



# Hopkins Basin

## Local Water Report 2019-20

### Introduction

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

- how our rivers fared last season (2019-20)
- groundwater level trends in key areas
- 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?

#### Hopkins River

Below average rainfall was recorded over the winter period with the maximum flow of 6,152 ML/day, recorded at the Hopkins Falls gauging station on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019. This winter flush maintained flows within the Hopkins River throughout the irrigation season which saw no restriction during the irrigation period. The irrigation period saw the irrigation schedule in place for 294 days.

Stage	Total Days
Stage 1 (100% on Schedule)	294
Stage 2 (75%)	0
Stage 3 (50%)	0
Stage 4 (25%)	0
Stage 5 (BAN)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>

#### Mt Emu Creek

The Mount Emu Creek experienced milder restriction than the previous season however a total ban was in place for 35 days throughout the 294 day irrigation period.

Winter rainfall leading up to the irrigation season saw a seasonal high flow of only 3,125 Megaliters on October 16 2019 at the Ayreford Road gauging station. This flush also maintained bas flows well into the season.

Stage	Total Days
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Stage 1 (100% on Schedule)	164
Stage 2 (75%)	17
Stage 3 (50%)	25
Stage 4 (25%)	53
Stage 5 (BAN)	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>

For more information on the management of the Emu Creek, [click here](#) to read the local management rules.

## Merri River

Winter rain was reasonable within the Merri River catchment throughout the year with the maximum daily flow of 6,110 Megaliters recorded on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The irrigation schedule commenced on 1 October and was on stage 1 for 89 days before stage 2 (20% reduction in daily allowable) was imposed. No further restrictions beyond stage 2 were required to be imposed however we were still able to maintaining the minimum environmental flows at Woodford at all times. The table below are the level of restrictions for the 2019-20 season.

Stage	Total Days
Stage 1 (100% on Schedule)	195
Stage 2 (80%)	99
Stage 3 (65%)	0
Stage 4 (50%)	0
Stage 5 (35%)	0
Stage 6 (25%)	0
Stage 7 (17.5%)	0
Stage 8 (10%)	0
Stage 9 (Ban)	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>294</b>

For more information on the management of the Merri River click here to read the local management rules.

## Brucknell Creek (Cudgee Creek)

The Brucknell Creek had strong inflows from groundwater into the system from the South West Limestone aquifer. This inflow helped maintain a constant base flow through the season resulting in No restrictions being imposed on any irrigators throughout the season

Stage	Total Days
Stage 1 (100% on Schedule)	294
Stage 2 (75%)	0
Stage 3 (50%)	0
Stage 4 (25%)	0
Stage 5 (BAN)	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>294</b>

## 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](http://www.srw.com.au/customer/rosters-and-restrictions)

River system	Number of licences	Licensed volume (ML)	Total Volume Extracted (ML)				
			2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Merri River	52	4802	1,392	1,833	1672	1,333	1,569
Hopkins River System	103	6622	728	632	766	684	889
<b>Totals</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>11,424</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>2,458</b>

