



Glenelg - Portland Basin

Local Water Report 2019-20

Introduction

Welcome to our annual Local Water Report for our Glenelg/Portland Basin customers. This report provides information on:

- how our rivers fared last season (2019-20);
- 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?

Slightly above average winter rainfall in the far South-West of Victoria saw the major streams, the Glenelg River and Wannon River sustain reasonable flow levels for lengthy periods and experienced reduced restriction levels. The other streams experienced average flows and similar restrictions to the long term average.

Glenelg River

River flows are recorded daily during the irrigation season at the Sandford monitoring site. There were no bans on the Glenelg River for the 2019-20 season. Restrictions on the Glenelg River are managed closely and align with the GHCMA's environmental releases so that restrictions allow these pulses to pass without a lifting of any bans outside of natural flows.

For more information on the management of the Glenelg River, [click here](#) to read the local management rules

Wannon River

River flows are recorded daily during the irrigation season at the Henty monitoring site. Bans on the Wannon River for the 2019-20 season started in mid-January through to late May.

The table below shows the restrictions for the 2019-20 season:

Stage	Total days
Total ban	126 days

Eumeralla River

River flows are recorded daily during the irrigation season at the Codrington monitoring site. Bans on the Eumeralla River for the 2019-20 season started in mid-January through to late May.

The table below shows the restrictions for the 2018-19 season:

Stage	Total days
Total ban	145 days

Darlot Creek

River flows are recorded daily during the irrigation season at the Homerton monitoring site.

There were no bans on the Darlot Creek for the 2019-20 season.

Rosters and restrictions

When river, creek and groundwater levels drop, we often have to introduce rosters, restrictions or bans to ensure a fair distribution of available water to all licence holders.

You can find your area's hotline number and local management rules by visiting www.srw.com.au/customer/rosters-and-restrictions

Surface water figures

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

River system ¹	Number of licences	Licensed volume (ML)	Total Volume Extracted (ML)				
			2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Glenelg River System	58	1010	87	87	54	50	41
Eumeralla River System	10	108	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	68	1118	87	87	54	50	41

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

1 - Does not include farm dam registration licences

What happened with your local groundwater last season?

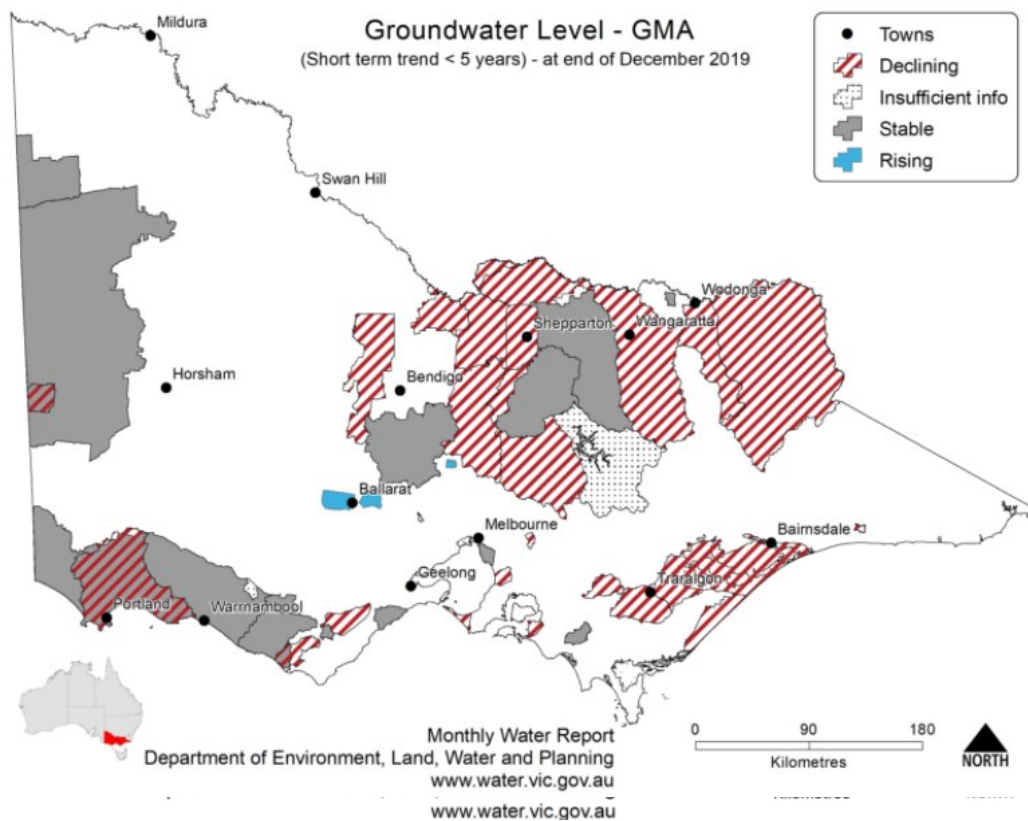
Overview

There are four main Groundwater Management Units within the Glenelg and Portland basins (Glenelg (border zone), Condah, South West Limestone and Portland). All areas have basalt and/or limestone aquifers, which are generally of good quality and high yielding. Condah and Portland are deeper confined sand aquifers.

