

# Otway Coast Basin – Local Water Report 2019

## Introduction

This is our annual Local Water Report for our Otway Coast Basin customers. This report provides information on:

- how our rivers fared last season (2018-19);
- groundwater level trends;
- the number of irrigation licences in each of our systems;
- how much water irrigators used last season compared with previous years; and;
- emerging local water issues.

## What happened with your local rivers last season?

### Gellibrand River

The Gellibrand River had a peak flow of 13,493 ML/day in early spring. These flows were measured at the North Otway pump station. The river maintained good flows over the irrigation season.

The Carlisle River had 610ML as a peak flow through late winter which allowed irrigators to use river water until it went on a total ban on 6 February.

The Curdies River had a peak flow of 11,000 ML/day in late winter. The demand for access to river water was greater than the 2017-18 but similar to past seasons. The river went on ban in early February, consistent with normal timing.

| Stage                     | Total Days |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Curdies River (Total Ban) | 35         |
| Carlisle River (Stage 4)  | 28         |

The above table show the restrictions for the 2018-19 season.

### Surface water figures

The table below compares last season's usage with the previous four years.

| River system <sup>1</sup> | Number of licences | Licensed volume (ML) | Total Volume Extracted (ML) |             |            |            |            |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                           |                    |                      | 2018-19                     | 2017-18     | 2016-17    | 2015-16    | 2014-15    |
| Gellibrand River          | 40                 | 2062                 | 14                          | 68          | 94         | 184        | 282        |
| Curdies River             | 39                 | 2565                 | 650                         | 849         | 607        | 442        | 408        |
| Otway Coast Streams       | 191                | 3864                 | 29                          | 84          | 65         | 41         | 43         |
| <b>Total</b>              |                    | <b>8491</b>          | <b>693</b>                  | <b>1001</b> | <b>766</b> | <b>667</b> | <b>733</b> |

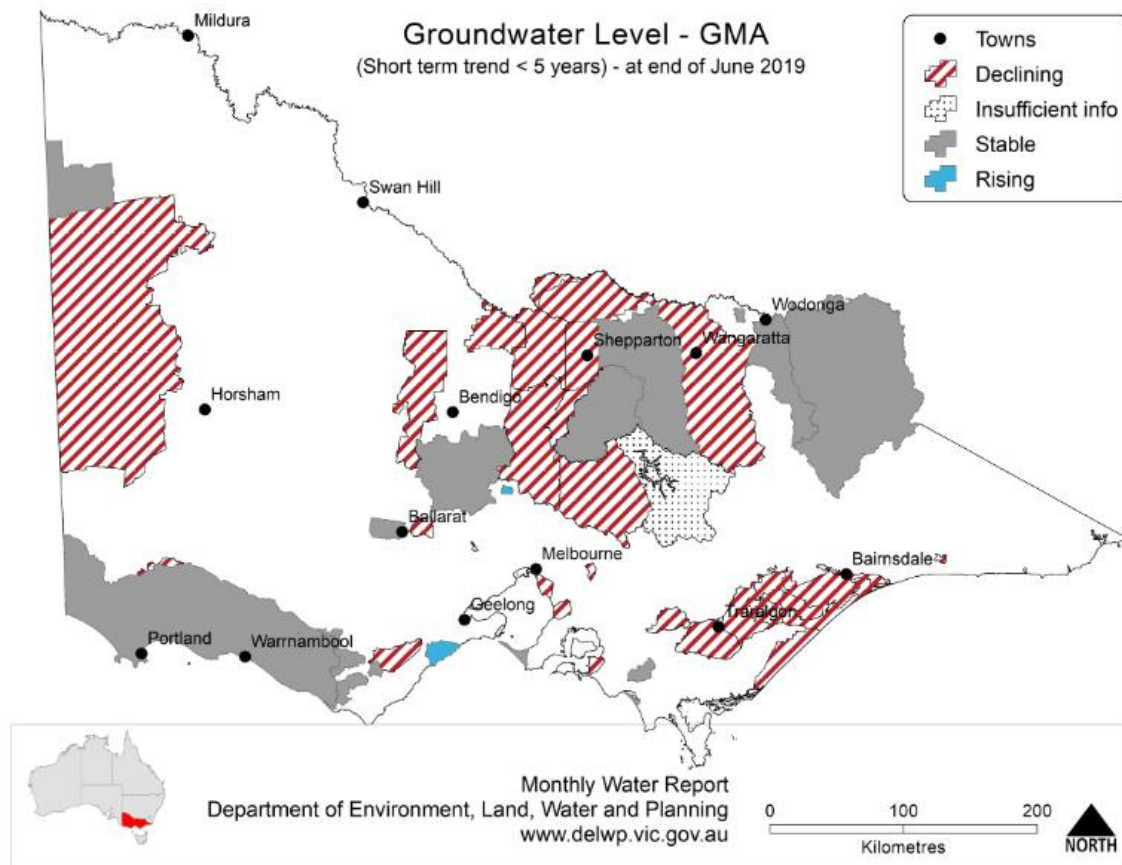
<sup>1</sup>Does not include farm dam registration licences.