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

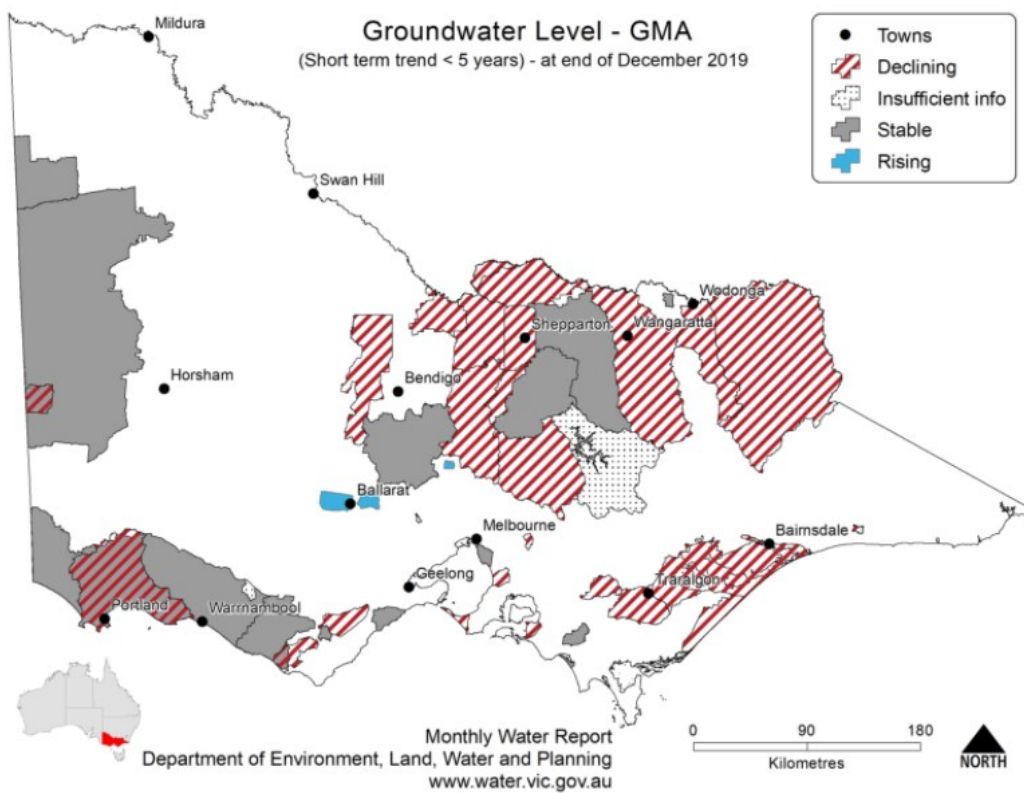
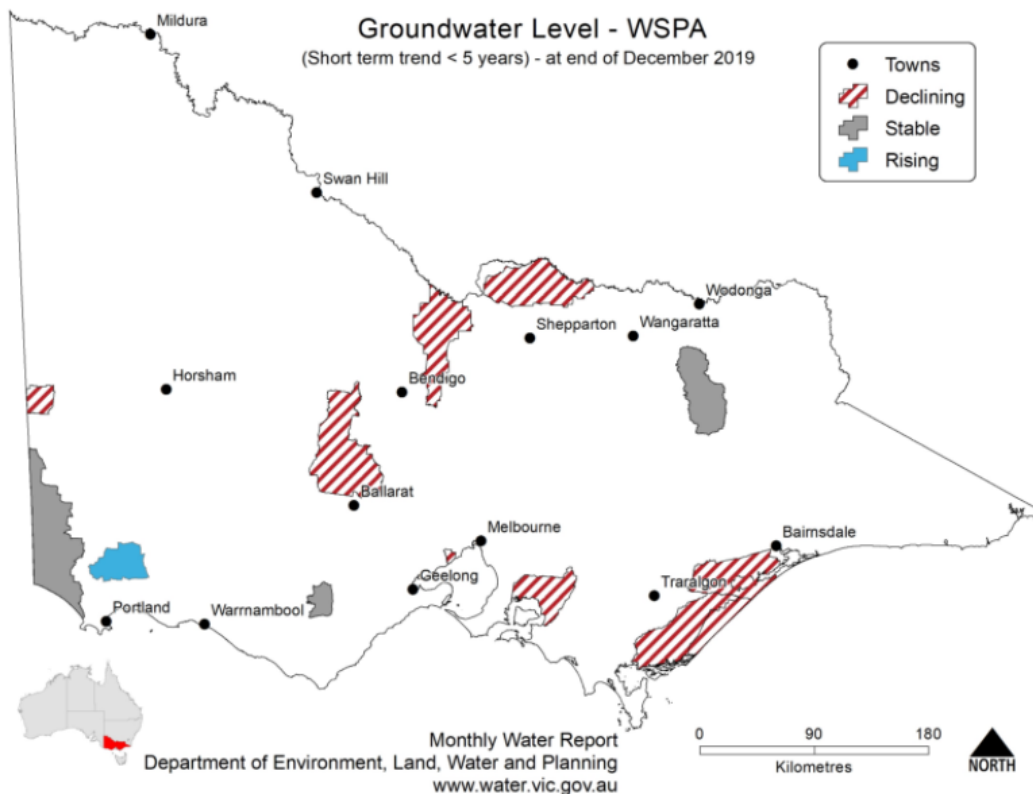
## What happened with your local groundwater last season?

