

Annual groundwater condition summary 2025-26

South West Limestone Groundwater Management Area

Introduction

This summary aims to provide an overview of groundwater levels and use of groundwater in the South West Limestone Groundwater Management Area.

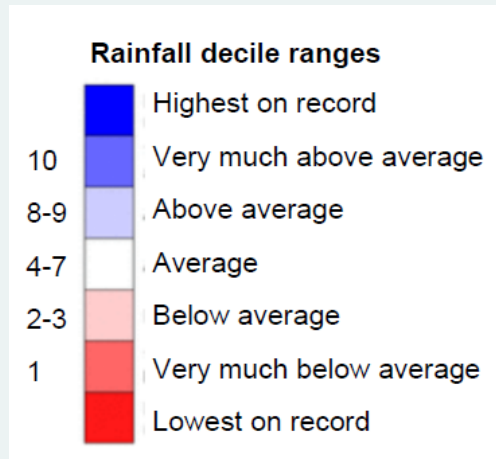
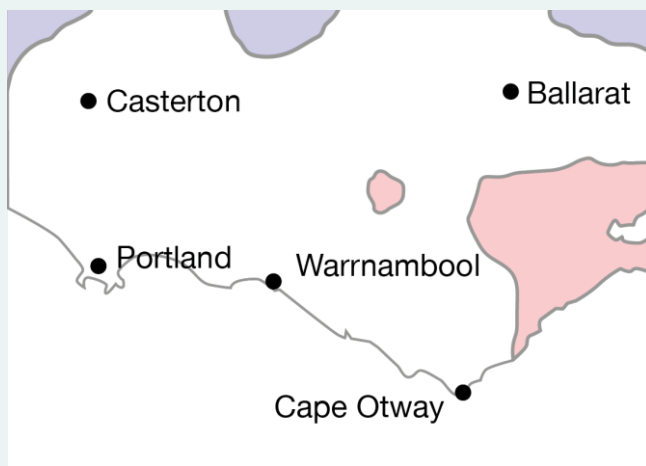
This summary complements our [interactive map](#) that allows water users to locate their area of interest accurately on the map.

Groundwater resource status

Rainfall across south-west Victoria has been below average over the last four years, particularly in the southern coastal regions where totals were well below average. Despite this prolonged dry period, rainfall in 2025-26 was generally near the long-term average across southern Victoria.

Groundwater levels in the far south-west continue to show a broad declining trend, reflecting the below-average rainfall experienced over recent years. Groundwater levels and trends across the central and eastern parts of the South West Limestone area are mixed, with low levels occurring in the Fitzroy catchment and parts of Hawksdale and Nullawarre, but with some areas showing a recovering trend and/or stable levels. (refer to the groundwater level hydrographs and maps on pages 3, 4 and 5).

Rainfall over the last year (up to June 2026) compared to long term average.

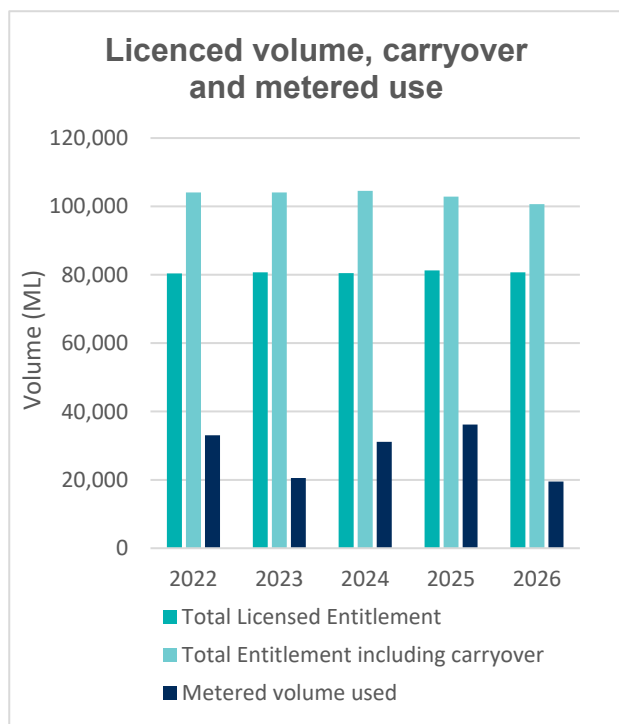


Source: Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Bureau of Meteorology Website. Available www.bom.gov.au

Licensed groundwater use

Groundwater usage in 2025/26 was 19,505 ML which was nearly 31% lower than the average use over the past five years of 28,082 ML.

