

Lower Campaspe Valley Water Supply Protection Area Groundwater Management Plan

Annual Report

For year ending 30 June 2024

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Excellence



Honesty



Accountability

OFFICIAL



Courage



Caring

Foreword

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is pleased to present the annual report for the *Lower Campaspe Valley Water Supply Protection Area Groundwater Management Plan* (the Plan) for the 2023/24 water year.

GMW is responsible for the implementation, administration and enforcement of the Plan which was approved by the Minister administering the *Water Act 1989* on 21 November 2012.

This report has been prepared in accordance with section 32C of the *Water Act 1989*. It provides an overview of the groundwater management activities administered under the Plan between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.

A copy of this report is available for inspection at the Tatura office of GMW, or for download from the GMW website, www.gmwater.com.au.



Charmaine Quick
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Date: 30/09/24

Executive summary

The *Lower Campaspe Valley Water Supply Protection Area Groundwater Management Plan* (the Plan) was approved on 17 October 2012 by the Minister for Water, the Hon. Peter Walsh. The 2023/24 water year marks the twelfth year of operation of the Plan.

For the 2023/24 water year Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) announced an allocation of 100 per cent for all groundwater licences in the Elmore-Rochester Zone (1031), Bamawm Zone (1032) and Echuca Zone (1033) and a 75 per cent allocation to apply to all groundwater licences in the Barnadown Zone (1034) of the Lower Campaspe Valley Water Supply Protection Area (the WSPA).

Recorded use in the WSPA in 2023/24 was 20,850 ML, or 37 per cent of the total licence entitlement volume, which is more than for each of the preceding three years.

Trade activity in the WSPA during the 2023/24 water year comprised seven temporary licence transfers totalling 1,030 ML and five permanent licence transfers totalling 950 ML/yr.

Licence holders in the WSPA are entitled to carry over up to a maximum of 25 per cent of their unused licence entitlement volume for use in the subsequent water year. A total of 13,506.5 ML was carried over for use in the 2023/24 water year.

Groundwater monitoring and metering programs continue to be successfully undertaken to support the objectives of the Plan.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This report has been prepared to meet the requirements of Prescription 7 of the *Lower Campaspe Valley Water Supply Protection Area Groundwater Management Plan* (the Plan) and section 32C of the *Water Act 1989* (the Act).

The report provides an overview of groundwater resource status and summarises the groundwater management activities undertaken in accordance with the Plan during the 2023/24 water year (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024).

1.2 Water Supply Protection Area

The Lower Campaspe Valley Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA) was declared in June 2010. It extends from Lake Eppalock in the south to Echuca in the north, and includes the towns of Axedale, Goornong, Elmore, Lockington and Rochester.

The WSPA includes groundwater resources to all depths, except where it is overlain by the Shepparton Irrigation Region Groundwater Management Area. In these areas, the Plan only applies to the management of groundwater resources greater than 25 metres (m) depth below the surface (DBNS).

There are four management zones within the WSPA: Elmore-Rochester Zone (1031), Bamawm Zone (1032), Echuca Zone (1033) and Barnadown Zone (1034), as shown in Figure 1 which also shows the locations of State Observation Bores used to monitor the groundwater resource.

1.3 Groundwater Management Plan

The Plan was approved on 17 October 2012 by the Minister for Water, in accordance with section 32A(6) of the *Water Act 1989*.

The objective of the Plan is to ensure that groundwater resources within the WSPA are managed in an equitable and sustainable manner. The Plan seeks to:

- protect existing groundwater users and the environment by managing groundwater levels and the potential for change in groundwater salinity
- enable equitable development of groundwater resources to realise the potential for its use in the region
- communicate the Plan's objectives, management rules and resource status with stakeholders and the wider community.

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is responsible for the implementation, administration and enforcement of the Plan. A summary of GMW's activities in accordance with Plan prescriptions is presented in Appendix A.

A copy of the Plan can be downloaded from GMW's website: www.gmwater.com.au.

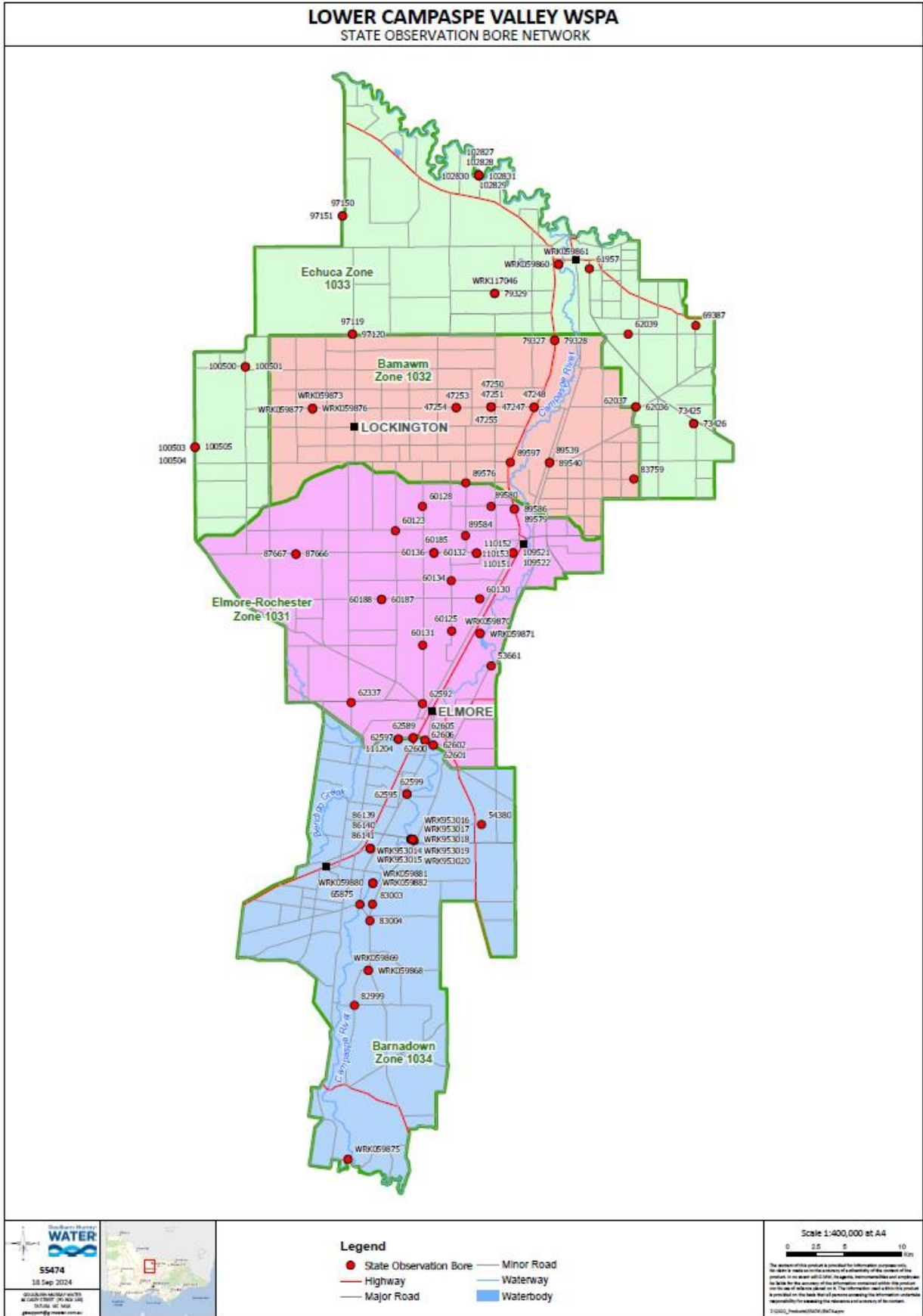


Figure 1 Lower Campaspe Valley Water Supply Protection Area (Showing State Observation Bores)

2 Groundwater Management

2.1 Licence entitlement volume

The then Minister for Water declared a Permissible Consumptive Volume of 55,875 megalitres per year (ML/yr) for the WSPA in March 2013 (Victorian Government, 2013).

At 30 June 2024, licence entitlement volume in the WSPA was 55,860.4 ML/yr (Table 1). This has not changed from 30 June 2023. The number of licences in each management zone is summarised in Table 1, as well as the total number of licensed bores and the total licence entitlement volume.

