



Mitchell River Basin

Local Water Report 2019-20

Introduction

Welcome to our annual Local Water Report for our Mitchell River Basin customers. This report provides an insight 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
- emerging local water issues.

What happened with your local rivers last season?

The 2019-20 season was another difficult season for all customers in the Mitchell River Basin. Restrictions for the Mitchell River started on 14 December and ended on 10 February (which was a lot earlier than previous restriction years). Wonnangatta/Dargo Rivers restrictions started on 21 December and ended the same date as the Mitchell River, though there was a short period without restriction in between. Bans were not required in the catchment this season.

Usage for the catchment was very similar to the previous season.

Mitchell River (from Glenaladale downstream)

Stage	Total Days
Stage 1	8
Stage 2	3
Stage 3	7
Stage 4	3
Stage 5	5
Stage 6	0
Stage 7	5
Stage 8	8
Stage 9	10
Stage 10	0
Ban	0

Mitchell River has an 11-stage roster – 11th stage is a ban.

Wonnangatta River

Stage	Total Days
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Stage 1	14
Stage 2	18
Ban	0

Dargo River

Stage	Total Days
Stage 1	14
Stage 2	18
Ban	0

The Wonnangatta/Dargo Rivers have a three-stage roster. The third stage is a ban.

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

River water usage

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

River system	Number of licences	Licensed volume (ML) ¹	Total Volume Extracted (ML)				
			2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Mitchell	145	14,883.6	12,478	12,395	13,165	9,737	7,352
Dargo / Wonnangatta	31	1107.9	320	421	459	237	155
Totals	176	15991.5	12,798	12,816	13,624	9,974	7,507

¹Does not include farm dam registration licences.

What happened with your local groundwater last season?