Number of licences	Licensed volume (ML)	Metered usage (ML)
809	80,711	19,505



Carryover

Groundwater licence holders in the South West Limestone are allowed to carryover up to 30% of any unused annual licence volume into the next year.

Groundwater licence renewals

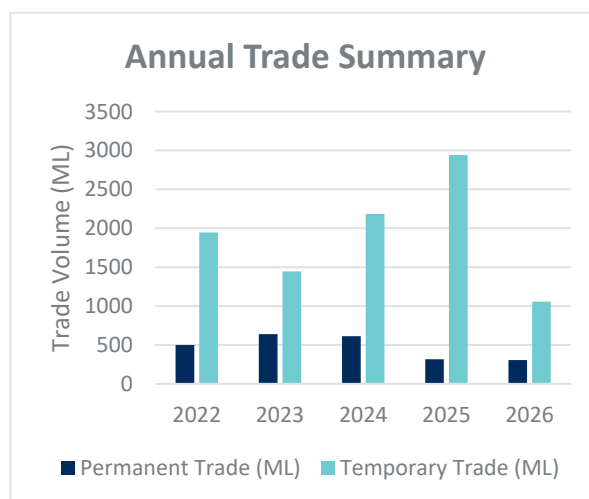
Groundwater licences can be issued for a maximum 15 year term before requiring renewal. Licence holders must apply to

Southern Rural Water to renew their licence. Of the total 809 licences within the groundwater management area, 44 groundwater licences were due for renewal in 2025/26. All applications for licence renewal were approved within the groundwater management area.

Groundwater trading

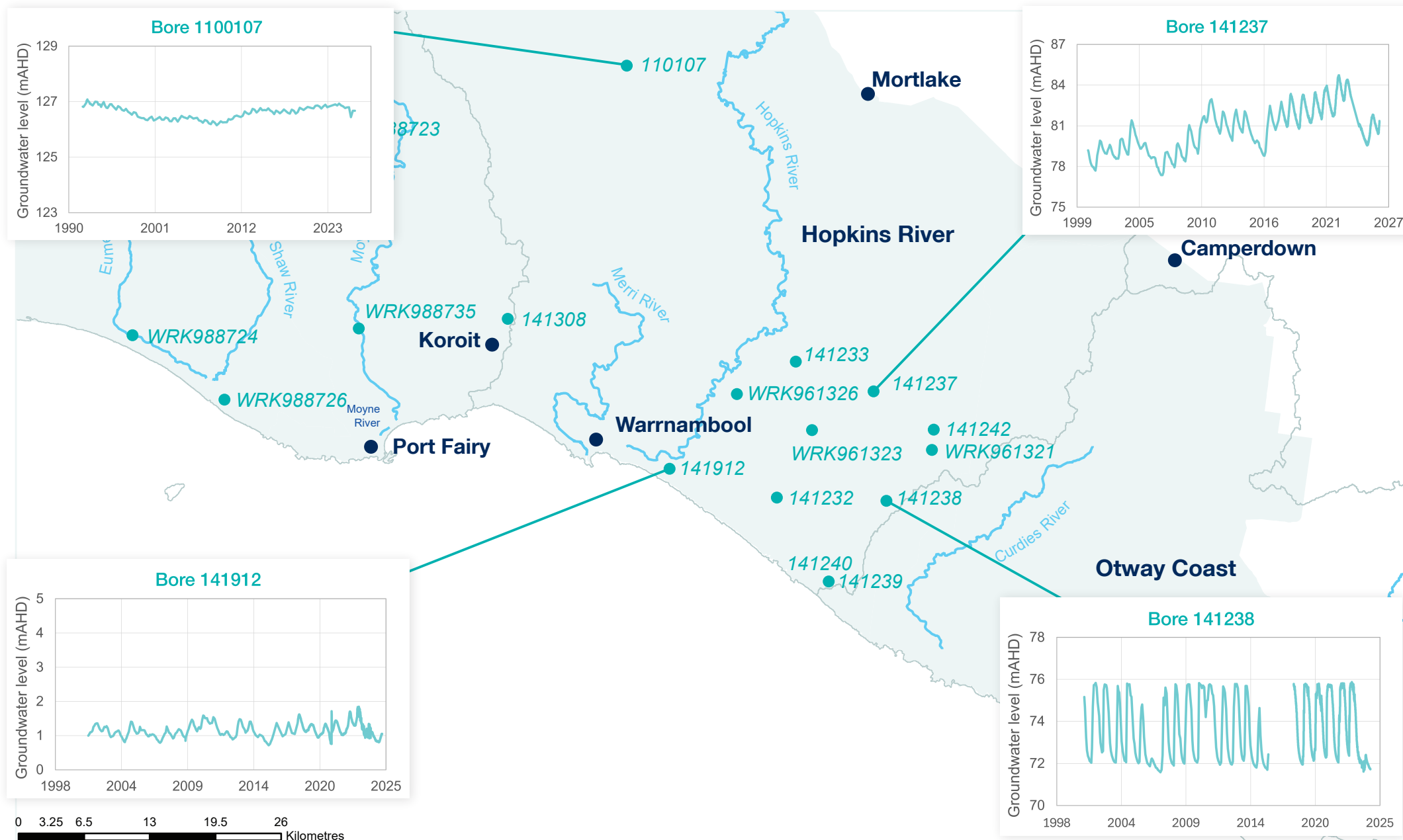
Water entitlements within the groundwater management area are capped. An applicant seeking a new licence or to increase an existing licence must undertake a trade with an existing licence holder. Trade can occur on a temporary or permanent basis within the groundwater management area in accordance with rules within the local management plan. This can be found on [our website](#).