Table 1 Groundwater licences in the Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA in 2023/24

Management zone	Licences	Licensed bores	Licence entitlement volume (ML/yr)
Elmore-Rochester Zone (1031)	55	56	16,759.6
Bamawm Zone (1032)	43	46	26,065.3
Echuca Zone (1033)	16	15	5,040.5
Barnadown Zone (1034)	20	57	7,995.0
Total	134	174	55,860.4

Note: Data extracted from the Victorian Water Register 30 June 2024.

2.2 Groundwater allocations

Annual groundwater allocations in the WSPA are determined by comparing the average of annual maximum groundwater recovery levels recorded in key state observation bores from the previous three water years (i.e. a three-year rolling average) against trigger levels outlined in Prescription 1 of the Plan. These trigger levels are illustrated in Figure 2 for the northern management zones and in Figure 3 for the Barnadown Zone only.

2023/24 allocation

GMW determined allocations for the 2023/24 water year based on the average of maximum recovery levels recorded for the respective trigger bores over the previous three water years (i.e. 2020/21 to 2022/23). An allocation of 100 per cent was set for the northern management zones (Elmore-Rochester, Bamawm and Echuca), as the average of maximum recovery levels recorded for the northern trigger bore over the previous three water years (2020/21 to 2022/23) was above the 16 m trigger level. An allocation of 75 per cent was set for the Barnadown zone.

2024/25 allocation

GMW announced allocations for the 2024/25 water year on 17 June 2024. An allocation of 100 per cent was set for the northern management zones (Elmore-Rochester, Bamawm and Echuca), as the average of maximum recovery levels recorded for the northern trigger bore over the previous three water years (2021/22 to 2023/24), was above the 16 m trigger level (Figure 2). An allocation of 75 per cent was set for the Barnadown zone (Figure 3).

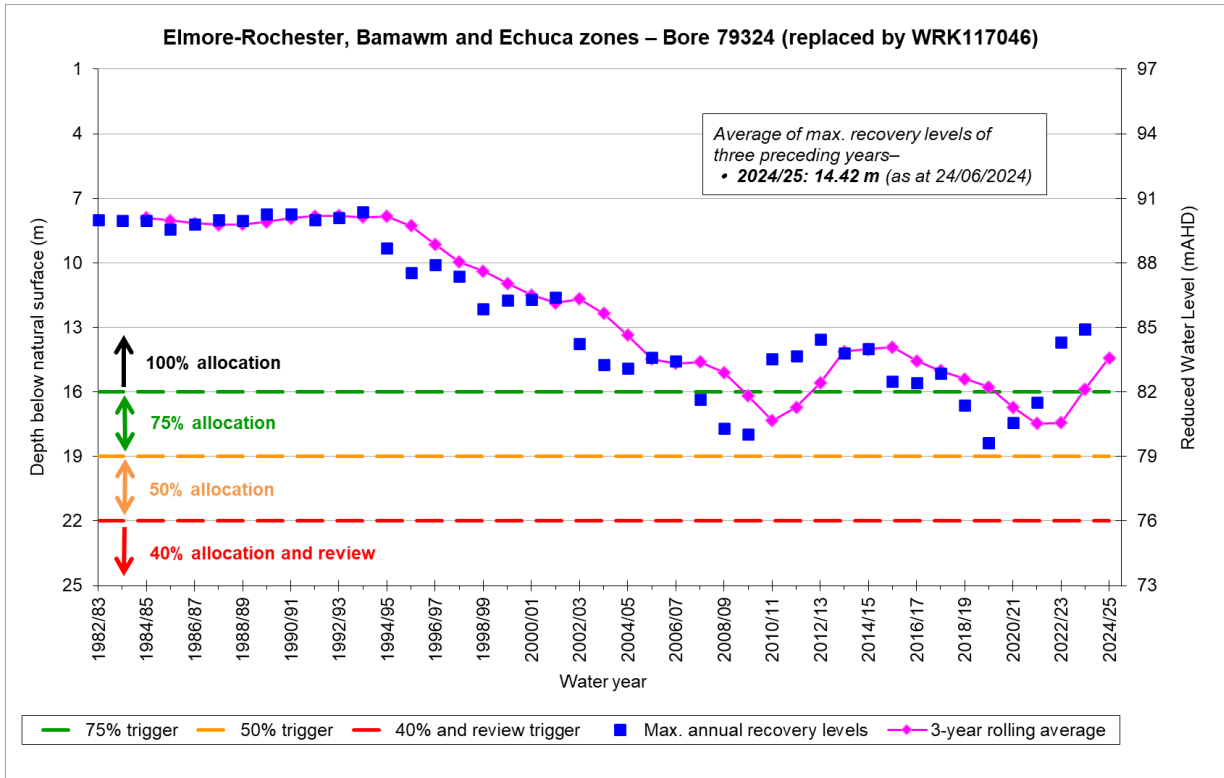


Figure 2 Trigger graph for determining allocations for the northern zones of the Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA

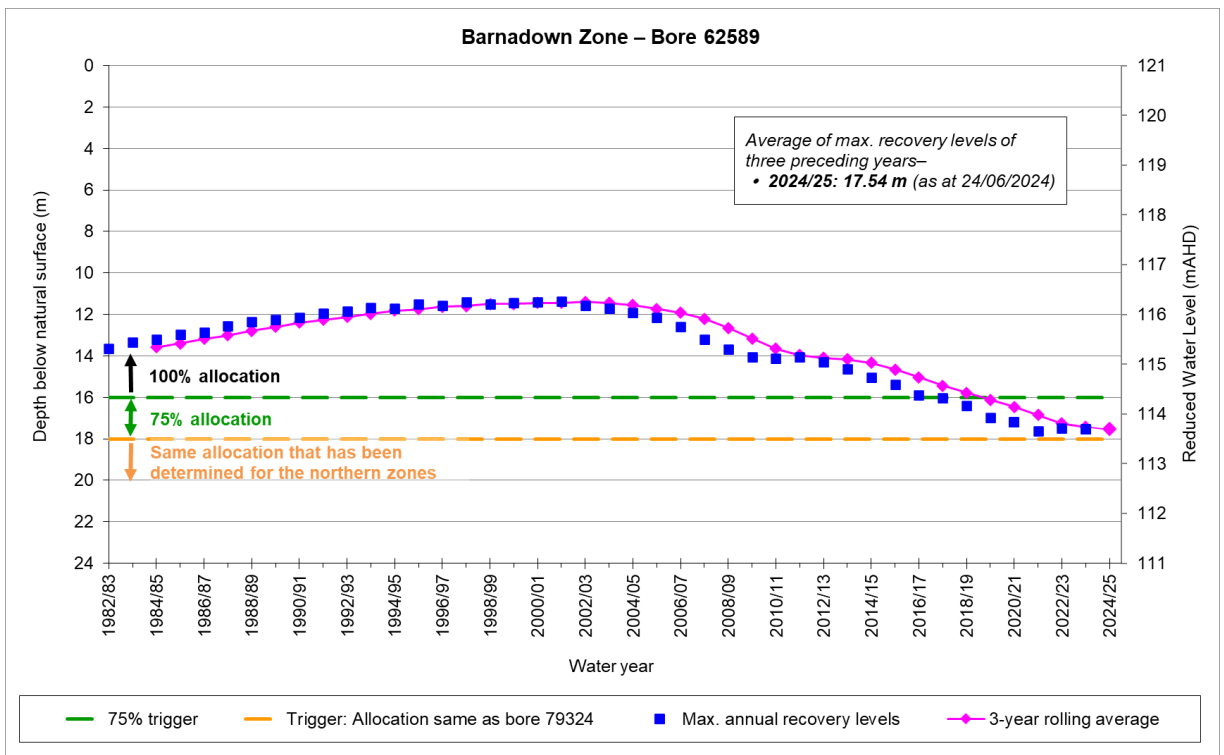
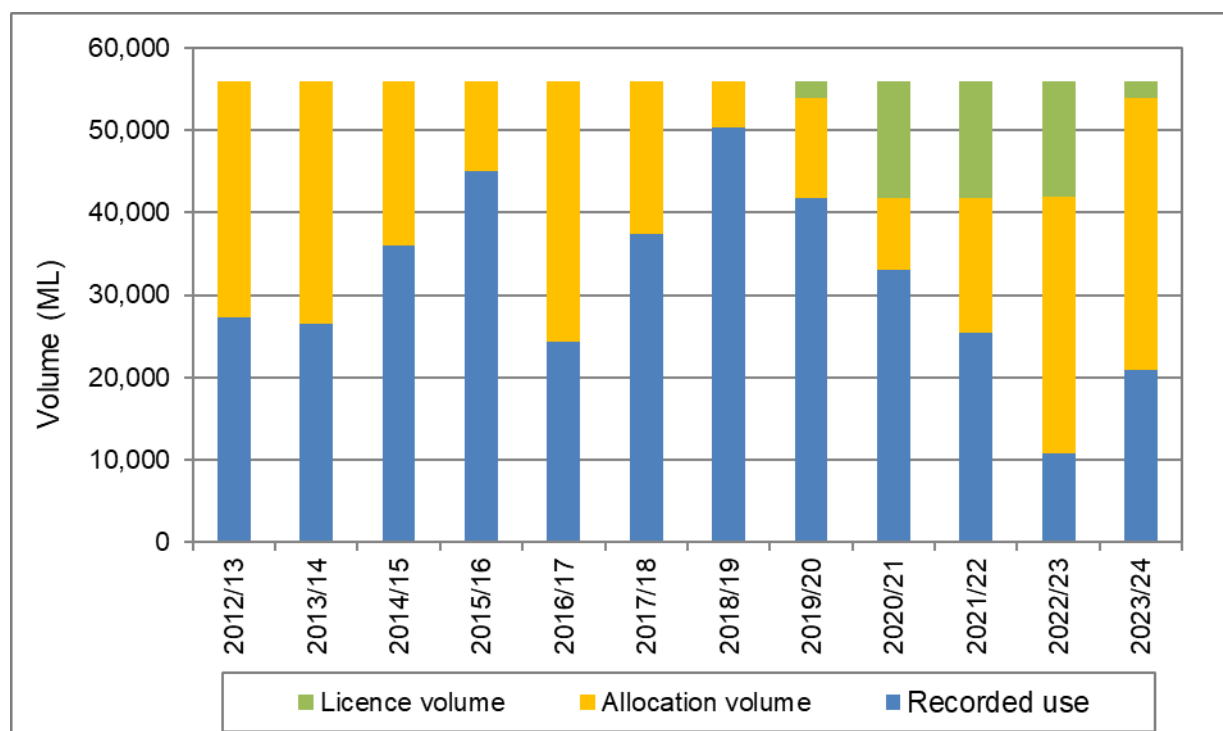


