

# 2022 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

## 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 Cobram, Katamatite, Numurkah and Nathalia.

Groundwater resources are managed under the Katunga WSPA Groundwater Management Plan (the Plan).

### Annual groundwater allocations

Groundwater licence holders in the WSPA were able to access 70 per cent of their licence volume in 2021/22.

The allocation for 2022/23 has been announced at 70 per cent (refer to Figure 1).

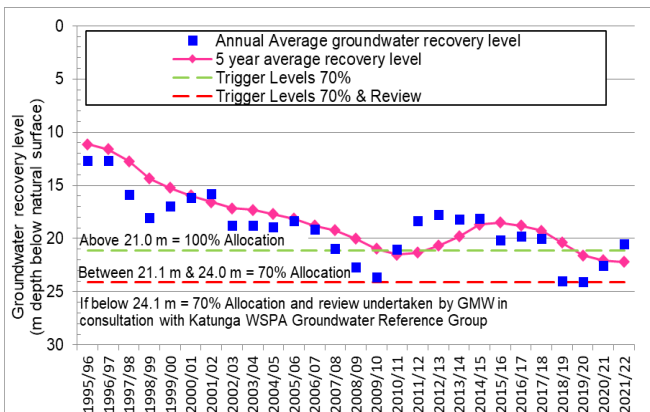


Figure 1. Groundwater allocation trigger graph

### Groundwater licence volume and use

There is currently 60,200.9 megalitres per year (ML/yr) of groundwater licence entitlement volume (licence volume) in the WSPA (Table 1).

Table 1. Licence volumes and recorded use in 2021/22

Management zone	Licence volume (ML/yr)	Recorded use (ML)	Proportion of licence volume
North Western Dryland Zone	5,000.2	1,798.3	36%
Numurkah-Nathalia Zone	34,358.7	10,117.3	29%
Cobram Zone	20,842.0	3,007.0	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,200.9</b>	<b>14,922.6</b>	<b>25%</b>

Recorded use in the WSPA in 2021/22 was 14,922.6 ML, or 25 per cent of total licensed volume. This equates to an 18 per cent decrease from 2020/21 (Figure 2).

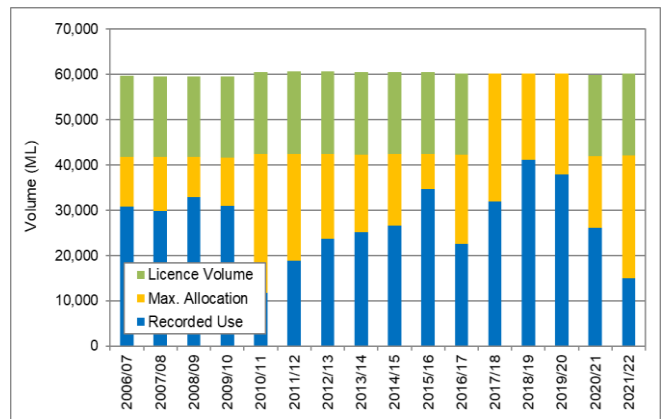


Figure 2. Licence volume, allocation and recorded use

### Licence transfers

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

During 2021/22, there were three permanent transfers, for a combined transferred volume of 205 ML/yr; and 29 temporary transfers, for a total transferred volume of 4,975.6 ML (Figure 3).

One of the permanent transfers (2 ML/yr) was to a groundwater licence holder in the Broken Groundwater Management Area which adjoins the WSPA to the south-east.

