542 ML temporarily transferred and 60 ML permanently transferred (Figure 4). The higher volumes of licence transfers indicate further development within the deep lead and greater certainty in regards to the transfer rules under the LMP.

Table 2 Temporary groundwater trades in the Lower Ovens GMA

Management Zone	Temporary trade from (ML)	Temporary Trade to (ML)
Ovens Plain	0	400
Mid Ovens	526	107
Bedrock	0	19
Murray	16	16
Total	542	542

Table 3 Permanent groundwater trades in the Lower Ovens GMA

Management Zone	Permanent trade from (ML)	Permanent Trade to (ML)
Ovens Plain	0	0
Mid Ovens	58	55
Bedrock	0	3
Murray	2	2
Total	60	60

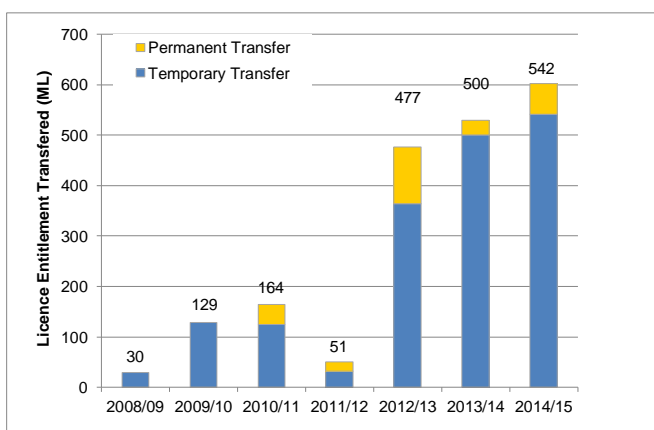


Figure 4 Permanent and Temporary licence transfers in the Lower Ovens GMA

Groundwater monitoring

Goulburn-Murray Water, in conjunction with the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning, continues to monitor groundwater levels in more than sixty state observation bores in the Lower Ovens GMA.

Groundwater levels remained relatively steady across all groundwater management zones in the Lower Ovens Groundwater Management Area during 2014/15 (Figures 5, 6 and 7). The seasonal variation in the Ovens Plain Zone trigger level bore is likely due to licenced extraction within the deep lead aquifer.

Future LMP amendments

No changes have been made to the Local Management Plan since it was released in August 2012.

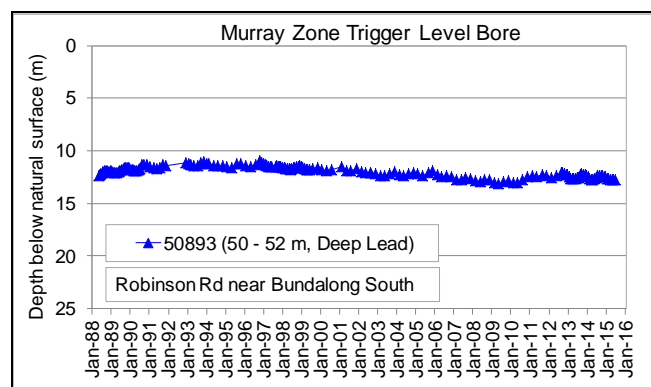


Figure 5 Murray Zone trigger level bore

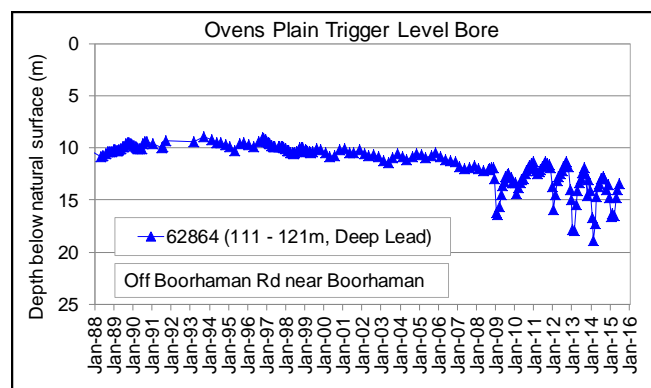


Figure 6 Ovens Plain Zone trigger level bore

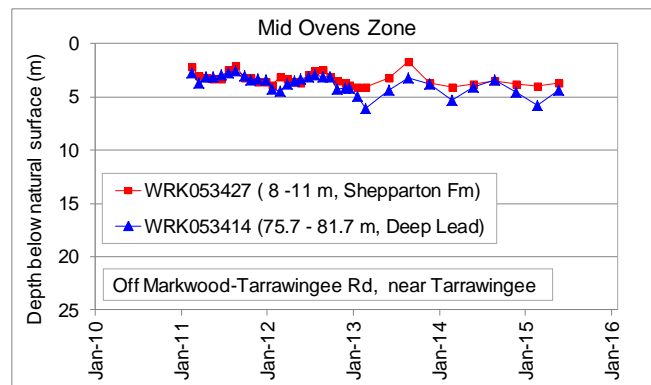


Figure 7 Mid Ovens Zone nested bore site

There are plans to amend the Lower Ovens GMA in the 2015/16 period, which changes including:

