



Thomson Basin

Local Water Report 2019-20

Introduction

This is our annual Local Water Report for our Thomson 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?

Avon River & Valencia Creek – Season 2019-2020

During the past irrigation season good seasonal rainfall across the Avon Catchment meant Avon River irrigators experienced a low number of pumping restrictions and Ban days with the number of unrestricted pumping days well up on the previous 2018-2019 season.

The Valencia Creek Catchment did not receive quite as much rainfall as the Avon Catchment consequently Valencia Creek irrigators had pumping restriction and Ban days for most of the year with a small amount of unrestricted pumping days available. This was a huge improvement on the previous 2018-2019 season where there were no unrestricted pumping days for the whole season with many days on Ban.

The 2018-2019 season started with both the Avon River & Valencia Creek being on unrestricted and stage 1 pumping restrictions due to good flows. This continued through to mid-October 2019. With no further significant rain received & decreasing flows, both the Avon River & Valencia Creek had pumping restrictions increased, with roster restrictions ranging between stage 2 to stage 4. During December 2019, the dry period continued causing further low flows which meant Bans were introduced on pumping. This Ban continued through to mid-January 2020. After receiving good summer rainfall flows in both waterways increased allowing pumping restrictions to be removed and replaced with unrestricted pumping days. This remained in place up to the end of the season.

The table below shows the restrictions on the Avon River and Valencia Creek for the 2019-2020 season:

Waterway	Number of days					
	Unrestricted	Stage 1 Roster	Stage 2 Roster	Stage 3 Roster	Stage 4 Roster	BAN
Avon River Section 1	240	36	8	11	34	36
Avon River Sections 2, 3A & 3B	241	17	10	17	26	54
Valencia Creek	47	165	n/a	n/a	n/a	153

Other Rivers & Creeks

Good rainfall throughout the year meant that other river and creek systems within the Thomson basin also had sufficient flows. Being a wetter season than the previous one, irrigation demand was noticeable down, with end of season meter reads taken showing that only 11.5% of available licensed entitlement was used (does not include the Avon River & Valencia Creek usage).

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 previous years.

River system ¹	Number of licences	Licensed volume (ML)	Total Volume Extracted (ML)				
			2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Avon River	86	6760	3,638	3,543	3,514	3,117	3,316
Valencia Creek	16	1467.6	1,028	332	658	1,001	1,153
Thomson Basin Misc SW		2628.6	307	296	630	493	521
Total			4,973	4,171	4,802	4,611	4,990

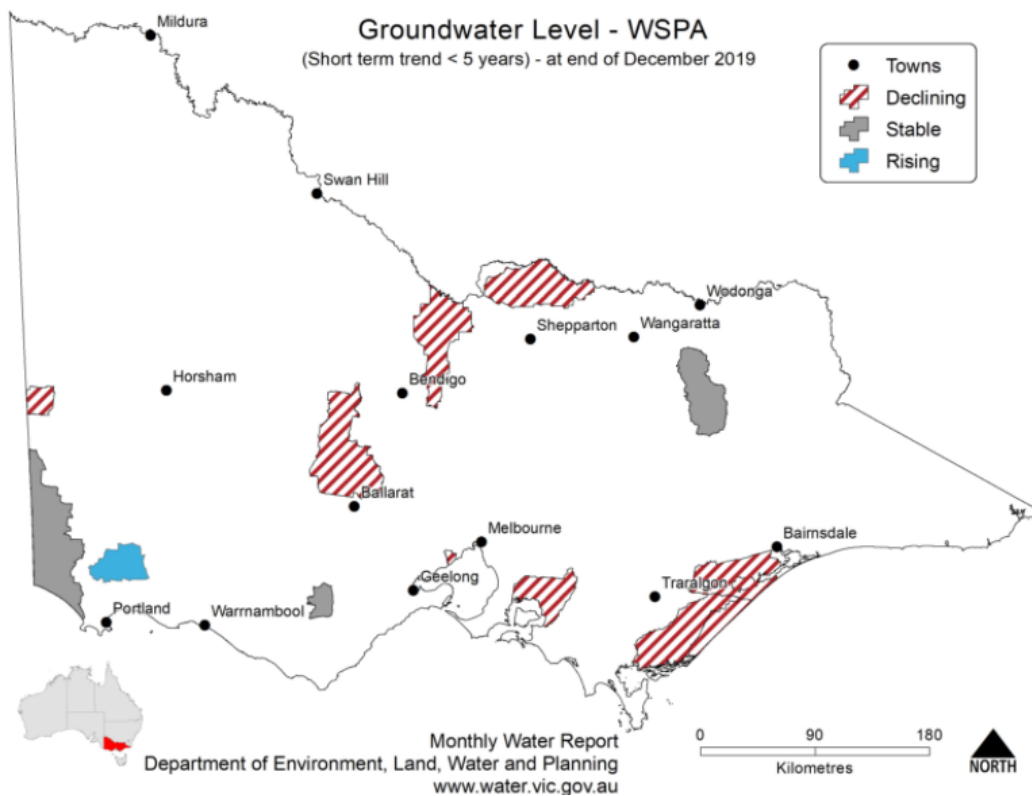
¹ Does not including farm dam registrations