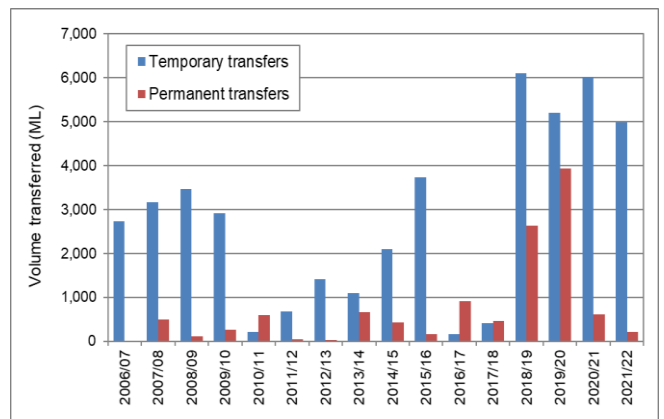
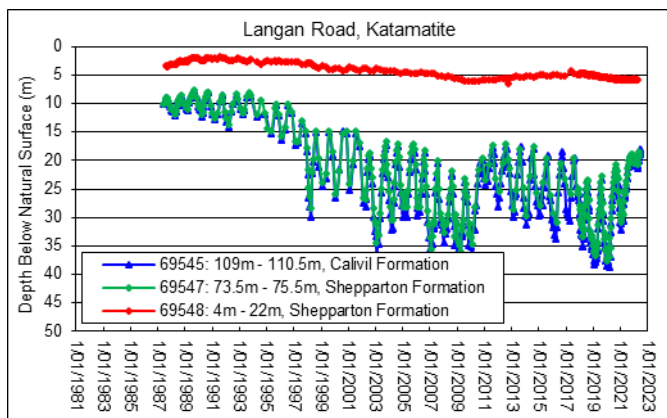


Figure 3. Licence volume transfer activity

## Groundwater level monitoring

The Plan requires that groundwater levels are monitored in seven state observation bores, specified in Schedule 1 of the Plan.

Monitoring data indicates that groundwater levels in the Deep Lead (which comprises the Calivil Formation and the lower Shepparton Formation) have declined as groundwater development has increased since 1990. This is represented by water level monitoring records in two nested bores located in Katamatite, within the Cobram Zone (Figure 4).



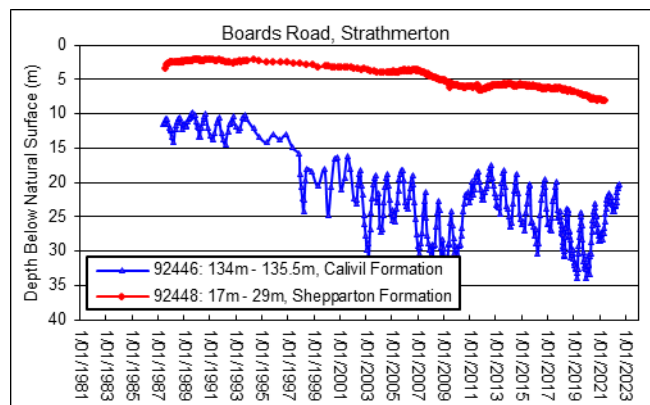
**Figure 4. Groundwater levels recorded at Langan Rd, Katamatite**

It is noted that the maximum drawdown levels in the Langan Road bores for the last two seasons have not reached the drawdown level observed in 2018/19 and 2019/20. This is likely a result of less groundwater use in the past two seasons, which also resulted in a stronger recovery of Deep Lead water levels.

Groundwater levels in the Numurkah-Nathalia Zone are recovering well and have reached recovery levels not observed since the 2017/18 seasons as illustrated by groundwater levels recorded at a monitoring site in Strathmerton (Figure 5).



**State observation bores in Katunga WSPA**



**Figure 5. Groundwater levels recorded at Boards Rd, Strathmerton**

## Groundwater quality monitoring

GMW undertakes groundwater quality sampling from key monitoring bores listed in Schedule 1 of the Plan, which indicate that groundwater salinity levels for the Deep Lead aquifer remain stable.

**If you would like your groundwater tested for salinity, please contact GMW to request a sample bottle. This is a service for licence holders provided under the Plan.**

## Licence compliance

In 2021/22 there were 14 reported instances of alleged unauthorised take of groundwater (including overuse) in the WSPA.

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 [www.gmwater.com.au/compliance](http://www.gmwater.com.au/compliance) for more information.

## Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the Plan, the 2021/22 annual report and other resources from the GMW website, [www.gmwater.com.au](http://www.gmwater.com.au).