In 2025/26 there were 7 permanent transfers of entitlement, totalling 305.4ML. There were 12 temporary trades totalling 1057.5 ML.



For more information, please visit [Southern Rural Water's website](#) or contact us on 1300 139 510.

South west limestone groundwater levels: eastern region



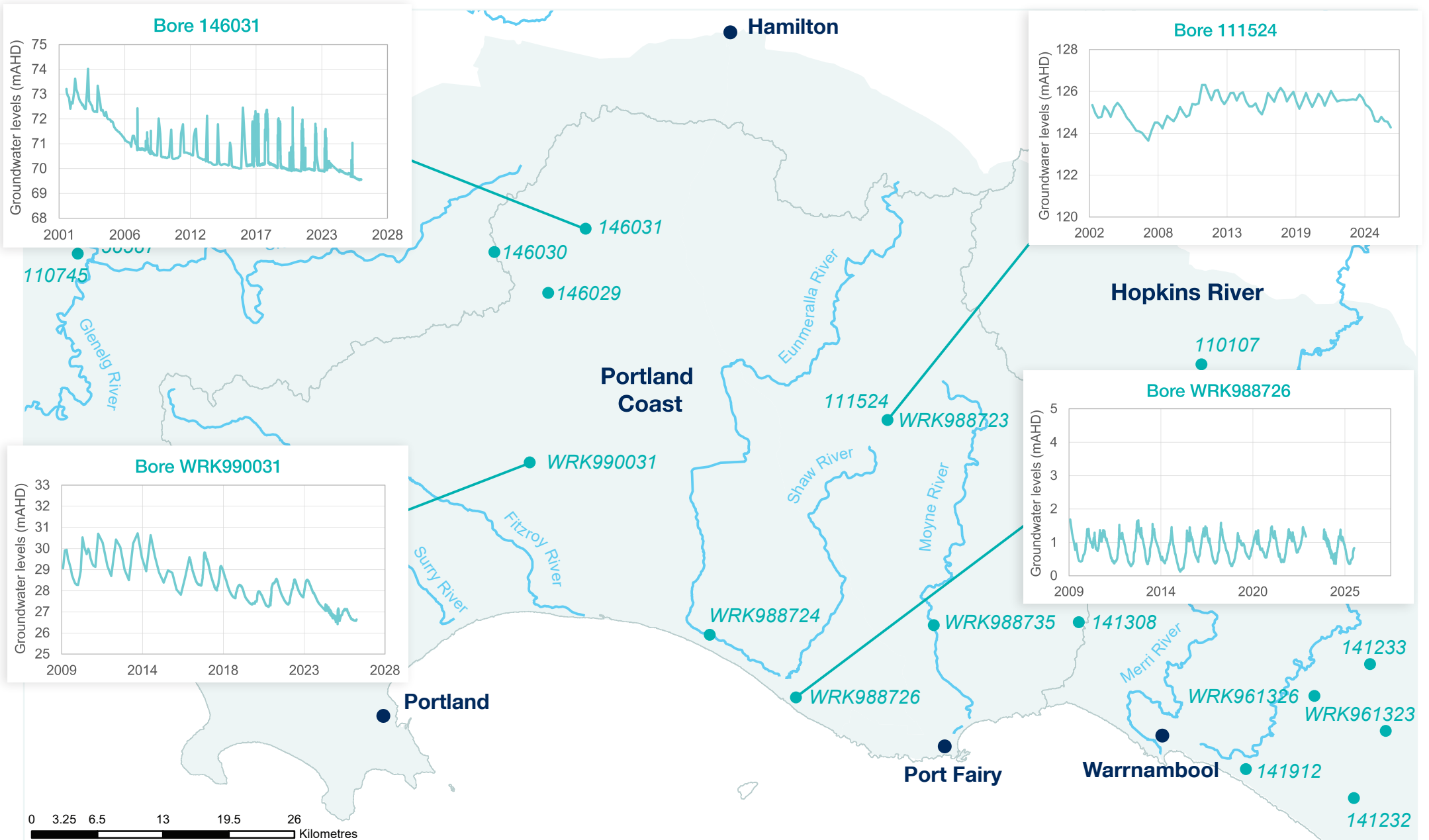
Legend

- Active SOBN
- Major localities
- Catchment boundary
- SW Limestone GMA

Base information is primarily source from data supplied and used with the permission of