Figure 3 Trigger graph for determining allocations for the Barnadown Zone

2.3 Groundwater use

Total recorded use in the WSPA in 2023/24 was 20,850.0 ML, or 37 per cent of total licence entitlement volume (Figure 4). This is a 92 per cent increase compared to the volume used in 2022/23.



Note: 'recorded use' refers to metered and deemed use.

Figure 4 Entitlement, allocation and use in the Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA, since 2012/13

In 2023/24, the volume of recorded use was greatest in the Bamawm Zone, where the highest proportion of licence entitlement volume is held (Table 2). Recorded use as a proportion of total licence entitlement was highest in the Elmore- Rochester Zone, at 43 per cent.

Table 2 Recorded use in the Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA in 2023/24

Management zone	Licence entitlement volume (ML/yr)	Recorded use (ML)	Proportion of total licence entitlement volume used
Elmore-Rochester Zone (1031)	16,759.6	7,270.2	43%
Bamawm Zone (1032)	26,065.3	8,798.7	34%
Echuca Zone (1033)	5,040.5	2,025.9	40%
Barnadown Zone (1034)	7,995.0	2,755.2	34%
Total	55,860.4	20,850.0	37%

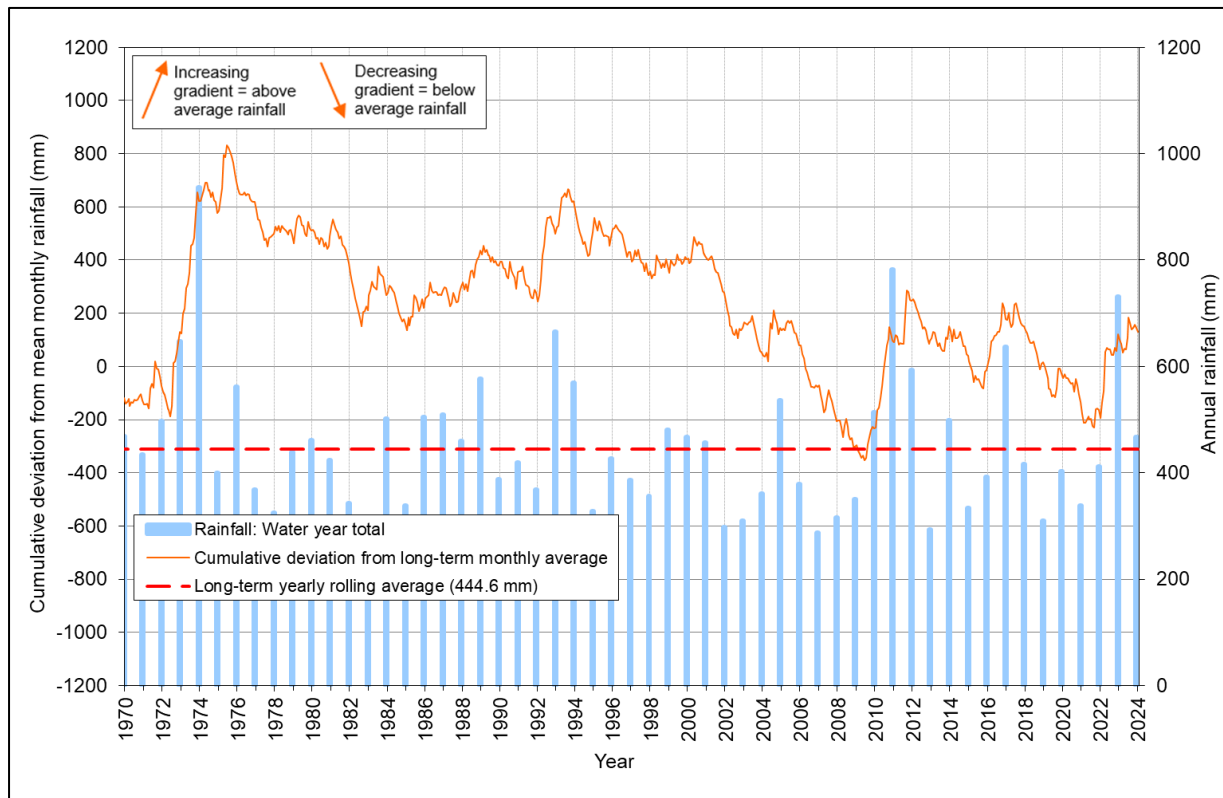
Note: Recorded use data extracted from Irrigation Planning Module on 30 June 2024.

2.4 Rainfall

Historical rainfall data, sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology weather station at Rochester (BOM, 2024), is presented in Figure 5 as an indicator of climate trends across the WSPA.

The data show that annual rainfall was generally above the long-term average (443.7 mm) in the early 1970s and remained relatively steady through the 1980s and 1990s. Between 2001/02 and 2008/09, annual totals were below average (i.e. during the Millennium Drought). Conditions improved between 2010 and 2013.

Except for the 2013/14, 2016/17 and 2022/23 water years, annual rainfall totals have been below average since the Plan was implemented, resulting in reduced overall recharge to groundwater systems within the WSPA. Above average rainfall for the 2022/23 water year resulted in a relatively large increase to groundwater levels within the northern zones relative to 2021/22 but only a small increase in the Barnadown Zone.



There was a total of 467.3.1 mm of rainfall recorded for Rochester during the 2023/24 water year.

Figure 5 Rainfall recorded at Rochester in the Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA (BOM, 2024)

2.5 Licence transfers

The Plan allows groundwater licence holders to temporarily or permanently transfer licence entitlement volume. During the 2023/24 water year, there were seven temporary licence transfer transactions for a total of 1030 ML and five permanent transfers for a total of 950 ML/yr (Figure 6).