Other groundwater areas of the basins are largely in the basalt, which is usually accessed by stock and domestic users as a low yielding aquifer with higher salinity.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has State Observation Bore Network coverage in this area, except for the Heywood area.

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



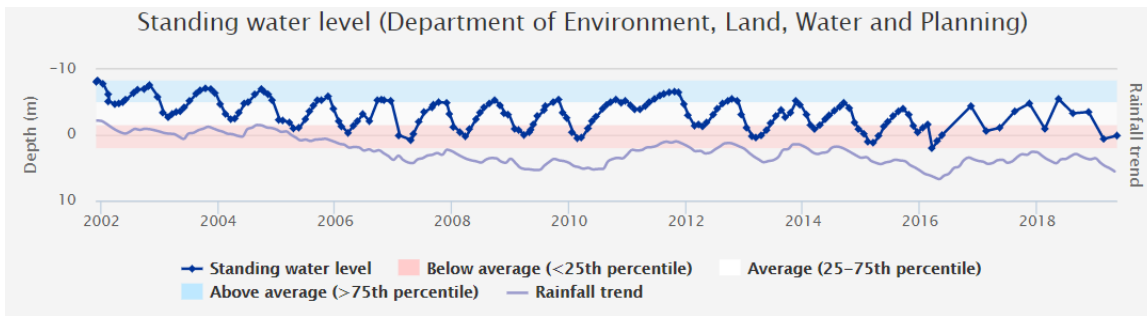
Use this [link](#) to view groundwater trends across Victoria.

Condah

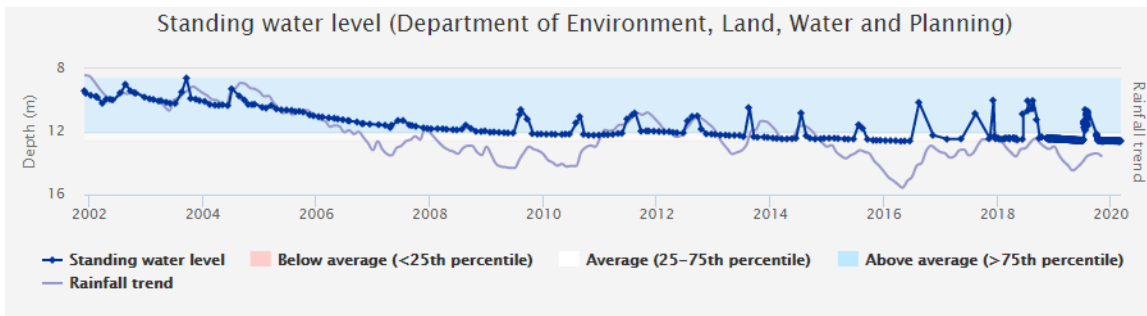
Condah GMA received 623mm of rain at the Branxholme rain gauge station which was 30mm less than the long term average of 653mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 2,325ML compared to the long term average of 2,824ML.

Water levels this year are average to below average.



146024 - Spoldings Road



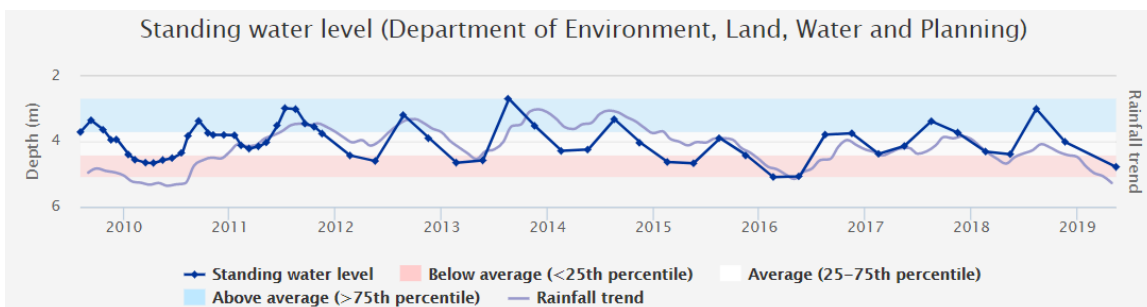
146031 - Treloars Road

South West Limestone

South West Limestone GMA received 748mm of rain at the Cape Bridgewater rain gauge station which was approximately 80mm less than long term average of 829mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 27,486ML compared to the entitlement of 80,399ML. Water levels this year are average to above average.