### Overview

There are five groundwater management units (GMUs) within the Hopkins Basin – South West Limestone, Glenormiston and Cardigan.

This generally has water of good quality and high yield. The Glenormiston and Cardigan GMUs are basalt aquifers. Other parts of the basin are covered in basalt, and are usually accessed by stock and domestic users as this is a lower yielding aquifer with higher salinity.

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.

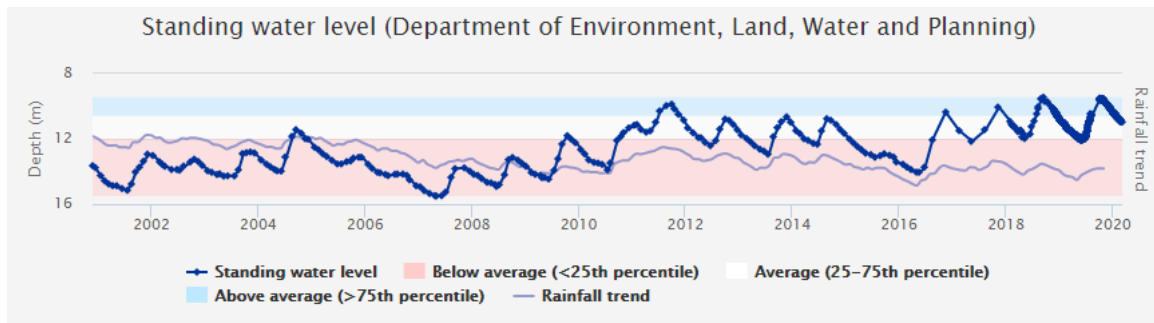
## South West Limestone

South West Limestone GMA received 775mm of rain at the Nullawarre rain gauge station which was approximately 110mm less than long term average of 883mm.

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 management of the South West Limestone click [here](#) to read the Local Management Plan.



141237 - South West Limestone

## Glenormiston

Glenormiston GMA received 772mm of rain at the Terang rain gauge station which was 16mm less than the long term average of 782mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 1,141ML compared to the entitlement of 1,056ML.

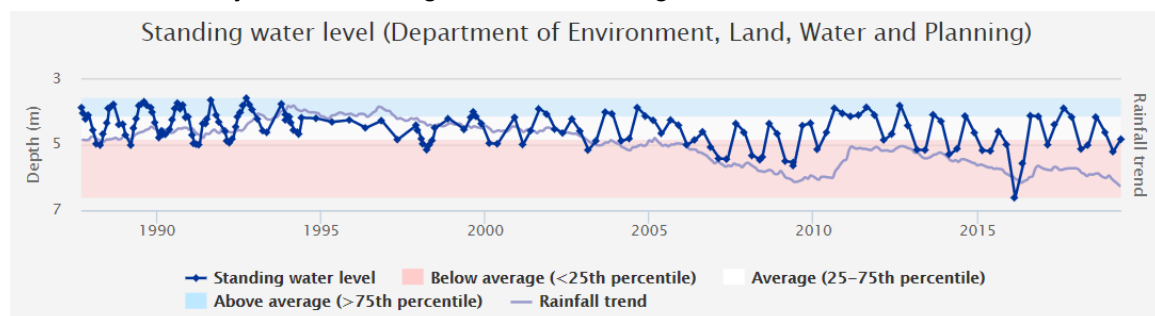
There are no active monitoring bores within Glenormiston GMA.