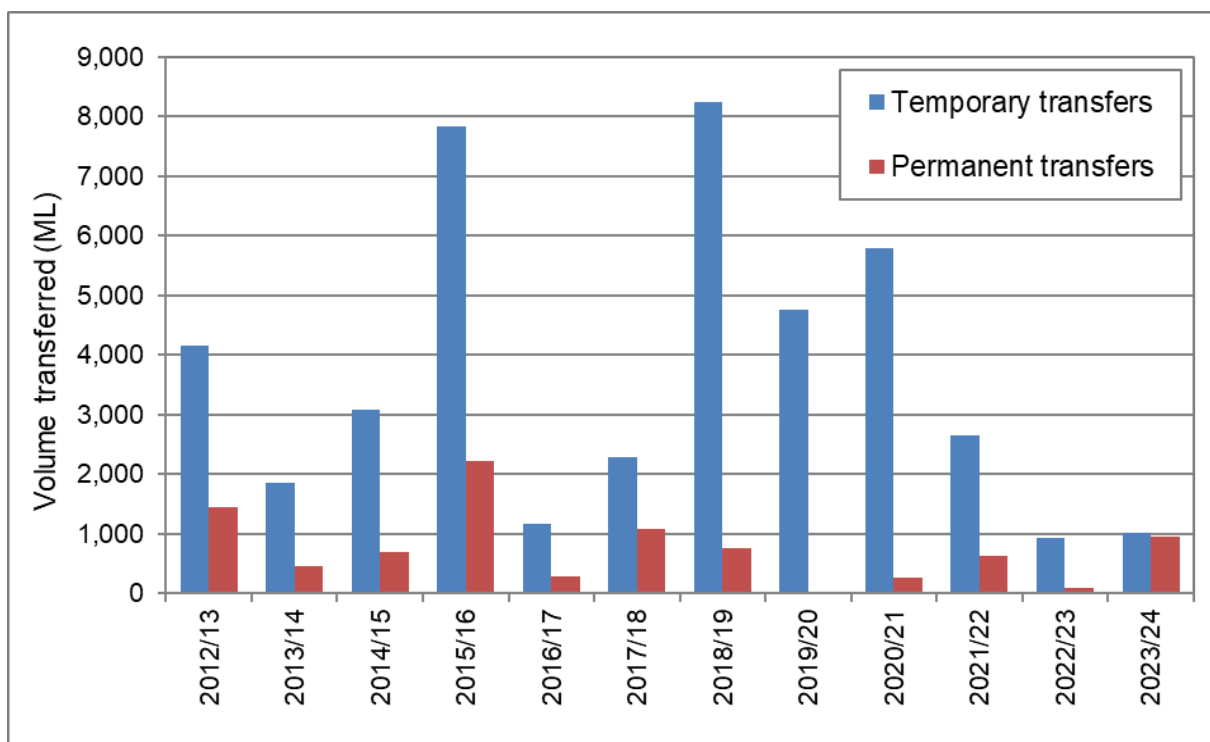


Figure 6 Licence entitlement volumes transferred in the Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA, since 2012/13

The temporary transfers occurred between licence holders within the same management zones, while the permanent transfer occurred from the Elmore Rochester Zone to the Bamawm Zone (Table 3).

Table 3 Licence transfers in the Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA in 2023/24

Management zone	Temporary				Permanent			
	Transfer from		Transfer to		Transfer from		Transfer to	
	No. of transfer	Volume (ML)	No. of transfer	Volume (ML)	No. of transfer	Volume (ML/yr)	No. of transfer	Volume (ML/yr)
Elmore-Rochester Zone (1031)	2	300.0	2	300.0	1	200.0	-	-
Bamawm Zone (1032)	1	200.0	1	200.0	2	400.0	1	300.0
Echuca Zone (1033)	-	-	-	-	2	350.0	4	650.0
Barnadown Zone (1034)	4	530.0	4	530.0	-	-	-	-
Total	7	1030.0	7	1030.0	5	950.0	5	950.0

2.6 Carryover

In November 2012, the Minister declared that groundwater licence holders in the WSPA were authorised to carry over up to a maximum of 25 per cent of their unused licence entitlement volume for use in the subsequent water year (Victorian Government, 2012).

There was a total of 13,764.5 ML carried over by licence holders in the WSPA for use in the 2023/24 water year. At the conclusion of 2023/24, a total of 13,509 ML was carried over for use in the 2024/25 water year.

2.7 Metering

At 30 June 2024, there were 150 metered service points and 39 deemed service points. All meters were read at least twice during the 2023/24 water year. There were 29 maintenance events for meters recorded in GMW's asset management system during 2023/24.

2.8 Licence compliance

The Victorian Government and GMW has a zero-tolerance approach to unauthorised take of non-urban water. GMW is responsible for ensuring water users in northern Victoria comply with their licence conditions. All incidents of non-compliance are investigated by GMW and action is taken in accordance with GMW's Risk-Based Compliance and Enforcement Framework. More information can be found on GMW's website, at www.gmwater.com.au/water-resources/water-use-compliance.

There were no instances of alleged unauthorised take of water (i.e. licence entitlement volume exceedance) in the WSPA in 2023/24. There were zero prosecutions or convictions relating to groundwater matters.

2.9 Domestic and stock bore construct licences

The volume of groundwater taken for domestic and stock use is not required to be licensed as it is a private right under section 8 of the Act, provided that water is used in accordance with the constraints imposed by the Act.

The installation of a bore for domestic and stock use requires a bore construction licence, in accordance with section 67 of the Act. Upon completion of a bore, a bore completion report is required to be submitted to GMW and details are recorded in the Victorian state groundwater database, referred to as the Water Measurement Information System (WMIS).

During the 2023/24 water year, 14 licences to construct a D&S bore were issued by GMW and the Victorian Water Register (combined) within the WSPA.

3 Monitoring Program

3.1 Groundwater levels

During the 2023/24 water year, a total of 77 state observation bores located within the WSPA were monitored by GMW and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) (Figure 1). This figure includes the 60 key bores listed in Schedule 1 of the Plan. Of the 77 bores, 26 were monitored remotely using telemetry equipment, with measurements recorded hourly, and 51 were monitored manually, with measurements recorded on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Water level data for these bores are presented in Appendix B.

During 2023/24, some DEECA telemetered groundwater monitoring equipment experienced an unexpected communication issue which has now been resolved with a battery replacement and firmware upgrade. As a result, some groundwater levels for 2023/24 are not currently available. Groundwater levels will be uploaded to WMIS as affected sites are visited for maintenance and the fix applied. The impacted monitoring bores were 102831,102829,60134,102827 and 102828 and has not impacted the calculation of groundwater allocations.

Monitoring indicates that seasonal groundwater recovery levels have been generally declining since the Plan was implemented in 2012. However, groundwater recovery levels in the Calivil Formation Aquifer (Deep Lead) across much of the WSPA in 2023/24 were slightly lower than the 2022/23 water year. The amount of decline in groundwater level observed during the irrigation season (seasonal drawdown) for some locations was less than what was observed in the previous water year.

The amount that water levels rose to in the absence of irrigation extraction (maximum recovery level) in a Deep Lead observation bore (60134), located near Rochester in the Elmore-Rochester Zone, was 15.81 m in 2023/24, which is higher than the 2022/23 recovery level of 15.90 m (Figure7). The amount of seasonal drawdown was 11.25 m during 2022/23, recorded in the same Deep Lead bore. The amount of seasonal drawdown in 2023/24 was 11.37 m, which was less than the drawdown recorded in 2022/23.