For more information on the South West Limestone click [here](#) to read the Local Management Plan.



WRK988735 - Spencer Road

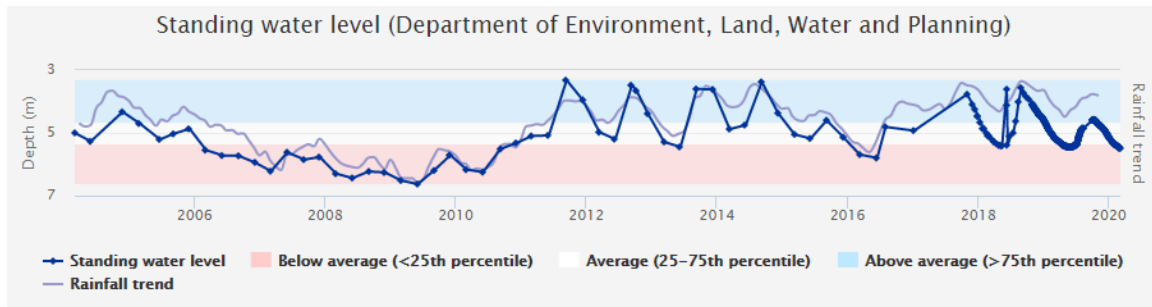
Glenelg

Glenelg WSPA received 745.6mm of rain at the Strathdownie rain gauge station which was approximately 50mm more than the long term average of 697mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 5,743ML compared to the long term average of 7,690ML.

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

For more information on Glenelg, click [here](#) to read the Groundwater Catchment Statement



WRK961330 – Puralka Road

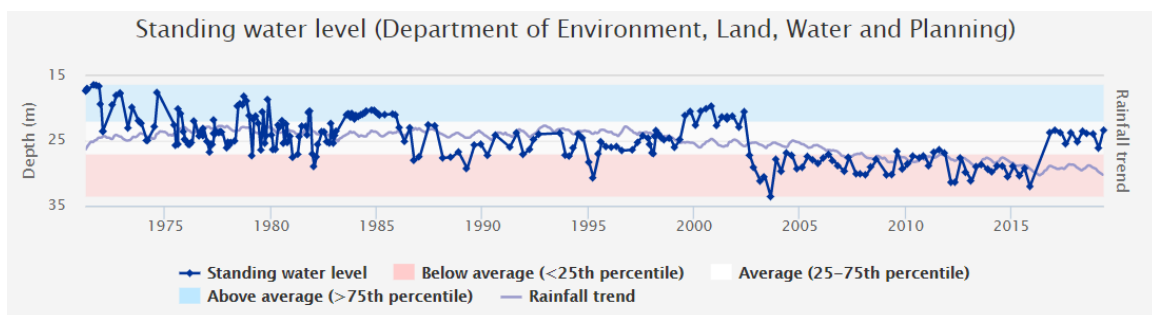
Portland

Portland GMA received 835mm of rain at the Portland Airport rain gauge station which was approximately 5mm less than the long term average of 841mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 2,394ML compared to the long term average of 2,556ML.

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

For more information on the Portland GMA, click [here](#) to read the Groundwater Catchment Statement



88370 – Madeira Packet Road

To find out more information about the bore depths in your area visit 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)				
			2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Condah GMU	32	7,464	2,325	3,478	3,073	2,666	3,122
Glenelg WSPA ¹	34	16,092	5,743	5,910	4,618	3,072	5,018
Hawkesdale GMU ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Heywood GMU ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Portland GMU	7	7,779	2,394	2,561	2,501	2,389	2,693
Southwest Limestone GMU ^{1,2}	823	80,399	27,486	36,253	34,143	25,085	35,360
Unincorporated ¹	77	4,250	385	385	567	524	592
Totals	973	115,984	38,333	21,817	18,972	9,430	20,563

¹ Glenelg WSPA minus any South West Limestone entitlement.
 Figures are for the whole of the South West Limestone GMU

Water trading

Basin / GMU	Permanent trade		Temporary trade	
	Number	Volume (ML)	Number	Volume (ML)
Condah WSPA	0	0	1	200
Glenelg WSPA ³	0	0	2	125
Southwest Limestone GMA ⁴	25	1087.60	16	2152.80
Glenelg Basin	0	0	0	0

More information

For more information about rural water use in your area, please contact your local field officer **Kevin Williams** (Warrnambool) on **0437 707 122** 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

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.