## Cardigan

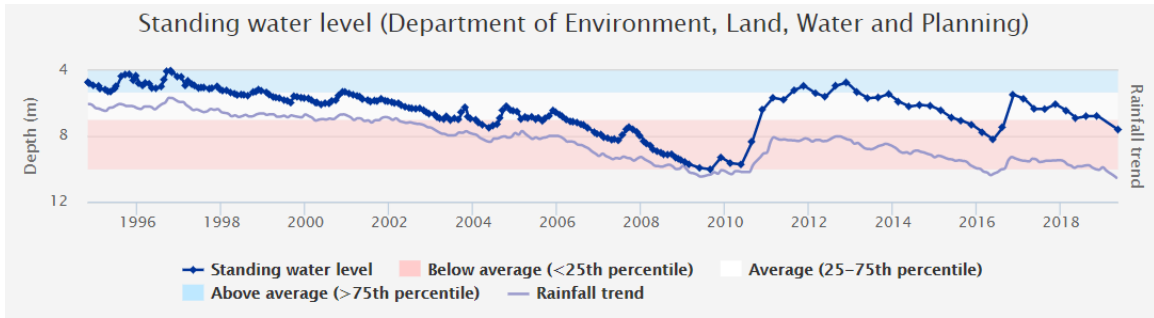
Cardigan GMA received 618mm of rain at the Ballarat Aerodrome rain gauge station which was approximately 70mm less than the long term average of 687mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 733ML compared to the long term average of 678ML.

Water levels this year are average to below average



Cardigan – Racecourse Road (66622)



Cardigan – Draffin's Road (122382)

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)

**How much groundwater was used:**

Groundwater system	Number of licences	Licensed volume (ML)	Total Volume Extracted (ML)				
			2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Cardigan GMU	20	3,887	733	931	742	751	933
Southwest Limestone GMU <sup>1,2</sup>	823	80,399	27,486	36,253	34,143	25,085	35,360
Glenormiston GMU	42	2,636	1,141	1,211	1,382	1,078	1,148
<b>Totals<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>884</b>	<b>86,922</b>	<b>29,360</b>	<b>38,395</b>	<b>36,267</b>	<b>26,914</b>	<b>37,441</b>

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

1 Southwest Limestone GMU was introduced in 2015 to replace the Hawkesdale GMA, Heywood GMA, part of the Glenelg GMA and the abolished Nullawarre and Yangery WSPAs. Some entitlements that were recorded as Unincorporated have also been included within the Southwest Limestone GMA.

2 Figures represent the entitlements for the whole of the South West Limestone aquifer

3 Increases in total usage figures reflect the inclusion of the total SWL usage. Balance of unincorporated figures are not included in this total.

## Water trading

Basin / GMU	Permanent trade		Temporary trade	
	Number	Volume (ML)	Number	Volume (ML)
Hopkins Basin	3	127.7	1	24
Cardigan GMA	0	0	0	0
Glenormiston GMA	0	0	0	0
Southwest Limestone GMA <sup>3</sup>	25	1087.60	16	2152.80

<sup>3</sup> All trades within the GMU

The table above shows the number and volume (ML) of water trades. Temporary and permanent volume trades show water trades across different locations, as distinct from ownership changes that are part of land transfers.

1. Previous years water trade ML volumes , numbers and traded price can be found at:
2. <http://waterregister.vic.gov.au/water-trading/take-and-use-licence-trading>

## More information

For more information about rural water use in your area, please contact your local field officer **Gary Wills** on **0418 996 878** or phone Southern Rural Water on 1300 139 510.

## *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.