1. Include the unincorporated area to the north east of the current GMA;
2. Include the area of the Barnawatha GMA and remove this GMA; and
3. Review the prospect of carryover rules for the Plan

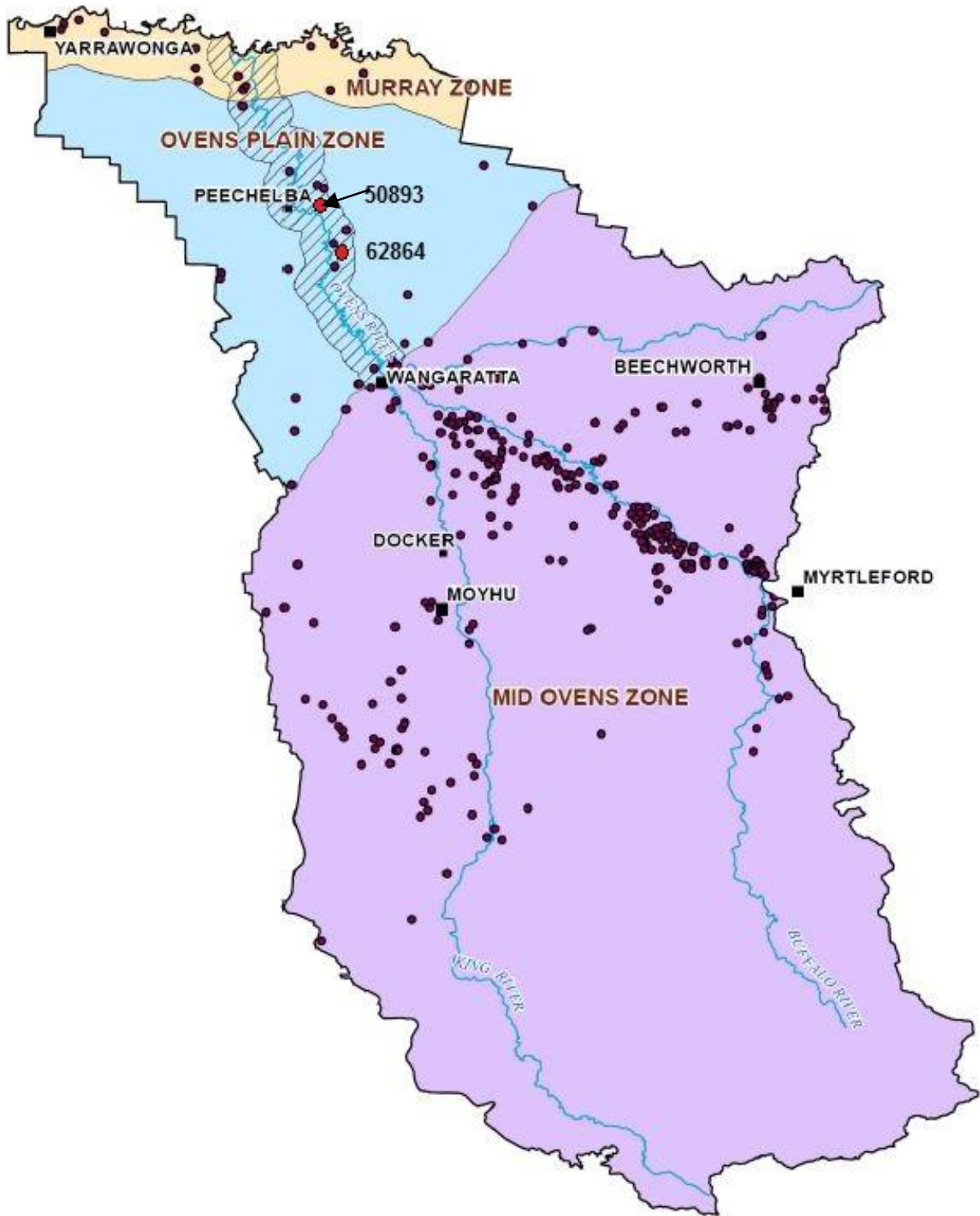
Goulburn-Murray Water consult with groundwater users on proposed amendments.

Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the Lower Ovens Local Management Plan from the Goulburn-Murray Water website www.gmwater.com.au or call Luke Richards on 1800 013 357 for any further information.

LOWER OVENS MANAGEMENT ZONES

VICTORIA



GMW-11-219

25 June 2012

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 gmw@melb.water.vic.gov.au



Legend

- Licensed Bore
- REGION
- LOWER OVENS (2 KM River Buffer)
- MID OVENS ZONE
- MURRAY ZONE
- OVENS PLAIN ZONE
- Bedrock Zone

SCALE AT A4 1:500,000



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