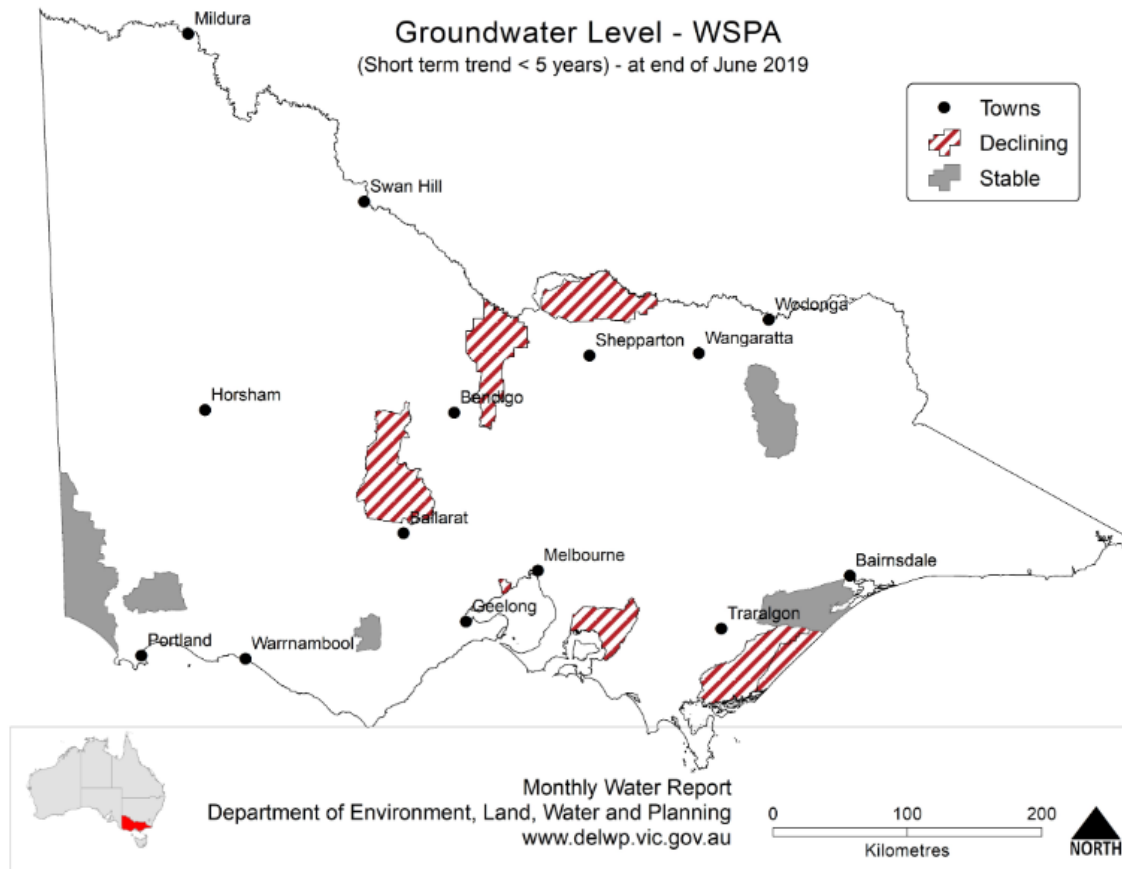
# What happened with local groundwater last season?

## Overview

There are four Groundwater Management Units within the Otway coast basin (Gellibrand, Jan Juc, Newlingbrook and Paaratte) all with deep confined sand aquifers. A bedrock aquifer covers the Otway Ranges, which has limited quality and yields and is generally only used for domestic and stock purposes. Minor surface aquifers cover most of the rest of the basin. These deep sand aquifers are mainly used for urban water supply.

Follow this [link](#) if you would like to know more about groundwater management in your area.