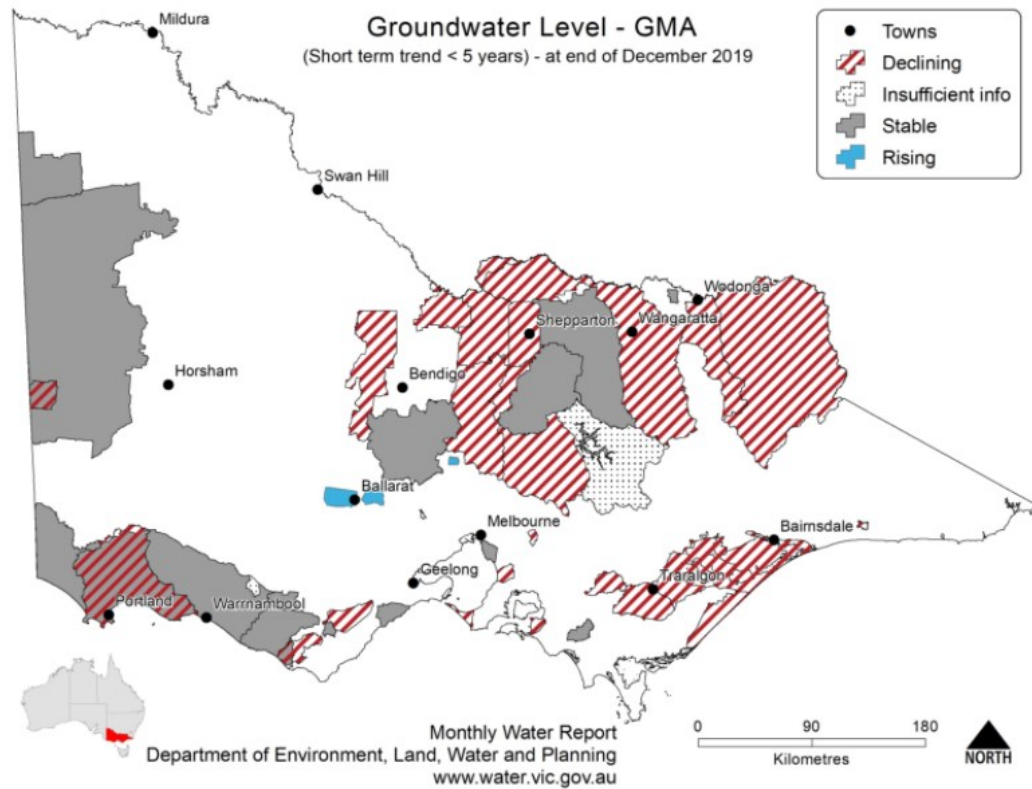
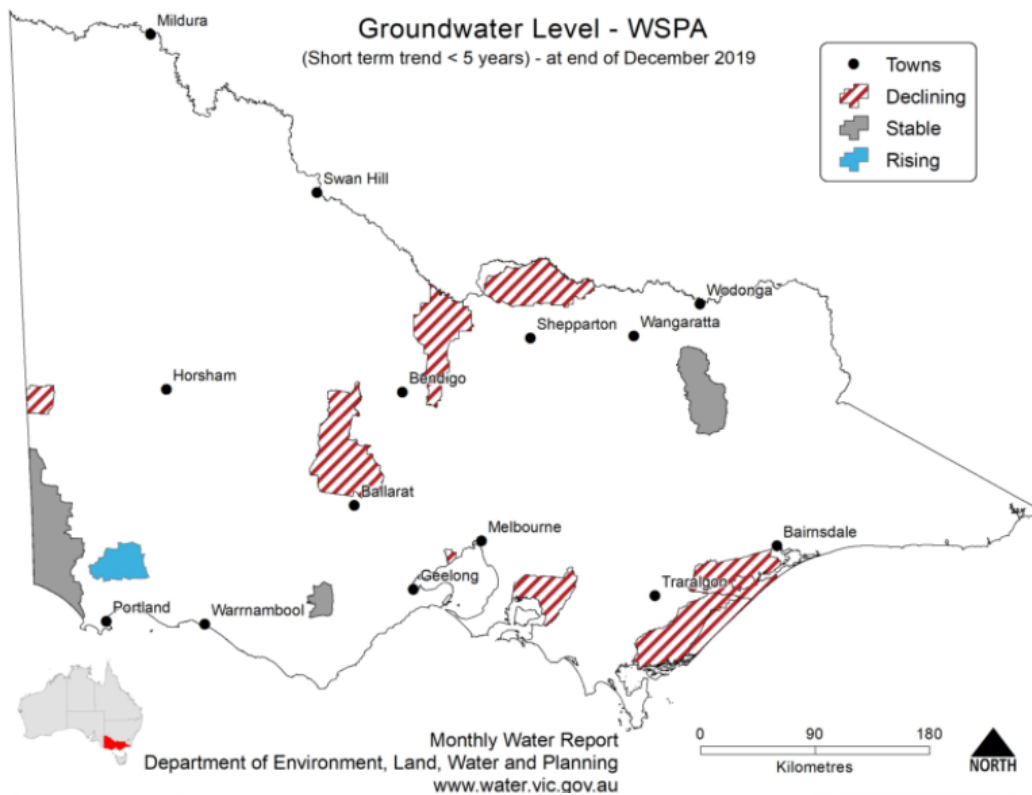
Overview

There are three Groundwater Management Units within the Mitchell basin (Wy Yung, Sale and Stratford).

The Wy Yung aquifer is a thin shallow alluvial deposit that is associated with the river valley. The Sale aquifer is a buried sand aquifer, and Stratford is the deep sand aquifer. A bedrock

aquifer, which covers most of the basin, has limited quality and yields and is generally only used for domestic and stock purposes.