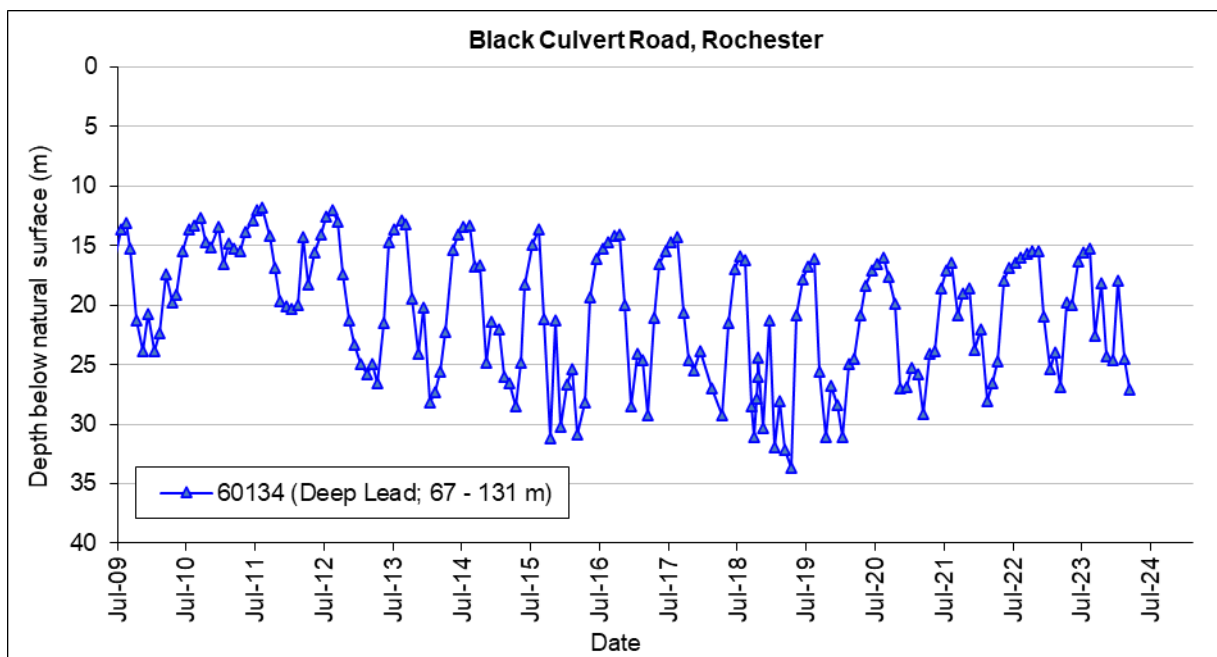


Figure7 Groundwater level monitoring in the Elmore-Rochester Zone, at Rochester – July 2009 to June 2024 (DELWP, 2024)

In the Bamawm Zone, there was an increase in maximum recovery levels in 2023/24. In Deep Lead observation bore 47247 at Strathallan, the maximum recovery level was 17.44 m DBNS in August 2023 compared to 17.96 m in June 2023 (Figure 8). The amount of seasonal drawdown was approximately 0.44 m during 2023/24 (based on available data to 30/03/24).

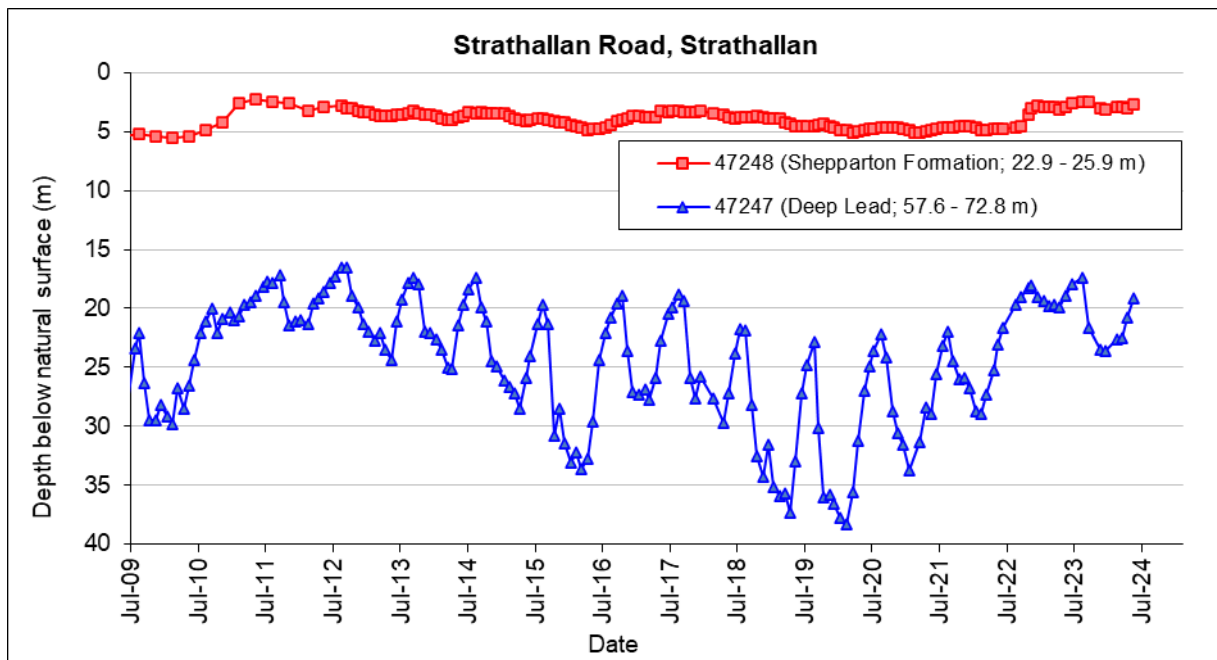


Figure 8 Groundwater level monitoring in the Bamawm Zone, at Strathallan – July 2009 to June 2024 (DELWP, 2024)

In the Echuca Zone, groundwater recovery levels increased in 2023/24. In Deep Lead observation bore 79324 at Echuca West, the maximum recovery level was 13.24 m DBNS in August 2023 (no data was available from August 2023). That is 0.25 m higher than the maximum recovery level in 2022/23, which was 13.49 m DBNS in July 2023 (Figure 9). In the same bore, data was not available on the amount of seasonal drawdown for 2023/24. There was no notable seasonal drawdown in 2023/24, which is consistent with low irrigation water use during this period.

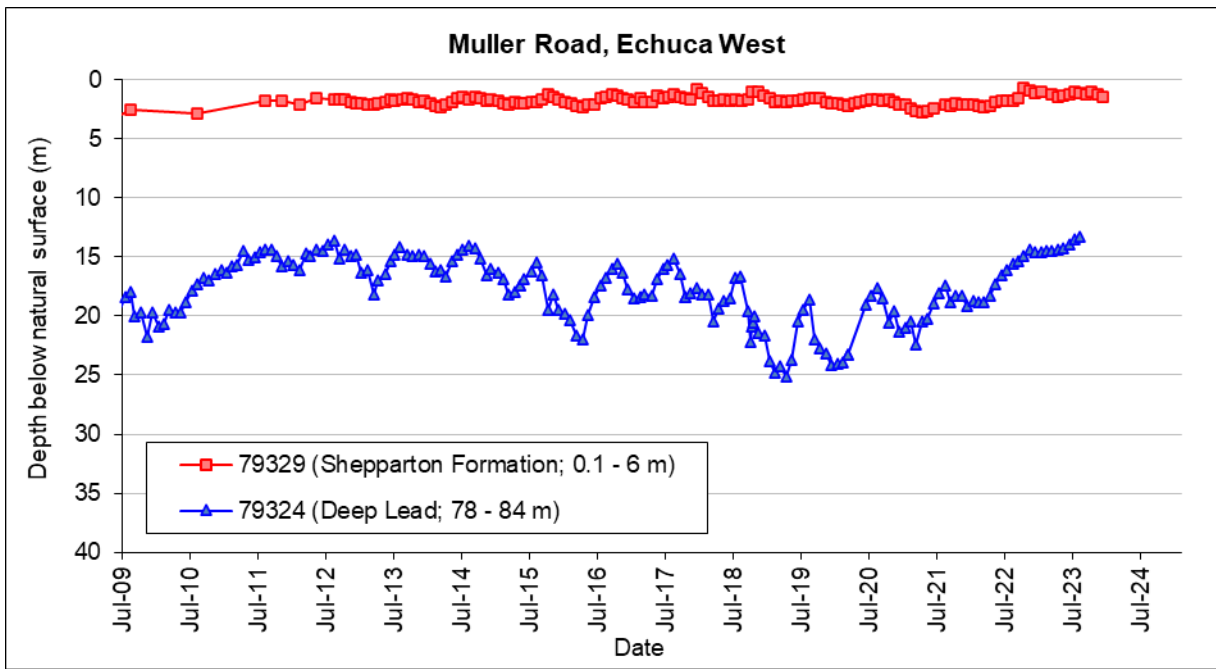


Figure 9 Groundwater level monitoring in the Echuca Zone, at Echuca West – July 2009 to June 2024 (DELWP, 2024)

In the Barnadown Zone, there is typically less seasonal variation in groundwater levels compared to the other three management zones. In a Deep Lead observation bore located adjacent to the Campaspe River at Runnymede (G8010638/07), the maximum recovery level in 2023/24 was 24.34 m DBNS compared to 24.54 m DBNS in the previous year (Figure 10). Despite wetter than average conditions experienced in the catchment an overall pattern of gradual decline is observed between years in the maximum recovery level.

