

## Shepparton Irrigation Region Groundwater Management Area

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Groundwater Management Area (SIR GMA) covers an area of approximately 500,000 hectares and incorporates the Shepparton, Central Goulburn, Rochester and Murray Valley irrigation districts.

It extends from Yarrawonga to Echuca, along the River Murray, and south to Murchison and Colbinabbin (shown overleaf).

Groundwater resources from the surface to a depth of 25 metres are managed through the SIR GMA Local Management Plan.

### Groundwater licensed volume and estimated use

The total licensed volume in the SIR GMA is currently 185,320.6 megalitres (ML) per year (Figure 1). This is 3,126 ML less than 2017/18 due to a number of customers cancelling or not renewing their licences and some licences being revoked.

Groundwater use in the SIR GMA is estimated at the end of each season using a method which considers:

- Annual use by a subset of SIR GMA licensed groundwater bores that are metered
- Volume of metered groundwater use in the Katunga Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA)
- Spring rainfall at Kyabram.

This method is accepted as a conservative and cost-effective approach to understanding annual use in the SIR GMA.

In the 2018/19 water year the estimated use was 93,828.3 ML (Figure 1) which equates to 51% of the total licensed volume. This is a 11% increase from 2017/18. This increase relates to higher use in the Katunga WSPA area and lower rainfall in the region (Figure 2).

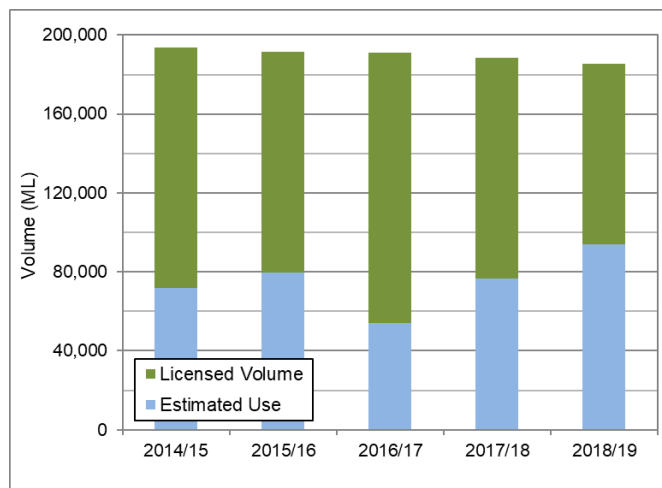


Figure 1 – Annual use as a proportion of licensed volume in the SIR GMA

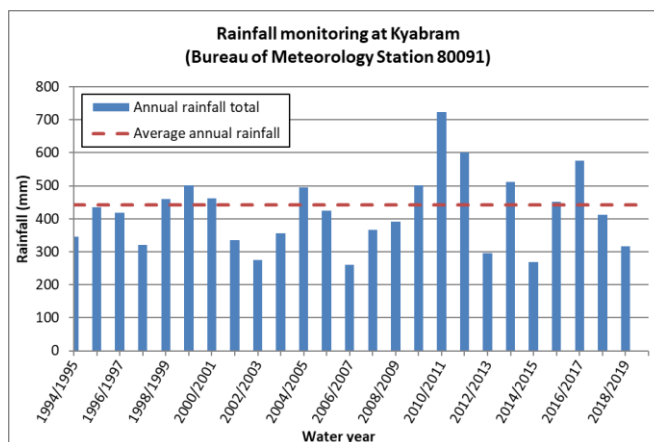


Figure 2 – Rainfall monitoring at Kyabram

### Monitoring shallow groundwater levels

Groundwater levels in the SIR GMA fluctuate in response to infiltration of rainfall and irrigation. When levels are close to the surface, land salinisation and waterlogging of soils can threaten social, economic and environmental values.

Groundwater levels are monitored in approximately 1,000 observation bores in the SIR GMA. An annual watertable map is produced enabling watertable changes and trends to be understood. The four most recent water table maps are provided overleaf.

### Survey of groundwater users

GMW, together with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, is conducting a survey of groundwater users to investigate patterns of shallow groundwater use over time. The information gathered, which will be kept anonymous, will help GMW and the GBCMA understand future salinity risks.

Please complete the attached survey and return to GMW in the reply-paid envelope **by 30 November 2019**. Alternatively, the survey can be completed online by visiting: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/YZ79HQZ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YZ79HQZ)

