

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 188,446.6 megalitres (ML) per year (Figure 1). This is 2,684 ML less than 2016/17 due to a number of customers cancelling or not renewing their licences.

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
- 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 2017/18 season the estimated use was 76,610 ML (Figure 1). This is 13% more than the estimated use in 2016/17. This increase relates to higher use in the Katunga WSPA area and lower rainfall (Figure 2) in the region.

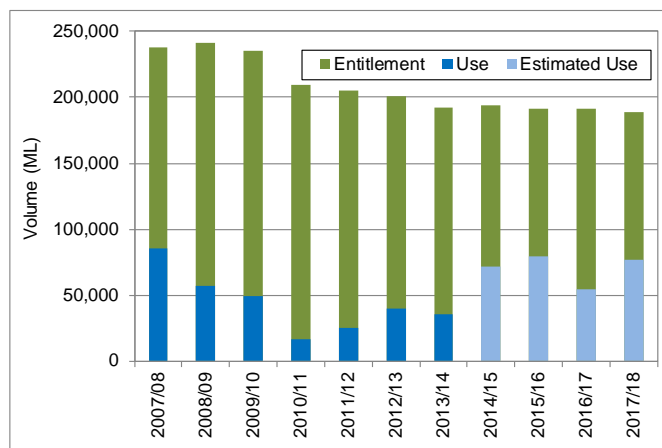


Figure 1 - Annual use as a proportion of licensed volume in the SIR GMA

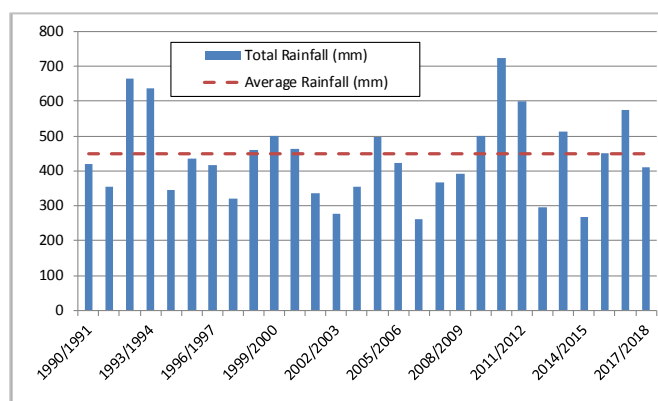


Figure 2 - Rainfall monitoring at Kyabram

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.

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 or call 1800 013 357.

Want to know more about shallow groundwater?

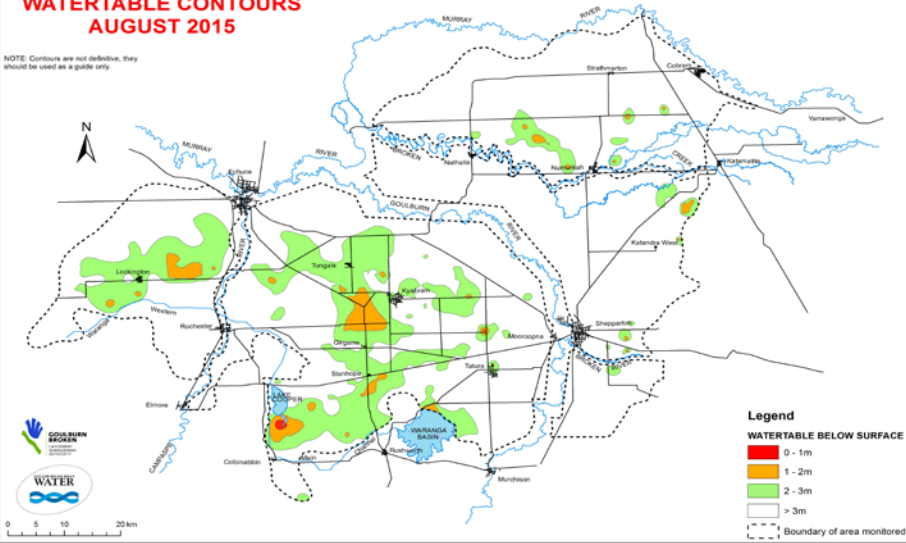
<https://salinitywatch.gbcm.vic.gov.au>

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Shallow Groundwater website provides information on the benefits and risks associated with shallow groundwater in the region.