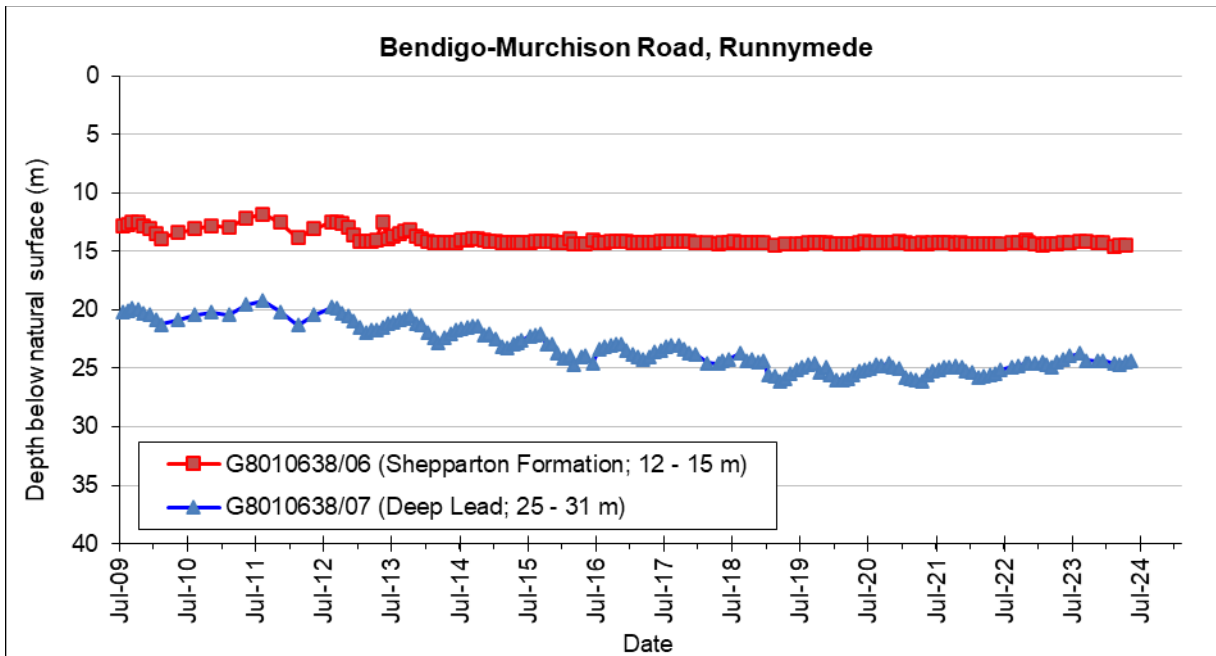


Figure 10 Groundwater level monitoring in the Barnadown Zone, at Runnymede – July 2009 to June 2024 (DELWP, 2024)

3.2 Groundwater quality

Groundwater user salinity sampling

GMW sent 156 sample bottles and reply paid envelopes to licence holders and domestic and stock users upon request, to collect a groundwater sample from their bore for analysis. There were 25 samples returned for analysis; a return rate of 16 per cent.

GMW measured the groundwater salinity of each sample, advised each bore owner of their result, and recorded the data in the state groundwater database (WMIS). The results are presented spatially in Figure 11 and show that less saline groundwater occurs within the Elmore-Rochester Zone. Groundwater samples collected from bores within the Echuca Zone, west of the Campaspe River, were more saline (>4,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$). Salinity sampling in the Barnadown Zone showed the highest salinity results and upward trends in salinity.

A higher and more consistent sample return rate would assist with spatially assessing any changes in groundwater salinity over time. Groundwater users are strongly encouraged to participate in this program so that they can identify any changes in groundwater salinity.

Targeted sampling of private bores

GMW has enlisted nine licence holders to participate in a targeted groundwater salinity monitoring program. Samples are collected on an annual basis from the same set of private bores which have been strategically selected based on location and bore construction details. The aim of the program is to build a reliable and consistent dataset of groundwater salinity over time to support licensing and resource management decisions. There were two samples returned for analysis; which is reflective of the low rate of usage in 2023/24.

Groundwater salinity varies between water years (Appendix C), salinity in WRK015989 in the Bamawm Zone had been gradually increasing, however results from the 2023/24 season show that levels have declined from 3,045 microsiemens per centimetre ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) in 2020 to 2960 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in 2023/24. This level however is still within historical records as seen in the hydrograph in Appendix C. Continued monitoring will enable trends to be better understood and to inform future resource management decisions.

Sampling of state observation bores

Groundwater samples from nested state observation bores were sent to a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory for analysis. The full suite of results are presented in [Appendix C](#).

Nested sites feature two or more monitoring bores in close proximity, each monitoring a different aquifer. The State observation bores used for water quality testing are located in areas of intensive groundwater pumping west of Rochester and at the northern margins of the WSPA.

Groundwater salinity results from samples collected during the 2023/24 water year are presented in Table 4. These results are compared against historical data in [Appendix C](#).

Groundwater salinity varies between water years but Bore 47251 in Bamawm Zone had a moderate decline from a value of 4,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in 2022/23 to 3,800 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in 2023/24. Bore 102828 in the Echuca Zone remained stable in 2023/24 compared to a significant decline from a value of 9,900 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in 2020/21 to 8,800 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in 2021/22. All other sites recorded slight increases compared to the previous water year. There were no strong trends in the data; however, salinity levels have been generally declining in some bores since 2015/16. Continued monitoring of groundwater quality will enable trends to be better understood and support future management decisions.

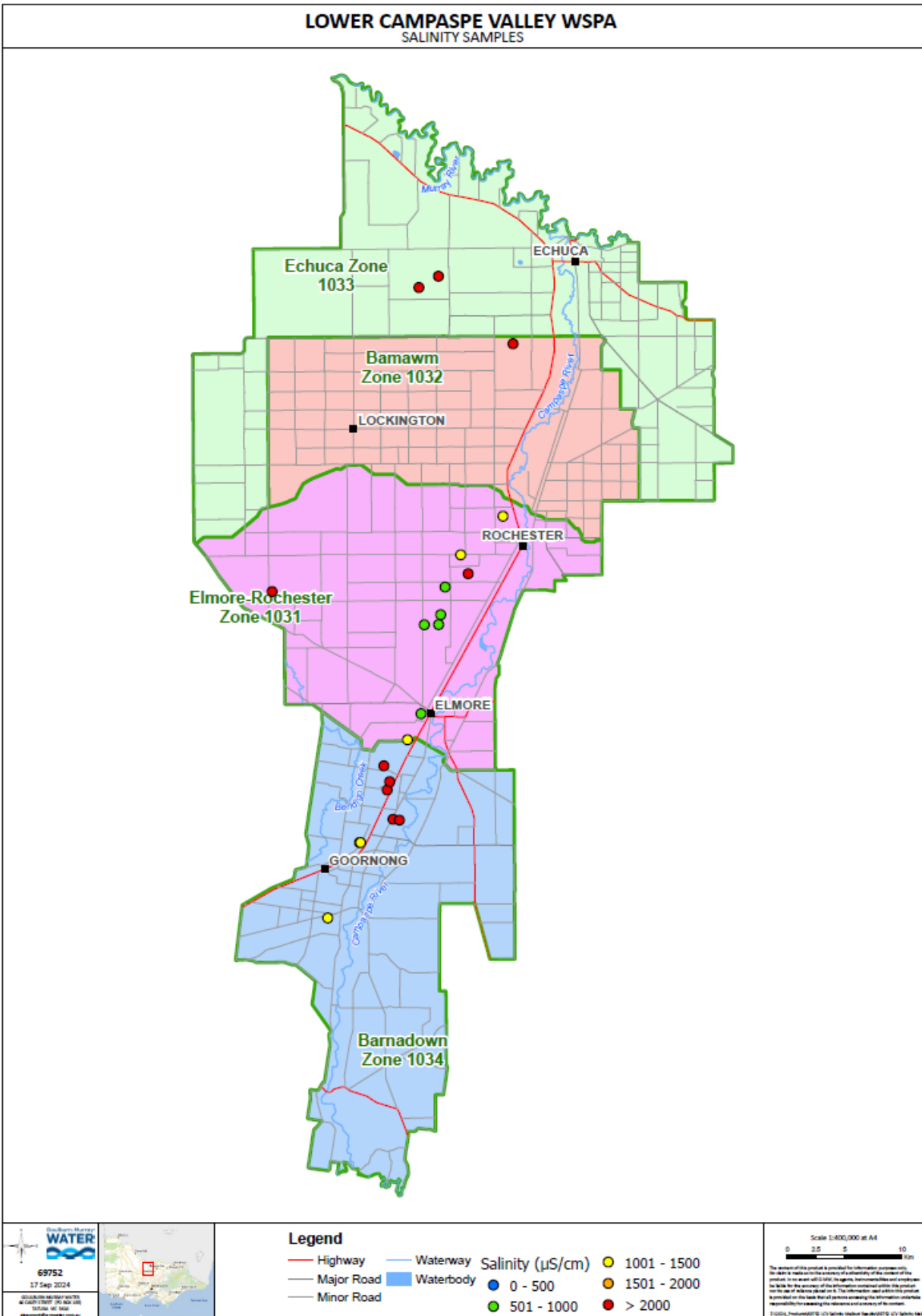


Figure 11 Salinity results of samples submitted by groundwater users during 2022/23 in the Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA