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

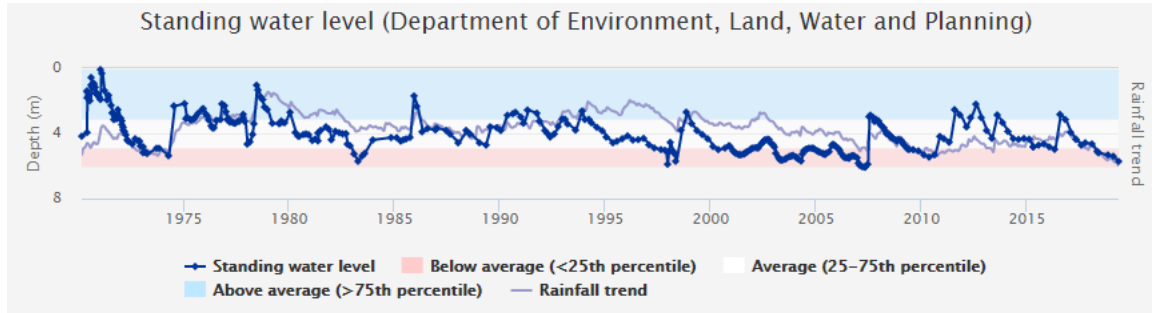


Use this [link](#) to view groundwater trends across Victoria.

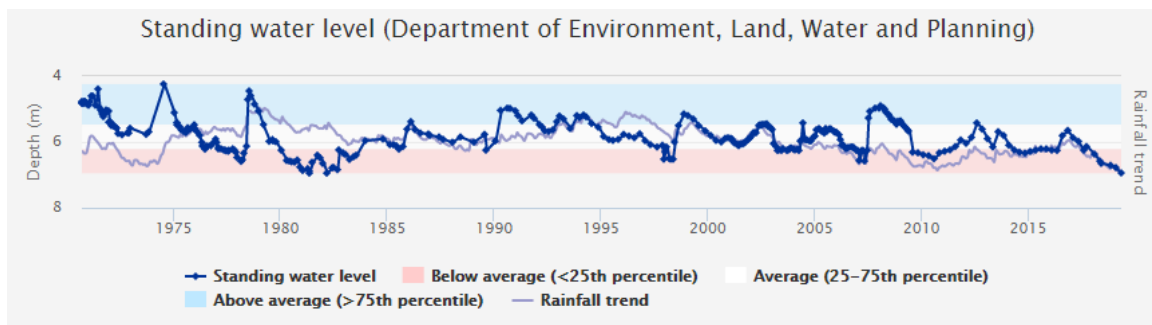
Wy Yung

Wy Yung GMA received 511mm of rain at the Bairnsdale (Mitchell River @ Rosehill) rain gauge station which was approximately 120mm less than the long-term average of 628mm. Groundwater usage last year was 919ML compared to the long-term average of 959ML.

Average water levels this year are within or below the long-term average.