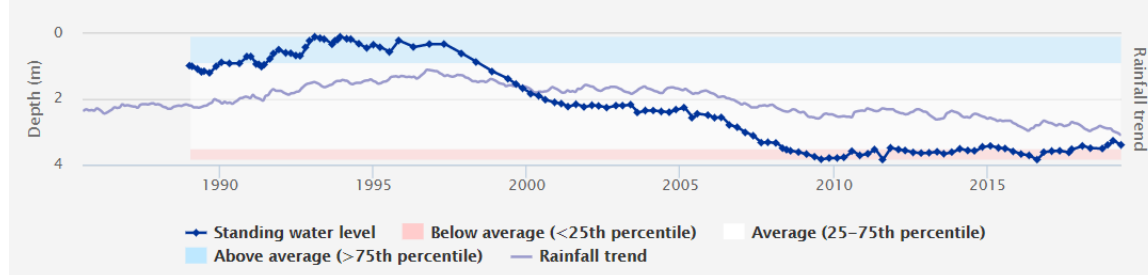
Use this [link](#) to view groundwater trends across Victoria.

### Gellibrand

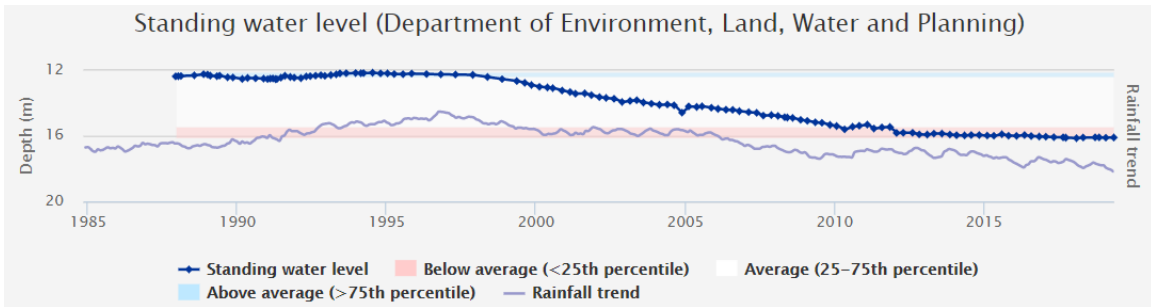
Gellibrand GMA received 610mm of rain at the Barwon Downs (Gerangamete) rain gauge station which was approximately 70mm more than the long-term average of 543mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 0ML. There are no groundwater licences in Gellibrand Average water levels this year are below the long-term average (below 25th percentile)

Standing water level (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)



[47996](#) – Gellibrand



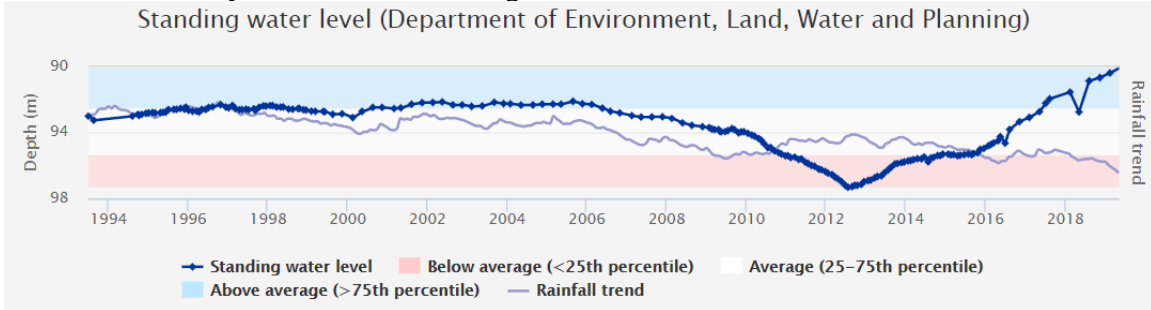
[108913](#) - Gellibrand

### Jan Juc

Jan Juc GMA received 628mm of rain at the Wensleydale rain gauge station which was approximately 170mm less than the long-term average of 800mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 201ML compared to the long-term average of 2,619ML.

Water levels this year are above average.