Table 4 Groundwater salinity results for bores sampled during 2023/24 in the Lower Campspe Valley WSPA

Management zone	Location	Bore ID	Depth of screened interval (m)	Aquifer screened	Salinity, as electrical conductivity (µS/cm)
Elmore-Rochester Zone (1031)	Lowe Road, Diggora	89584	100 – 140	Deep Lead	1,100
		89596	2 – 14	Shepparton Formation	<i>(Bore dry)</i>
Bamawm Zone (1032)	Strathallan Road, Lockington	WRK059873	82 – 87	Deep Lead	3,900
		WRK059876	92 – 97	Deep Lead	3,000
		WRK059877	34 – 37	Shepparton Formation	4,600
	Strathallan Road, Bamawm	47251	22 – 27	Shepparton Formation	3,800
		47250	73 – 85	Deep Lead	1,900
Echuca Zone (1033)	Casey Road, Wharparilla	102827	108 – 114	Deep Lead	4,700
		102828 ¹	160 – 167	Deep Lead	8,800
		102829	71 – 74	Shepparton Formation	4,000
	Craig Road, Koyuga	73425	87 – 89	Deep Lead	11,000
		73426	6 – 18	Shepparton Formation	9,200

4 Administration and Engagement

4.1 Groundwater Reference Committee

The Groundwater Reference Committee appointed in accordance with Prescription 7(c) of the Plan met on 10 November 2023, will meet again between October 2024 and February 2025.

Key points of discussion to include but not limited to:

- Actions from last meeting discussed and committee updated
- Plan administration and resource update, including likely allocation outlook
- Local issues – current and emerging, including:
 - Development and Implementation of adjoining West Campaspe Local Management Plan
 - Groundwater management planning
 - Points of concern, or interest raised with GMW, e.g. Fosterville gold mine Environmental Effects Statement and significant local mining exploration
 - Managed Aquifer Recharge potential for Bendigo area urban supply
 - Technical work to support groundwater application processes.
- Resource update and administration activities.
- Another review of the Plan is to be commenced within GMW's Water Plan 6 (2024 targeted)

5 References

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), 2024. *Climate Data Online – Rochester station number 080049*.

Retrieved in August 2024 from:

http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/cdio/wData/wdata?p_nccObsCode=139&p_display_type=dataFile&p_stn_num=080049

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http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/wa198983/

Appendix A – Assessment of activities against Plan prescriptions

Prescription	Activity	Compliant
PRESCRIPTION 1 Triggers and Restrictions		
<p>By 1 July each year the Corporation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Determine the rolling average of the maximum annual groundwater recovery levels from the preceding 3 seasons for the relevant bore, or its replacement, and announce a corresponding allocation for the subsequent season for zones as detailed in the Plan. (b) Announce seasonal allocations by listing them on its website; sending letters to all licence holders and placing public notices in local newspapers. (c) Not apply restrictions to any water authorised to be taken in a subsequent water season (carryover). 	<p>In June 2023, GMW determined the allocations for the 2023/24 water year based on the rolling average of the maximum annual groundwater recovery levels from the preceding three water years. Allocations were set at 100 per cent for all management zones except Barnadown, where an allocation of 75% was set.</p> <p>GMW announced the allocations by placing public notices in local newspapers, listing the allocations on its website and sending letters to all licence holders.</p>	Yes
PRESCRIPTION 2 Trading rules		
<p>The Corporation may approve a transfer of a groundwater licence under section 62 of the <i>Water Act 1989</i> provided section 53 matters have been considered and it accords with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Transfer of licence entitlement can occur between zones as specified in the Plan (b) Despite (a) above, if the groundwater level falls to a depth of 18 metres below the natural surface in bore 62589 a licence may be transferred between the Barnadown Zone and other zones (c) Limits on the maximum licence volume in each zone as specified in the Plan are not exceeded. 	<p>GMW processed seven temporary transfer transactions for a total of 1,030 ML, and five permanent transfer for a total of 950 ML/yr in 2023/24.</p> <p>GMW processed all groundwater licence applications in accordance with Prescription 2(a) and (c).</p>	Yes

Prescription	Activity	Compliant
PRESCRIPTION 3 Intensive groundwater pumping		
<p>The Corporation may approve an application to take and use groundwater under section 51 or a transfer under section 62 of the <i>Water Act 1989</i> provided that section 53 matters have been considered and the following conditions are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) For a permanent transfer, the total licence entitlement of bores within a 4 km radius of an applicant's bore is less than 7.5 GL/yr. (b) Where summed licence entitlement exceed the limits specified in (a) above, then a licence holder's usage is to be limited to 125% of entitlement in one water season whether it occurs through either temporary transfer of entitlement or carryover. (c) Usage may exceed 125% of entitlement as specified in (b) above through temporary or permanent transfer of entitlement from others within the 4 km radius. 	<p>GMW processed all groundwater licence applications in accordance with Prescription 3.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
PRESCRIPTION 4 Monitoring groundwater levels		
<p>The Corporation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Obtain monthly groundwater level readings (up to 480 readings per season) from key State observation bores from the list in Schedule 1, or their replacement, where practicable. (b) Install at least one new observation bore in the Coonambidgal Formation to better inform groundwater interaction with the Campaspe River. 	<p>GMW obtained monthly groundwater level readings from bores listed in Schedule 1 of the Plan, where practicable.</p> <p>GMW installed an 8.5 m bore screening the Coonambidgal Formation. It was drilled and constructed on 3 September 2020 adjacent to the Campaspe River at Runnymede, just south of Elmore.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Prescription	Activity	Compliant
PRESCRIPTION 5 Monitoring groundwater salinity		
<p>The Corporation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Support annual groundwater user salinity sampling by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Providing a sample bottle and a reply paid envelope to each groundwater licence holder and request that they collect a groundwater sample from all their licensed bores and return the samples to the Corporation for salinity analysis. (ii) Providing a sample bottle and a reply paid envelope to any domestic and stock groundwater user upon their request for them to provide a sample for salinity analysis. (iii) Measuring groundwater salinity in all returned sample bottles and providing the bore owner with the results. (iv) Entering the groundwater salinity results into the State groundwater database. (b) Establish a targeted groundwater salinity monitoring program to collect and analyse groundwater samples from selected licensed bores each year. (c) Collect groundwater samples from selected State observation bores identified in Schedule 1 where practicable, or their replacement. 	<p>GMW provided sample bottles to licence holders, and domestic and stock users upon request. GMW measured the groundwater salinity in returned samples, advised bore owners of the result and entered the results into the State groundwater database.</p> <p>GMW engaged with the nine licence holders participating in the target sampling of licensed bores. Two sample bottles were returned.</p> <p>GMW collected groundwater samples from nested State observation bores identified in Schedule 1, where practicable, and sent them to a NATA accredited laboratory for analysis.</p>	Yes
PRESCRIPTION 6 Metered licensed use		
<p>The Corporation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ensure that a meter is fitted to all operational licensed bores. (b) Read each meter at least once a year and enter readings into the Water Register. 	<p>GMW ensured that use was accounted for each operational licensed bore.</p> <p>Meters were read in February/March and May/June 2023 and the data were entered into the Water Register.</p>	Yes

