

Katunga Water Supply Protection Area

The Katunga Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA) is located in the Murray and Goulburn river valleys, extending from Yarrowonga in the east to Barmah in the west. It includes the townships of Numurkah, Cobram, Nathalia, Katunga and Katamatite (shown on map overleaf).

Groundwater resources are managed under the Katunga WSPA groundwater management plan (the Plan).

Changes to the plan

Changes to the Plan have been approved by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, the Honourable Lisa Neville MP.

A copy of the amended Plan is enclosed and available at www.gmwater.com.au

The key changes to the Plan relate to trading, allocations and salinity monitoring.

Changes have allowed GMW to announce 100% allocation for 2017/18 for all Katunga groundwater licence holders.

Groundwater licence holders will no longer automatically receive a sampling bottle annually. If you would like your groundwater tested for salinity, please contact GMW to request a bottle. Salinity will be monitored in selected State observation bores annually to track changes over time.

Groundwater resources

Groundwater level charts are provided overleaf. Groundwater levels fluctuate seasonally in response to climatic conditions and groundwater extraction.

Groundwater licensed volume and use

There is currently 60,218.9 megalitres per year (ML/yr) of groundwater licensed volume in the Katunga (Table 1).

In 2016/17 groundwater licence holders were subjected to 70% allocations.

Metered use in the Katunga WSPA in 2016/17 was 22,528.2 ML or 37% of total licensed volume. This is a reduction in use since 2015/16 (Figure 1).

Table 1 Groundwater licensed volume and metered use by management zone in 2016/17

| Management zone | Licensed volume (ML/yr) | Total use (ML) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Northwest Dryland Zone – 1061 | 4,924.2 | 1,865.1 |
| Numurkah-Nathalia Zone – 1062 | 34,604.7 | 12,900.0 |
| Cobram Zone – 1063 | 20,690.0 | 7,763.1 |
| Total | 60,218.9 | 22,528.2 |

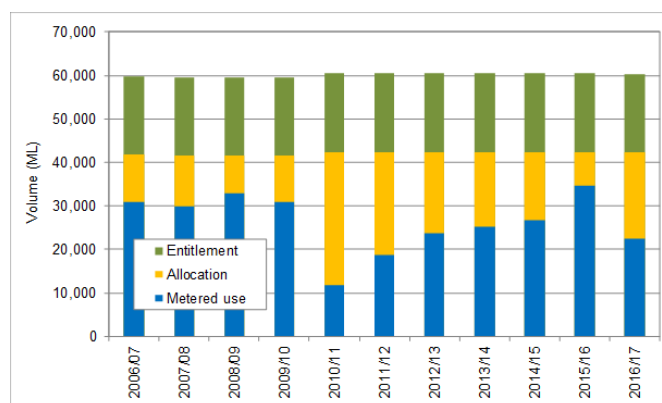


Figure 1 Total licensed volume, allocation and metered use in the Katunga WSPA

Groundwater trading

Licence holders may transfer licensed volume on a temporary or permanent basis.

During 2016/17 fewer transfers occurred than in 2015/16 and the total volume transferred decreased from 3,886.3 ML to 1,075.0 ML.