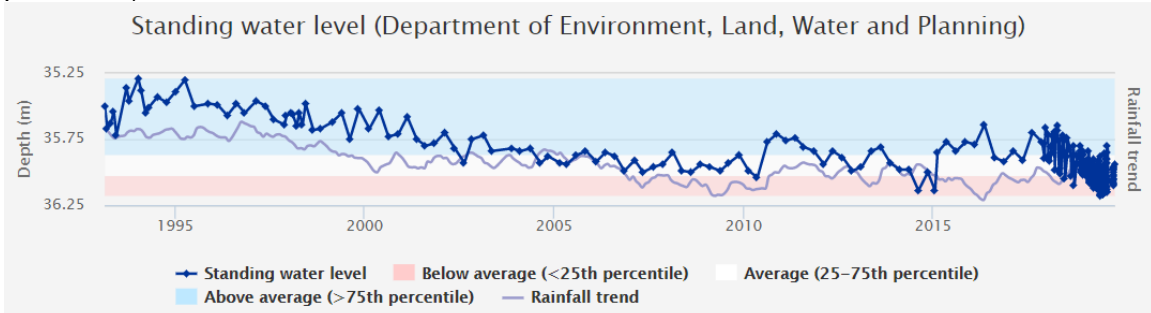
[115869](#) - Jan Juc

### Newlingrook

Newlingrook GMA received 1,127mm of rain at the Gellibrand River West rain gauge station which was approximately 60mm more than the long-term average of 1,072mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 55ML compared to the long-term average of 165ML.

Average water levels this year are within the long-term average (within 25-75th percentile)



[113467](#) – Newlingrook

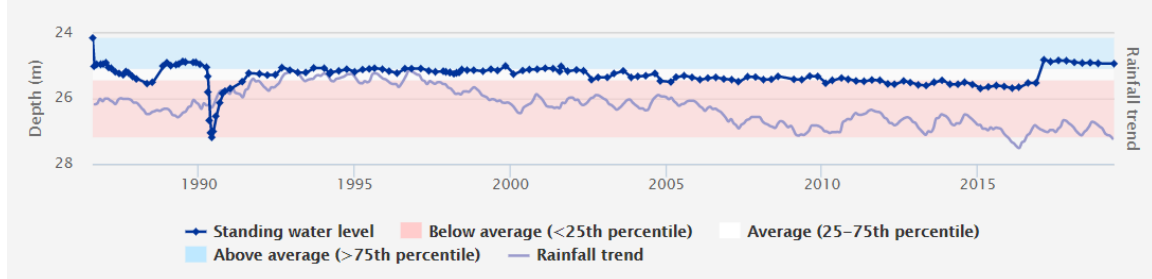
## Paaratte

Paaratte GMA received 707mm of rain at the Cobden (Post Office) rain gauge station which was approximately 130mm less than the long-term average of 836mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 339ML compared to the long-term average of 327ML.

Average water levels this year are above the long-term average (above 75th percentile)

Standing water level (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)



[87250](#) – Cobden-Port Campbell Road

To find out more information about the bore depths in your area visit

[https://www.vvg.org.au/vvg\\_map.php](https://www.vvg.org.au/vvg_map.php)

## Groundwater figures

The table below compares last season's usage with the previous four years.

| Groundwater system                   | Number of licences | Licensed volume (ML) | Total Volume Extracted (ML) |            |              |              |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                      |                    |                      | 2018-19                     | 2017-18    | 2016-17      | 2015-16      | 2014-15      |
| Jan Juc                              | 2                  | 4,250                | 201                         | 7          | 223          | 1,341        | 3,877        |
| Newlingrook                          | 6                  | 1,958                | 55                          | 47         | 88           | 59           | 738          |
| Paaratte                             | 5                  | 3,192                | 339                         | 334        | 314          | 367          | 340          |
| Unincorporated                       | 11                 | 72                   | 40                          | 86         | 106          | 87           | 330          |
| Southwest Limestone GMA <sup>1</sup> | 823                | 80,399               | 36,253                      | 34,143     | 25,085       | 35,360       | NA           |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>847</b>         | <b>88,071</b>        | <b>1,348</b>                | <b>979</b> | <b>1,307</b> | <b>2,752</b> | <b>5,285</b> |

<sup>1</sup>Figures quoted are for the entire SWL GMA

| Basin / GMU     | Permanent trade |             | Temporary trade |             |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
|                 | Number          | Volume (ML) | Number          | Volume (ML) |
| Jan Juc GMU     | 0               | 0           | 0               | 0           |
| Newlingrook GMU | 0               | 0           | 0               | 0           |
| Paaratte GMU    | 0               | 0           | 0               | 0           |
| Otway Coast     | 1               | 4           | 0               | 0           |

## **More information**

For more information about rural water use in your area, please contact your local field officer **Anja Jeddi** on **0418 201 052** or phone Southern Rural Water on 1300 139 510.

Southern Rural Water is publishing local water reports for all basins. You can view these online at our website ([www.srw.com.au](http://www.srw.com.au))

### ***PLEASE DON'T DRINK OUR WATER***

ANY water from sources managed or licensed by Southern Rural Water, including irrigation storages, channels, rivers and creeks, groundwater and farm dams, is untreated. It should not be considered safe for human consumption without proper treatment.