2021 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



West Goulburn Groundwater Management Area

The West Goulburn Groundwater Management Area (the GMA) extends from Wandong-Heathcote Junction north to the River Murray, incorporating the towns of Kilmore, Broadford, Rushworth, Kyabram and Barmah – refer 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 remained relatively stable in the GMA in 2020/21, despite below average rainfall. Rainfall and groundwater-level charts are provided overleaf.

Groundwater licensed volume and use

On 30 June 2021, the total licensed groundwater entitlement volume (licence volume) in the GMA was 3,037.4 megalitres per year (ML/yr) (Table 1).

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 2020/21

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	0.7
Kyabram Zone	1,000.0	1,000.0	138.7
Puckapunyal Zone	2,500.0	1,933.4	773.1
Total	No PCV	3,037.4	912.5

Recorded use in the GMA was 912.5 ML, or 30 per cent of the total licence volume in 2020/21 (Table 1); the lowest recorded volume in four years (Figure 1).

Carryover

Under the Plan, licence holders with metered bores in the GMA may carryover unused entitlement up to a maximum of 10 per cent of their licence entitlement volume. The volume that has been carried over for use in 2021/22 was 294.5 ML.

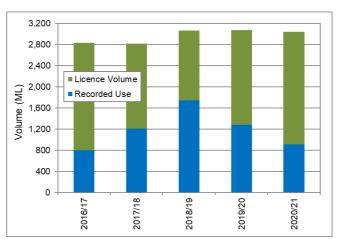


Figure 1. Recorded use as a proportion of licence volume in the West Goulburn GMA

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*.

No transfers occurred in the GMA during the 2020/21 water year.

Licence compliance

In 2020/21 there were no reported instances of alleged unauthorised take of groundwater (incl. overuse) 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 the GMW website, www.gmwater.com.au or phone GMW on 1800 013 357.

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