

## Central Victorian Mineral Springs GMA

### Groundwater management

The Central Victorian Mineral Springs Groundwater Management Area (GMA) extends north from Daylesford and Woodend on the Great Dividing Range to the Cairn Curran Reservoir and Lake Eppalock near Bendigo.

Groundwater in the area is highly valued. It is shared between the environment, domestic and stock users, irrigated agriculture, commercial users and growing urban communities.

The region is unique because of naturally occurring carbonated mineral water springs that have long been valued for health benefits, commercial bottling and tourism.

Groundwater resources in the area are managed under a Local Management Plan (the Plan) that was endorsed by Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) in July 2013.

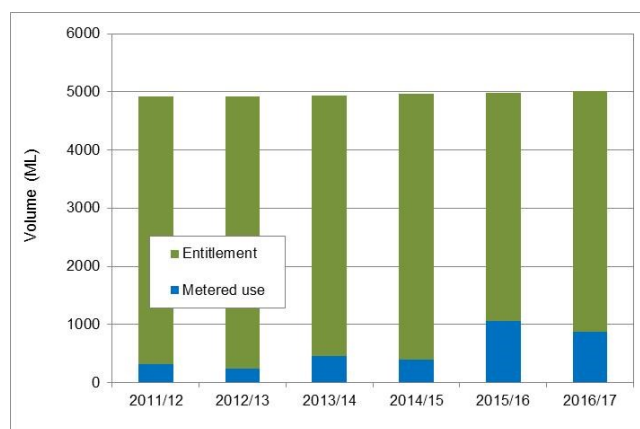
### Licensed entitlement and use

Total licenced groundwater entitlement in the Central Victorian Mineral Springs GMA is 5,014 megalitres per year (ML/yr) (Table 1). This is an increase of 35 ML/yr from 2015/16 and is associated with development of the Coliban Zone.

**Table 1 Licence entitlement and zone limits**

Management zone	Current licence entitlement (ML/yr)	Entitlement limit (ML/yr)
Campaspe	1,149.8	1,150.0
Coliban	1,124.8	2,144.0
Loddon	2,739.0	2,730.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,013.6</b>	<b>6,024.0</b>

In 2016/17 metered groundwater use was 882 ML. This is 18% of licence entitlement and is the second highest recorded use in the area (Figure 1).



**Figure 1 Metered groundwater extractions**

### Trading

Temporary and permanent trading of licensed groundwater entitlement is available in the Central Victorian Mineral Springs GMA.

Trading enables the development of new opportunities and provides licence holders with greater flexibility to manage production in response to seasonal demands or climatic conditions.

In 2016/17 there were two temporary trades in the Loddon and Campaspe zones for 7 ML/yr. One permanent trade occurred for 18 ML/yr within the Loddon Zone.

Licence holders are reminded not to extract more than their licence volume without written approval from Goulburn-Murray Water.

Licence holders seeking to trade groundwater entitlement are encouraged to visit Watermatch, an on-line trading forum where people can advertise at <https://www.watermatch.com.au/>

### Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels are monitored in 25 State observation bores in the Central Victorian Mineral Springs GMA. Hydrographs, which illustrate the change in groundwater level over time, are presented overleaf for key bores in each management zone (Figure 2 to Figure 5).

Groundwater monitoring indicates that levels are responsive to climate, falling during dry periods and recovering in wetter seasons.

Groundwater levels in 2016/17 were generally within observed historical ranges.

GMW will continue to support a baseline of groundwater level monitoring from state observation bores to assist with resource management decisions.

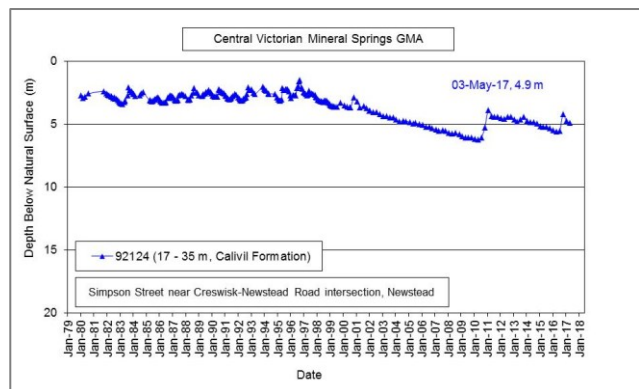


Figure 2 Loddon Zone 1122

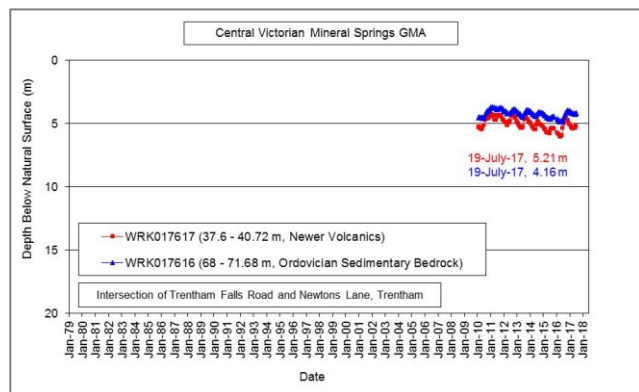


Figure 3 Coliban Zone 1121

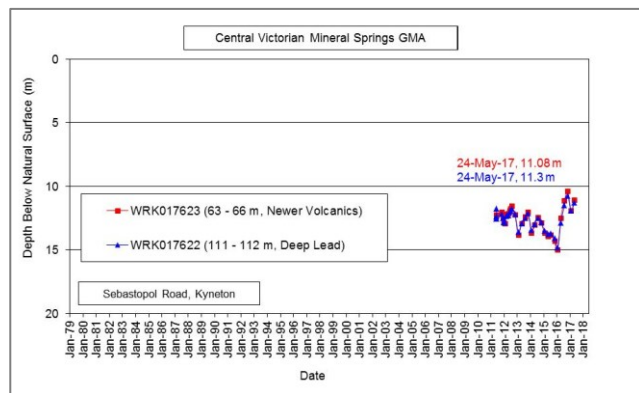


Figure 4 Campaspe Zone 1120

### Groundwater salinity

On request GMW will provide groundwater users with a bottle to sample groundwater and measure the groundwater salinity. There were no requests in 2016/17.

### Plan review

Each year, GMW considers the need for any amendments to the Plan.

Any suggestions for how the Plan might be improved can be provided to GMW. No amendments were considered necessary in 2016/17.

### Mineral springs

The mineral springs reserves are maintained by land managers (e.g. Hepburn Shire Council), not GMW. For more information about the mineral springs refer to the Victorian Mineral Springs Master Plan 2015-2024.



Figure 1 Kyneton Mineral Spring

### Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the Central Victorian Mineral Springs Groundwater Management Area Local Management Plan from the GMW website [www.gmwater.com.au](http://www.gmwater.com.au) or call 1800 013 357 for more information.