the Department of the Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria. Care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this map, however Southern Rural Water does not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.



South west limestone groundwater levels: central region



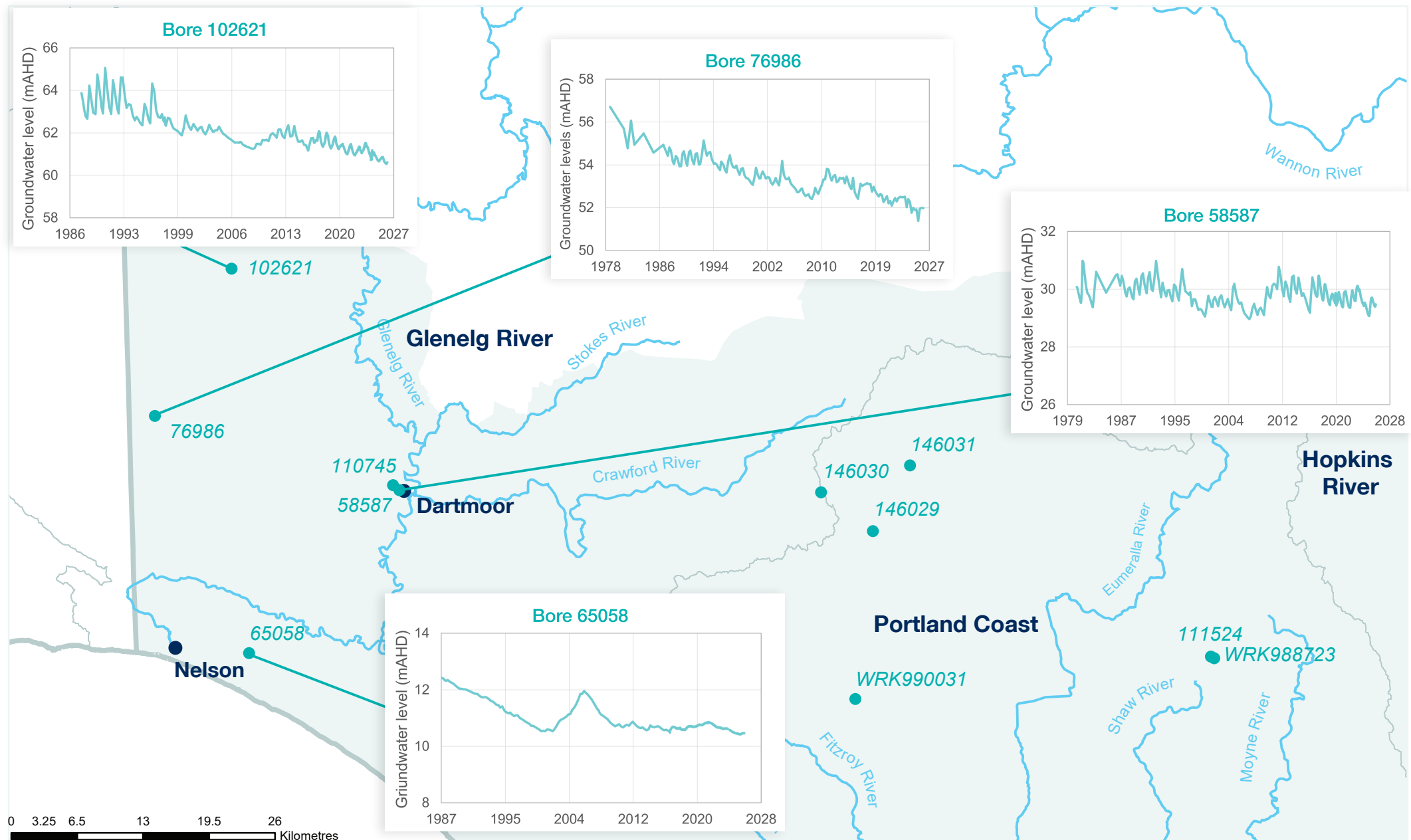
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South west limestone groundwater levels: western region



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