## **2023 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**



# West Goulburn Groundwater Management Area

The West Goulburn Groundwater Management Area (GMA) extends from Wandong-Heathcote Junction north to the River Murray, incorporating the towns of Kilmore, Broadford, Rushworth, Kyabram and Barmah – refer to map overleaf.

Groundwater resources are managed under a Local Management Plan, which was approved by Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) in 2017 (the Plan).

#### **Groundwater resources**

Groundwater levels have increased in all four observation bores in the GMA in 2022/23 likely due to above average rainfall. Rainfall and groundwater-level charts are provided overleaf.

#### Groundwater licence volume and use

On 30 June 2023, the total licence entitlement volume (licence volume) in the GMA was 3,013.4 megalitres per year (ML/yr) (Table 1)., which is 24.0 ML/yr less than the 2021/22 season as a result of one licence surrender.

There is no permissible consumptive volume (PCV) limiting licence volume in the GMA, however, there are individual zone caps, which must not be exceeded.

Table 1. Licence volumes, use and limits for 2022/23

Management zone	Zone cap/ PCV (ML/yr)	Licence volume (ML/yr)	Recorded use (ML)
Corop Lakes Zone	500.0	0.0	0.0
Cornella Zone	500.0	104.0	6.1
Kyabram Zone	1,000.0	1,000.0	45.5
Puckapunyal Zone	2,500.0	1,909.4	969.8
Total	No PCV	3,013.4	1021.4

Recorded use in the GMA was 1021.4 ML, or 34 per cent of the total licence volume in 2022/23 (Table 1); an increase of 3 percentage points than 2021/22 (Figure 1).

#### Carryover

Under the Plan, licence holders with metered bores in the GMA may carryover unused entitlement up to

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a maximum of 10 per cent of their licence entitlement volume. The volume that has been carried over for use in 2023/24 is 288.3 ML.

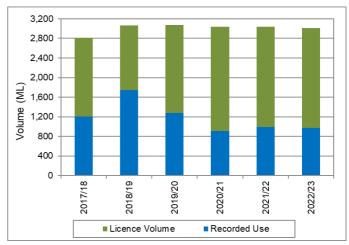


Figure 1. Recorded use as a proportion of licence volume in the West Goulburn GMA

#### Licence transfers

Under the Plan, licence holders may transfer licence volume on a temporary or permanent basis, within or between management zones, provided zone limits are not exceeded – *refer Table 1*.

There was one 48 ML temporary transfer from the Kyabram Zone to the Puckapunyal Zone during the 2022/23 water year.

### Licence compliance

In 2022/23, there were no prosecutions or convictions relating to groundwater in the GMA. GMW has a zero-tolerance approach to unauthorised take of non-urban water. Relevant actions, if required, are taken in accordance with GMW's Risk-Based Compliance and Enforcement Framework.

Please visit <u>www.gmwater.com.au/compliance</u> for more information.

#### Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the West Goulburn GMA Local Management Plan from www.gmwater.com.au or phone GMW on 1800 013 357.

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