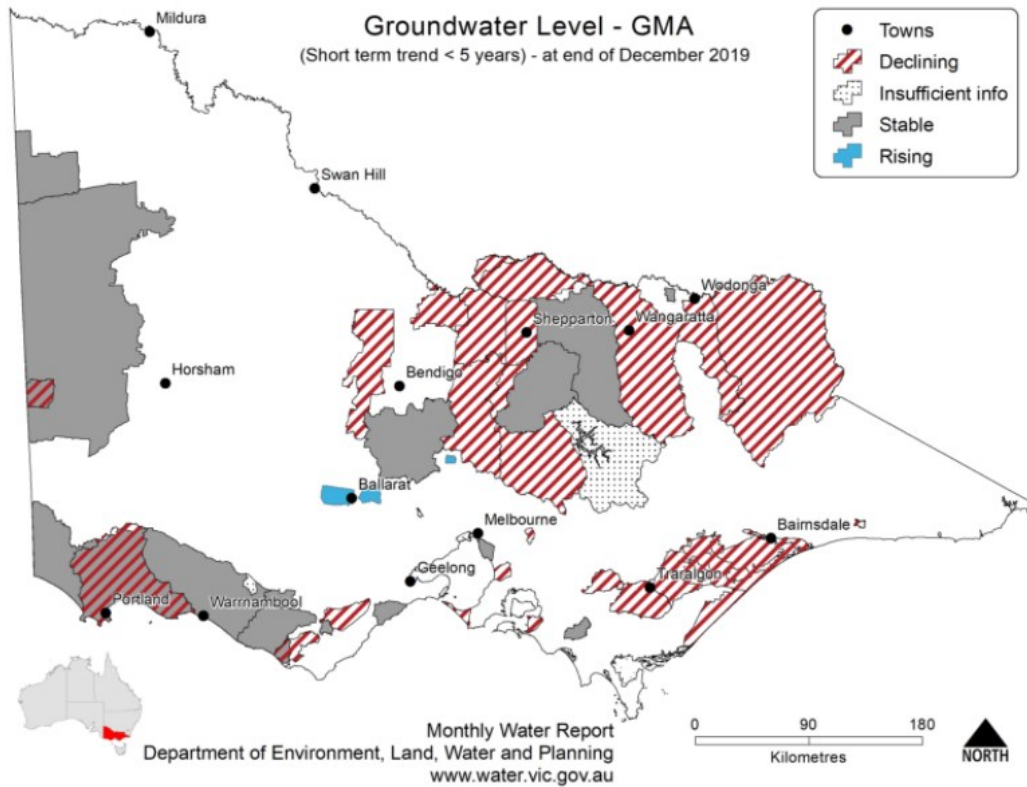
What's happening with your local groundwater?

Overview

There are five Groundwater Management Units within the Thomson basin (Denison, Sale, Rosedale, Stratford and Wa De Lock). Denison and Wa De Lock aquifers are thin shallow alluvial deposits that are associated with river valleys. The Sale and Rosedale aquifers are deeper sand aquifers, while the Stratford sand aquifer is the deepest. The bedrock aquifer covers most of the basin; it has limited quality and yield, and is mostly used for domestic and stock purposes.