80762 - Wy Yung



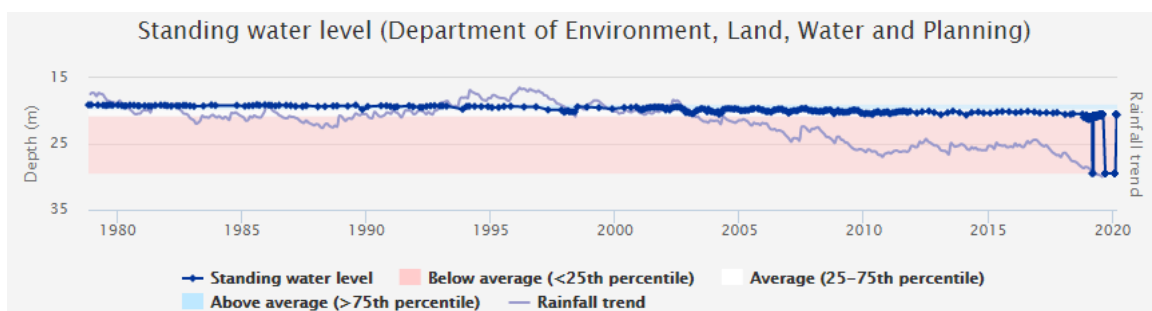
56540 - Wy Yung

Sale

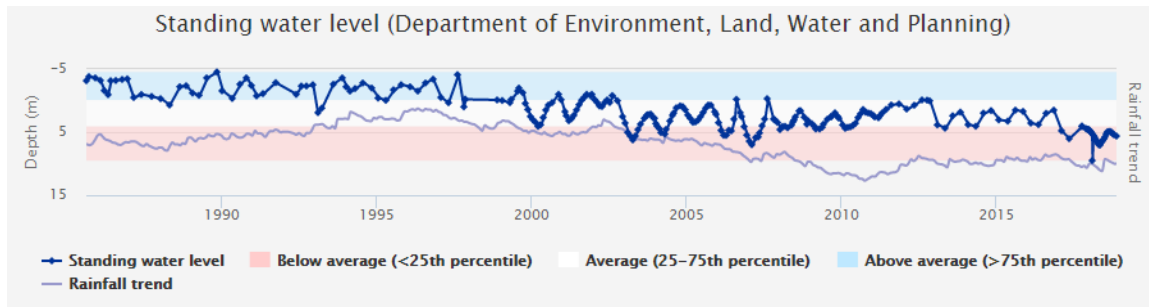
Sale GMA received 503mm of rain at the East Sale rain gauge station which was approximately 90mm less than the long-term average of 590mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 14,097ML compared to the long-term average of 11,414ML.

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



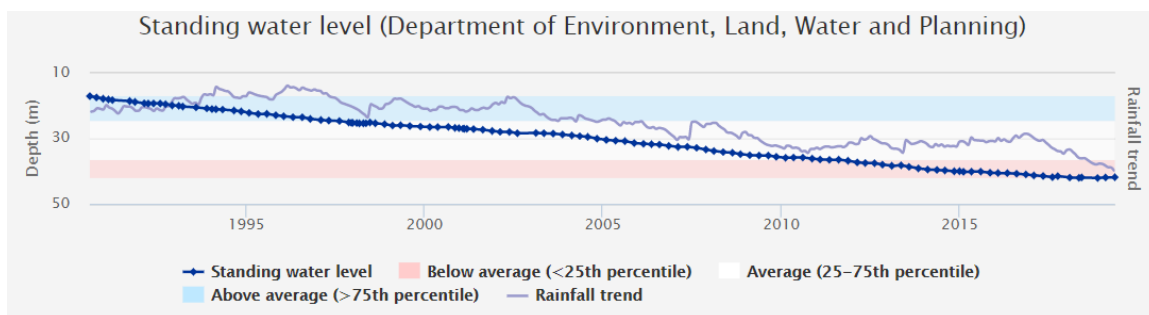
65762 – Sale



86464 - Sale

Stratford

Stratford GMA received 542mm of rain at the Maffra rain gauge station which was approximately 30mm more than the long-term average of 516mm. Groundwater usage last year was 35ML compared to the 10 year average of 28ML. Groundwater levels are slowly declining in this deeper aquifer, mainly due to the effects of offshore oil and gas extraction, and also because of Latrobe Valley mine dewatering.



47063 – Romawi 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
Sale WSPA	106	20,851	14,097	17,867	14,447	11,982	10,171
Stratford GMA ¹	9	836	35	110	18	15	22
Wy Yung GMA	59	7,462	919	1,547	1,326	559	414
Unincorporated GMU	62	4,443	1,065	1,320	1,176	593	582
Totals	236	33,592	16,116	20,589	16,967	13,149	11,189

¹ Excludes entitlements for power generation. Usage recorded does not include power generation at the Latrobe Valley mines.

Water trading

The table below 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.

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

Basin / GMU	Permanent trade		Temporary trade	
	Number	Volume (ML)	Number	Volume (ML)
Mitchell Basin	7	499	4	297
Sale WSPA ¹	3	225	21	1861.70
Wy Yung GMA	0	0	0	0

¹Section 54(2) *Water Act 1989* allows permanent trades where a management plan is refused. Sale WSPA Draft Management Plan was refused May 2004. Refusal advertised May 2004.

More information

For more information about rural water use in your area, please contact your local field officer, **Nick Krajnc** on **0429 404 751** or phone Southern Rural Water on 1300 139 510.

Southern Rural Water publishes 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.