Key features of the website include easy-to-find shallow groundwater levels and regional salinity risk mapping.

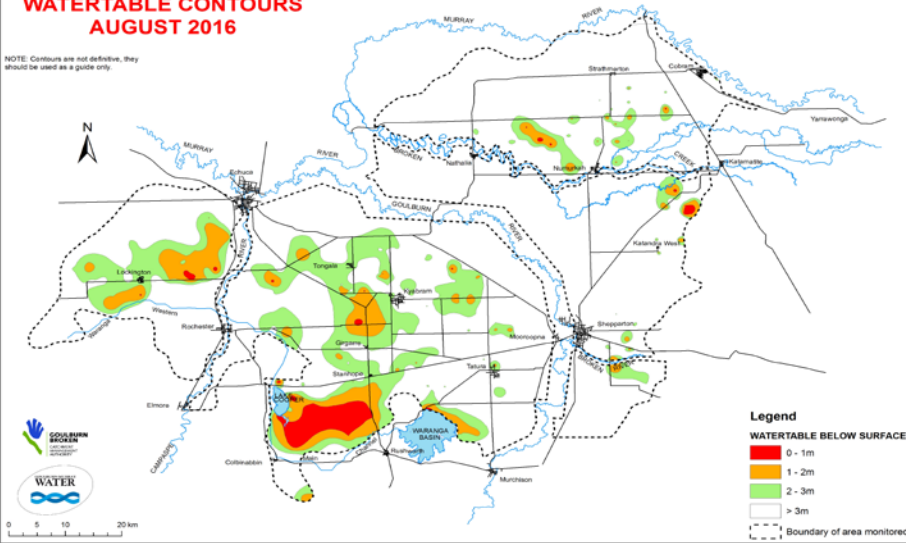
**SHEPPARTON IRRIGATION REGION
WATERTABLE CONTOURS
AUGUST 2015**

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



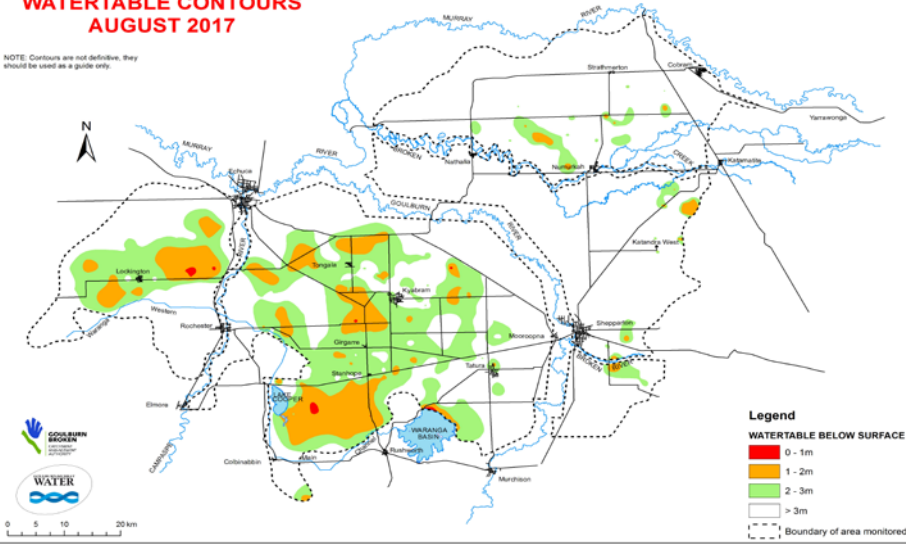
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WATERTABLE CONTOURS
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**SHEPPARTON IRRIGATION REGION
WATERTABLE CONTOURS
AUGUST 2017**

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**SHEPPARTON IRRIGATION REGION
WATERTABLE CONTOURS
AUGUST 2018**

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