### Groundwater salinity monitoring

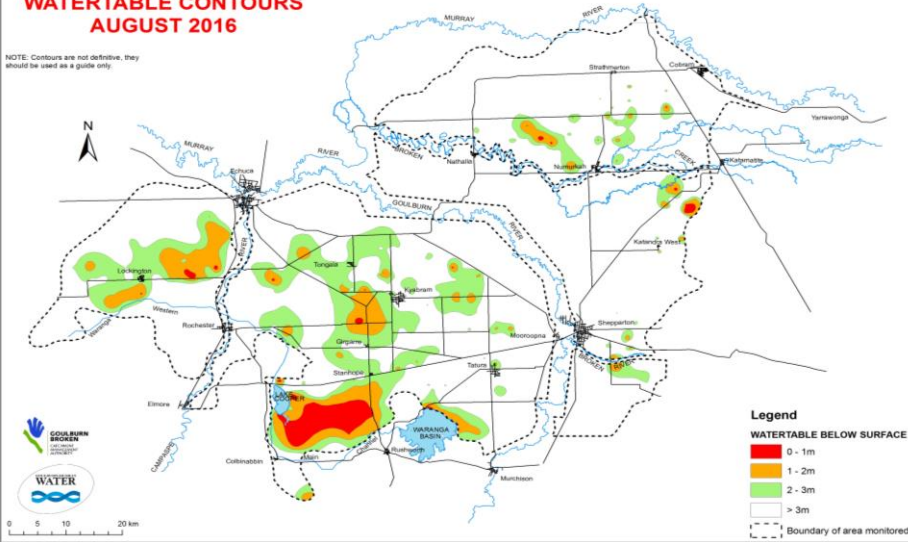
If you would like your groundwater salinity checked, please contact Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) to organise a sampling bottle to be sent to you. Once you have returned your sample, GMW will test your groundwater salinity and provide you with the results.

### Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the SIR GMA Local Management Plan from GMW's website at [www.gmwater.com.au](http://www.gmwater.com.au) or call 1800 013 357.

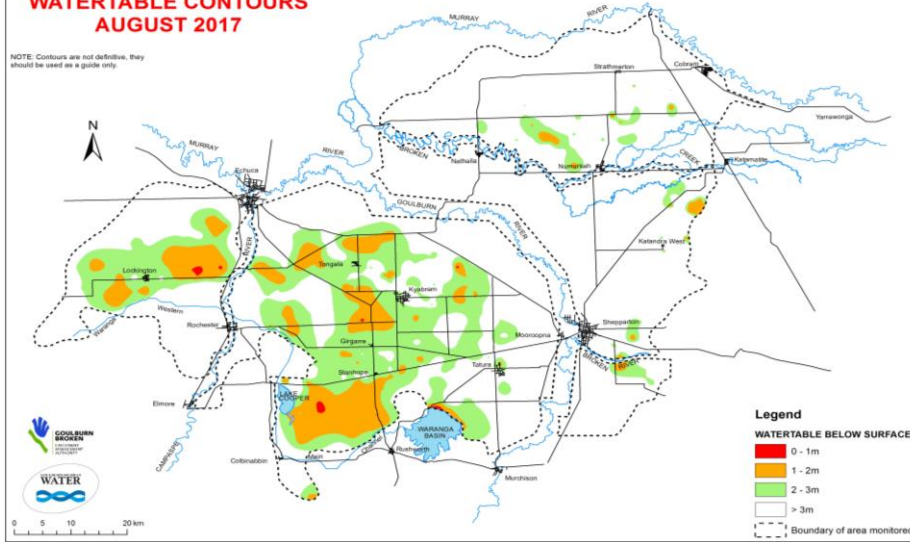
**SHEPPARTON IRRIGATION REGION  
WATERTABLE CONTOURS  
AUGUST 2016**

NOTE: Contours are not definitive, they should be used as a guide only.



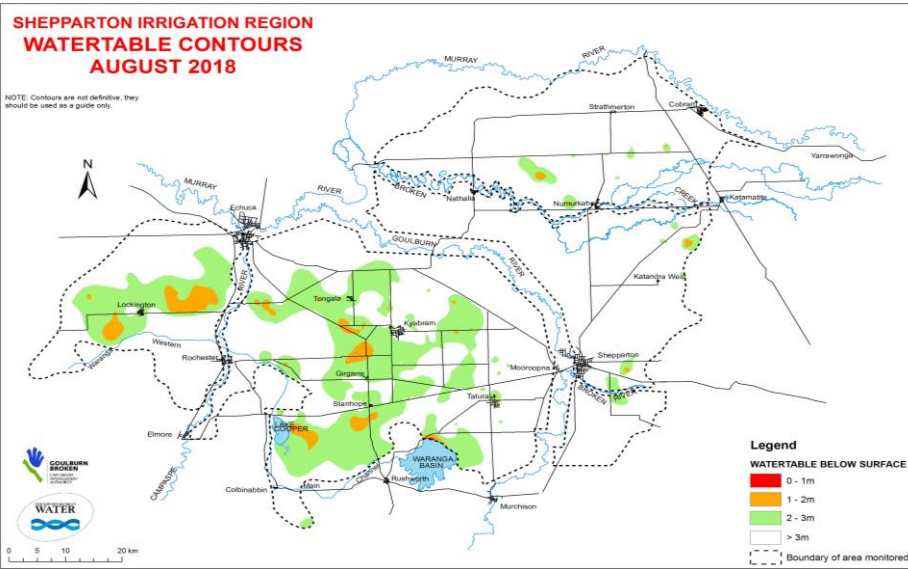
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**SHEPPARTON IRRIGATION REGION  
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AUGUST 2018**

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**SHEPPARTON IRRIGATION REGION  
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AUGUST 2019**

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