Follow this link if you would like to know more about groundwater management in your area http://www.srw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Central-Gippsland-Moe-GCS_August-2016.pdf



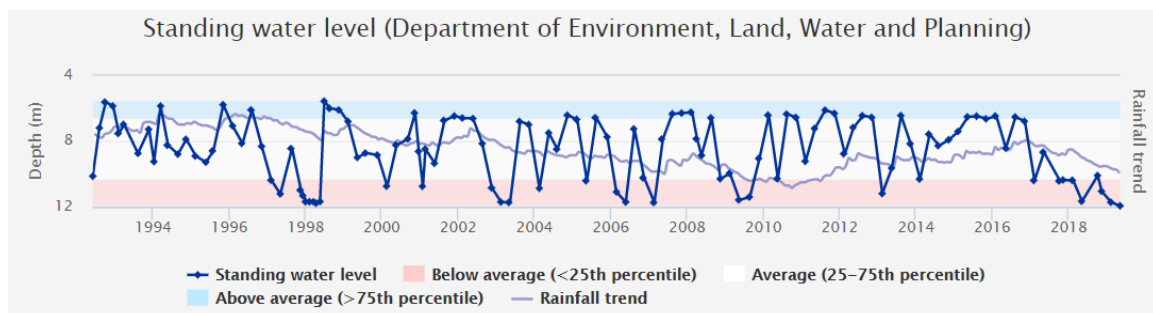


Use this [link](#) to view groundwater trends across Victoria.

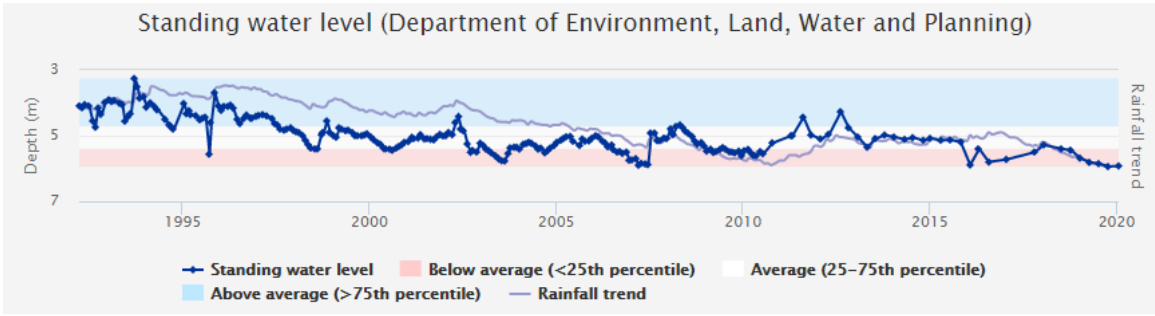
Wa De Lock

Wa De Lock GMA received 556mm of rain at the Valencia Creek rain gauge station which was approximately 100mm less than the long term average of 660mm. Groundwater usage last year was 5,997ML compared to the long term average of 6,920ML.

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



110166 (Zone 3) Briagolong-Valencia Creek Rd



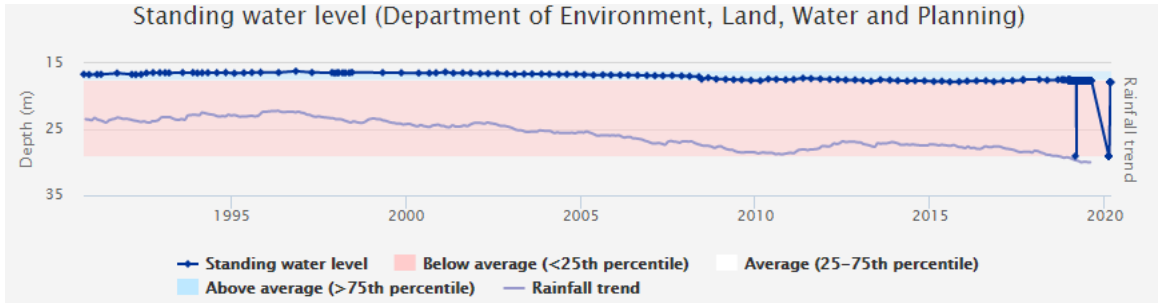
95489 - Tinamba-Newry Rd

Denison

Denison 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 6,088ML compared to the long-term average of 7,251ML.