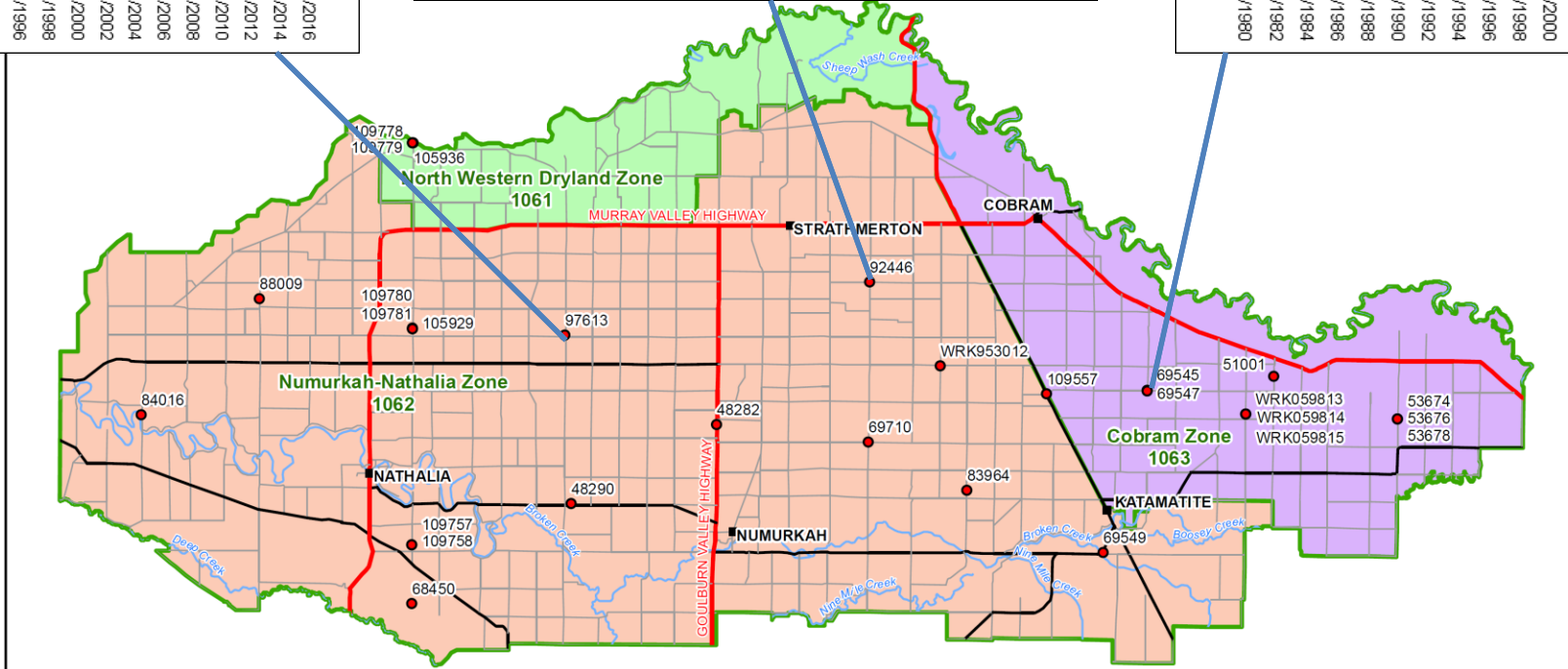
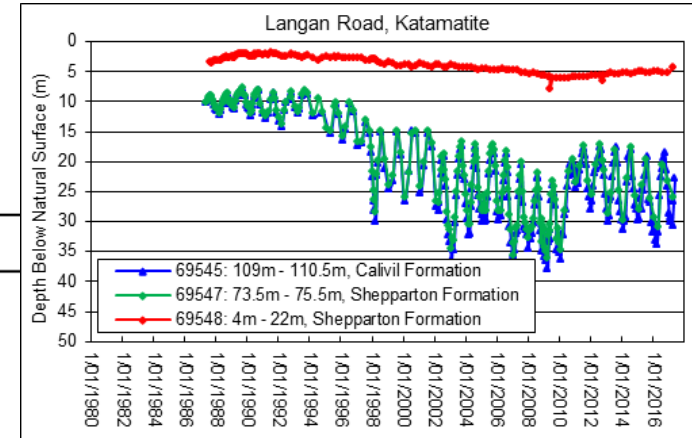
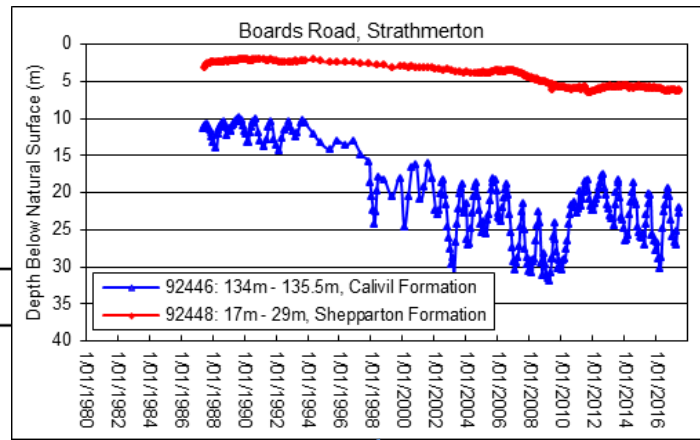
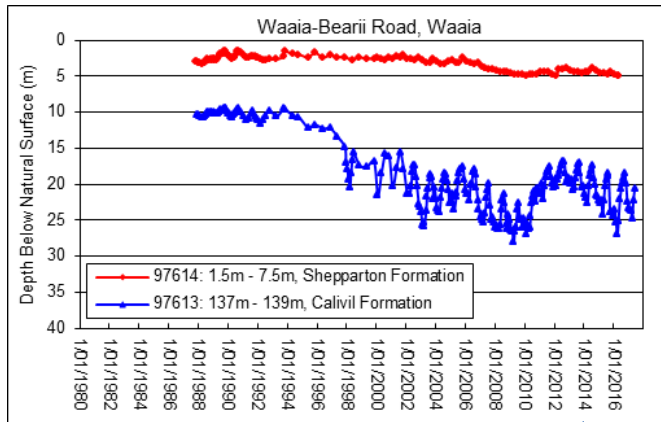
Looking to buy or sell licensed volume?

Watermatch is an online forum where licence holders can advertise their interest to buy or sell licensed volume; either groundwater or unregulated surface water.

Visit www.watermatch.com.au

Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the plan and a comprehensive annual report from the Goulburn-Murray Water website www.gmwater.com.au or call GMW on 1800 013 357.



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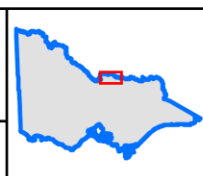
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Legend

- State Observation Bore
- Major Town
- Highway
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Waterway
- Waterbody

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