

Katunga Water Supply Protection Area

The Katunga Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA) is located in the Murray and Goulburn river valleys, extending from Yarrawonga 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).

Allocations

Katunga groundwater licence holders were able to access 100 per cent of their licensed volume in 2019/20 for the third time since the Plan was implemented in 2006.

The allocation for 2020/21 has been announced at 70 per cent. This means that licence holders can use up to 70 per cent of their entitlement volume this water year.

Groundwater licensed entitlement volume and use

There is currently 60,202.9 megalitres per year (ML/yr) of groundwater licensed entitlement volume (licensed volume) in the WSPA (Table 1).

Recorded use in the WSPA in 2019/20 was 37,837.2 ML, or 63 per cent of total licensed volume. This equates to a 5 per cent decrease from 2018/19 (Figure 1).

Table 1. Licensed volume and recorded use by management zone in 2019/20

Management zone	Licensed volume (ML/yr)	Total use (ML)	Proportion of licensed volume used
Northwest Dryland Zone – 1061	5,024.2	2,400.3	48%
Numurkah-Nathalia Zone – 1062	34,138.7	22,071.1	65%
Cobram Zone – 1063	21,040.0	13,365.8	64%
Total	60,202.9	37,837.2	63%

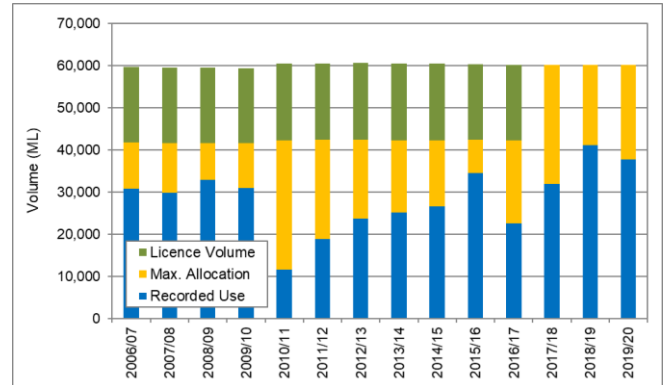


Figure 1. Total licensed volume, allocation and recorded use in the WSPA

Groundwater trading

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

During 2019/20 there were 16 permanent transfers with a total traded volume of 3,923.8 ML/yr, and 40 temporary transfers with a total transferred volume of 5,194.2 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

Groundwater salinity

Groundwater salinity is now monitored in selected State observation bores annually.

If you would like your groundwater tested for salinity, please contact GMW to request a bottle.

Groundwater levels

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

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 phone GMW on 1800 013 357.

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