Rosedale

Rosedale GMA received 870mm of rain at the Traralgon EPA rain gauge station which was approximately 170mm less than the long-term average of 618mm. Groundwater usage last year was 6,750ML compared to the long-term average of 6,627ML. Average water levels this year are below the long-term average (below 25th percentile)

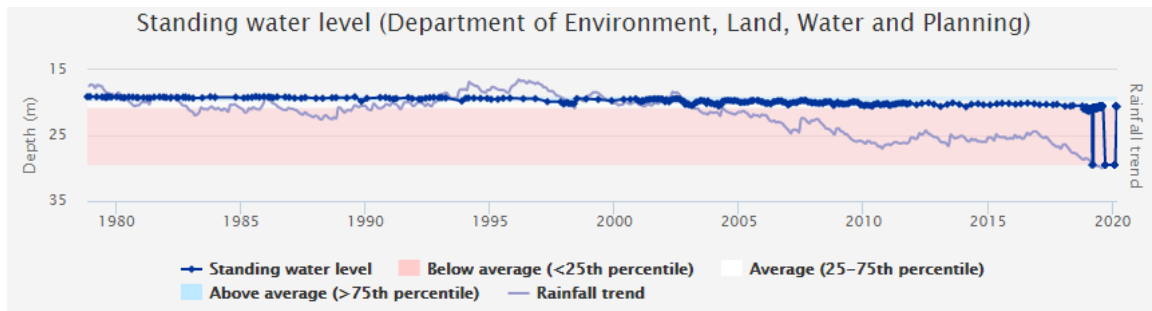


103811 – Bowmans Lane

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)

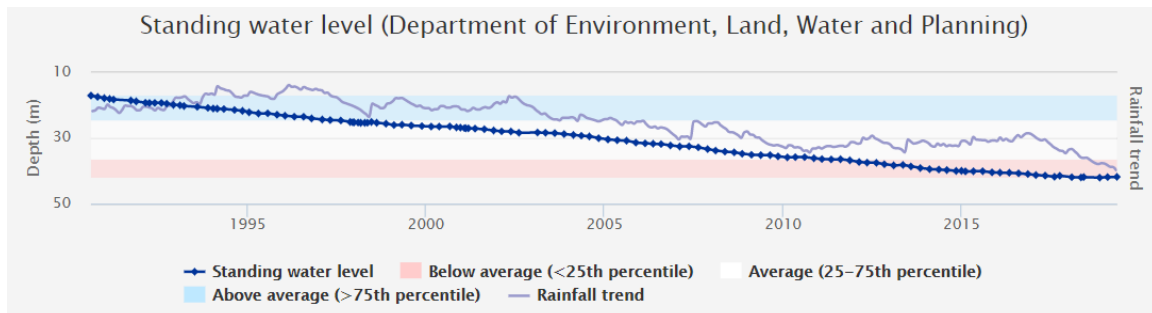


65762 Lyles Rd Sale

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
Wa De Lock	250	26,263.45	5,997	9,481	7,597	6,235	6,560
Denison ²	120	12705.4	6,088	11,191	7,144	6,191	7,048
Rosedale ^{1,2}	69	11497.50	6,750	9,411	7,959	6,713	6,198
Sale ²	113	11816.50	14,097	17,867	14,447	11,982	10,172
Stratford ^{1,2}	11	877.0	35	110	18	15	22
Unincorporated	90	9,662	2,015	2,988	2,248	1,733	1,609
Total	616	83,550	34,982	51,048	39,415	32,869	31,609

1 Excludes entitlements for power generation

2 Partially contained within the Thomson Basin

Water trading

The table below shows the number and volume (ML) of water trades. Temporary and permanent volume trades show water trades across different location, 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 of trades	Traded volume (ML)	Number of trades	Traded volume (ML)
Wa De Lock GMU	4	210.8	5	549.9
Denison GMU	0	0	7	926.6
Rosedale GMU	6	353.5	3	280
Sale GMU	3	225	21	1861.7
Stratford GMU	1	50	0	0
Thomson Basin	2	22.1	5	339.4

More information

For more information about rural water use in your area, please contact your local field officer, **Anthony Moulton** on **0408 317 716** 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.