

Central Victorian Mineral Springs GMA

Groundwater management

The Central Victorian Mineral Springs Groundwater Management Area (GMA) extends north from Daylesford and Woodend on the Great Dividing Range to the Cairn Curran Reservoir and Lake Eppalock near Bendigo.

Groundwater in the area is highly valued. It is shared between the environment, domestic and stock users, irrigated agriculture, commercial users and growing urban communities.

The region is unique because of naturally occurring carbonated mineral water springs that have long been valued for health benefits, commercial bottling and tourism.

Groundwater resources in the area are managed under a Local Management Plan (the Plan) that was endorsed by Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) in July 2013.

Licensed entitlement and use

Total licenced groundwater entitlement in the Central Victorian Mineral Springs GMA is 4,975.6 megalitres per year (ML/yr) (Table 1). Zone entitlement limits allow for further development in the Coliban Zone.

Table 1 Licence entitlement and zone limits

Management zone	Current licence entitlement (ML/yr)	Entitlement limit (ML/yr)
Campaspe	1,149.8	1,150.0
Coliban	1,086.8	2,144.0
Loddon	2,739.0	2,730.0
Total	4,975.6	6,024.0

In 2015/16 metered groundwater use was 1,069.2 ML. This is 21% of licence entitlement and is the highest recorded use in the area (Figure 1).

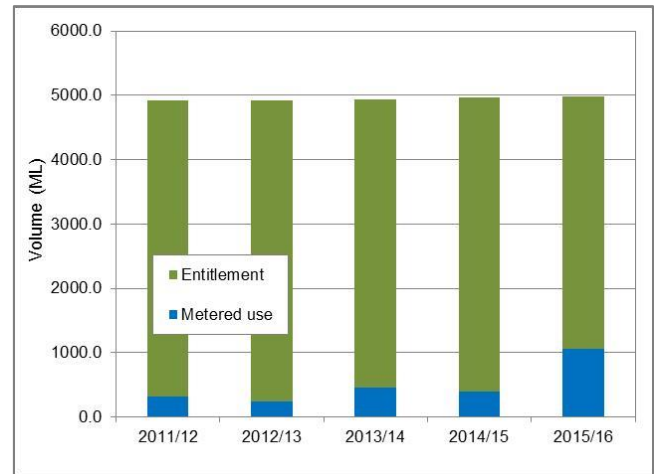


Figure 1 Metered groundwater extractions

Trading

Temporary and permanent trading of licensed groundwater entitlement is available in the Central Victorian Mineral Springs GMA.

Trading enables the development of new opportunities and provides licence holders with greater flexibility to manage production in response to seasonal demands or climatic conditions.

In 2015/16 there were one temporary trade for 5 ML and three permanent trades for 7 ML/yr within the Loddon Zone.

Licence holders are reminded not to extract more than their licence volume without written approval from Goulburn-Murray Water.

Licence holders seeking to trade groundwater entitlement are encouraged to visit Watermatch, an on-line trading forum where people can advertise at <https://www.watermatch.com.au/>

Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels are monitored in 47 State observation bores in the Central Victorian Mineral Springs GMA. Hydrographs, which illustrate the change in groundwater level over time, are presented overleaf for key bores in each management zone (Figure 2 to Figure 5).

Groundwater monitoring indicates that levels have been declining in recent years, but are typically within observed historical ranges.

GMW will continue to support a baseline of groundwater level monitoring from state observation bores to assist with resource management decisions.

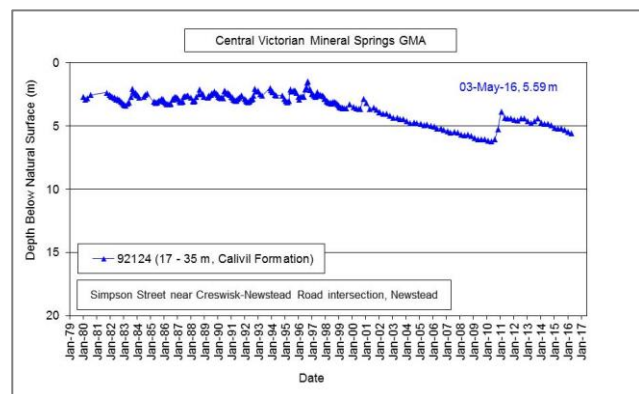


Figure 2 Loddon Zone 1122

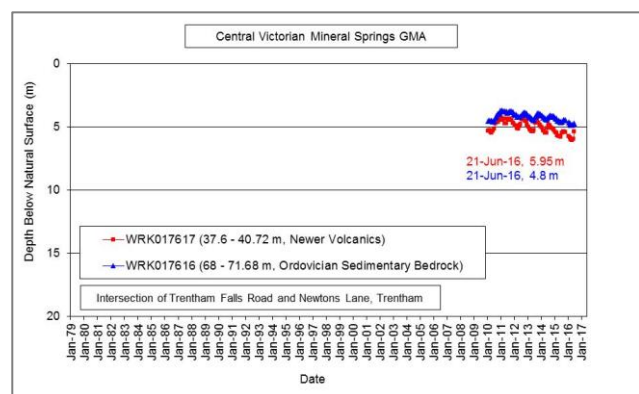


Figure 3 Coliban Zone 1121

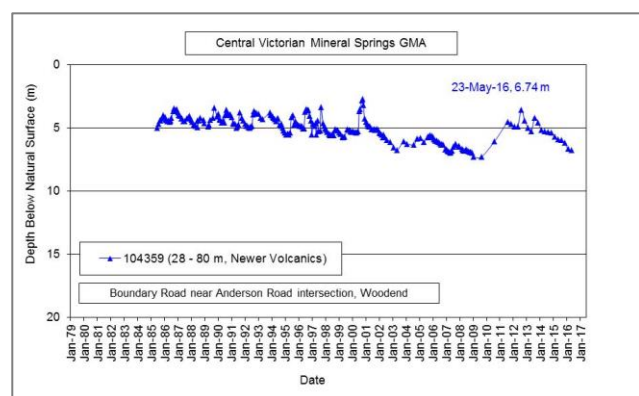


Figure 4 Campaspe Zone 1120

Groundwater salinity

On request GMW will provide groundwater users with a bottle to sample groundwater and measure the groundwater salinity. There were no requests in 2015/16.

Plan review

Each year, GMW considers the need for any amendments to the Plan.

Any suggestions for how the Plan might be improved can be provided to GMW. No amendments were considered necessary in 2015/16.

Mineral springs

The mineral springs reserves are maintained by land managers (e.g. Hepburn Shire Council), not GMW. For more information about the mineral springs refer to the Victorian Mineral Springs Master Plan 2015-2024 which has recently been released.



Figure 1 Kyneton Mineral Spring

Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the Central Victorian Mineral Springs Groundwater Management Area Local Management Plan from the GMW website www.gmwater.com.au or call 1800 013 357 for more information.