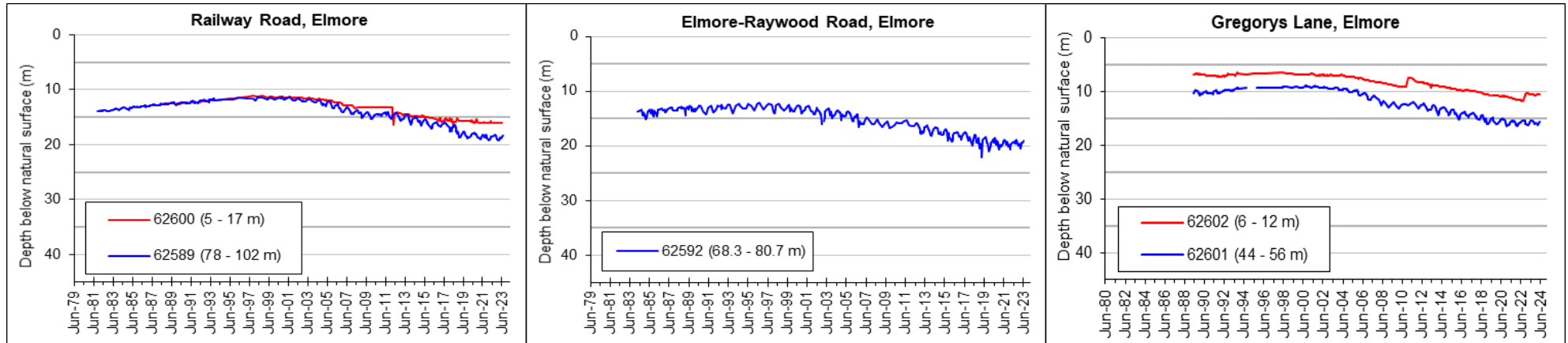
Prescription	Activity	Compliant
PRESCRIPTION 7 Plan implementation		
<p>The Corporation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Post on its website the Plan; annual reports and newsletters; groundwater levels; and rolling average for trigger bores. (b) Mail a newsletter in October each year to groundwater licence holders, and domestic and stock users upon request, in the Lower Campaspe Valley WSPA and relevant agencies stating the resource position and summarising outcomes in the annual report. (c) Meet with the Groundwater Reference Committee at least once each year to report on the groundwater resource status and implementation of the Plan and consider the need to review the Plan. (d) Undertake a comprehensive review of the Plan after 5 years from approval, or sooner if warranted by any clause contained within the Plan. 	<p>GMW prepared an annual report on the administration and enforcement of the Plan during the 2022/23 water year for the Minister and relevant agencies. GMW also sent a newsletter to licence holders summarising the information in this report.</p> <p>GMW has posted on its website: the Plan, the 2022/23 annual report and 2023 newsletter.</p> <p>GMW has updated its website to include live hydrograph information from key indicator and allocation trigger bores. GMW undertook a comprehensive review of the Plan in 2018. GMW's website also list instructions to interested persons to access data directly from the Water Information Management System.</p> <p>GMW met with the Groundwater Reference Committee on 10 November 2023 to discuss Plan implementation, resource conditions and the outlook of allocations for 2024/25.</p> <p>The Committee has expressed a preference for meetings later in the year in order to report on seasonal groundwater level recovery and allocation scenarios for the next water year. GMW plans to hold the next meeting with the Committee in October or November 2024. GMW has provided presentations regarding allocations and issues to the Loddon Campaspe Water Services Committee (with which several of the Reference Committee members are involved).</p>	<p>Yes</p>

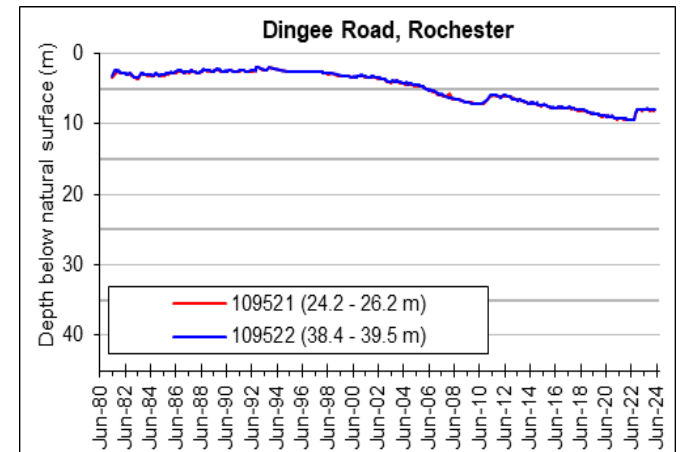
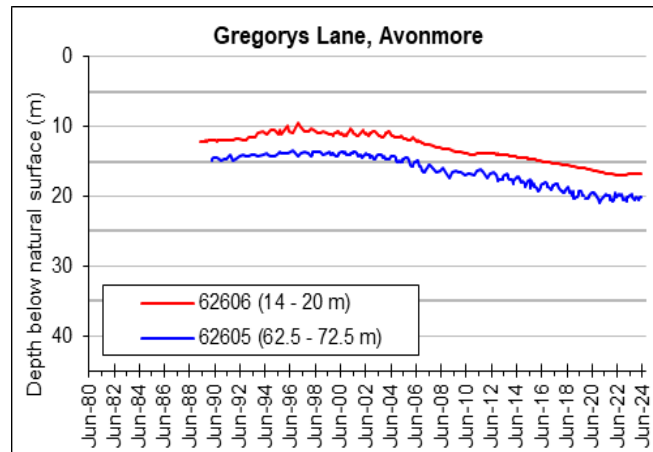
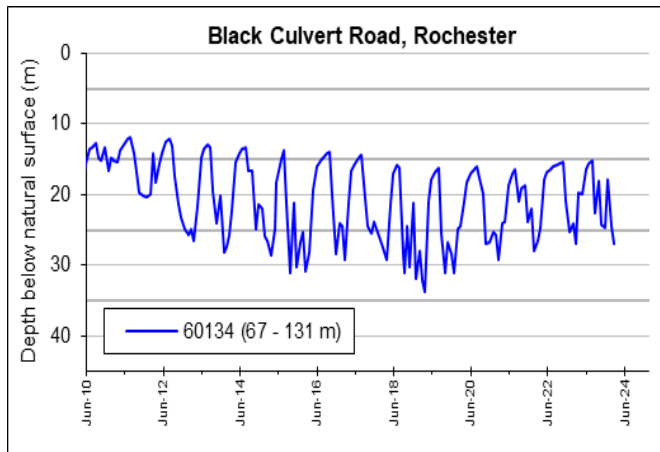
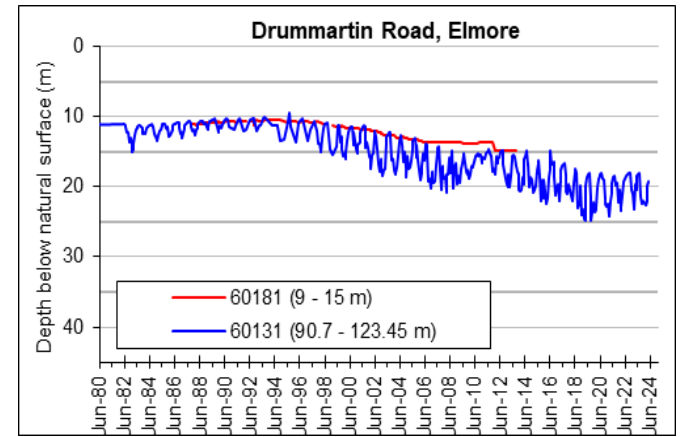
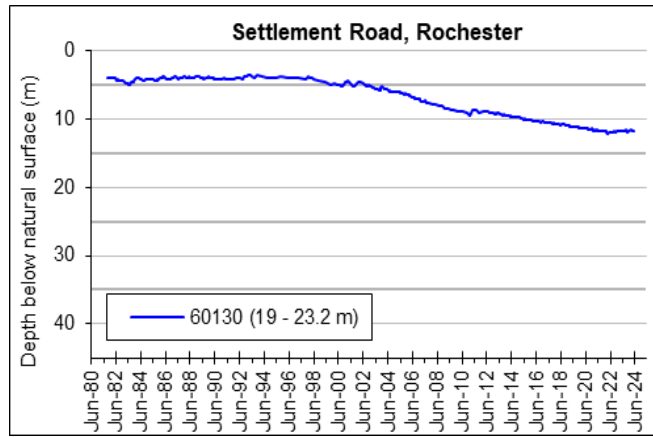
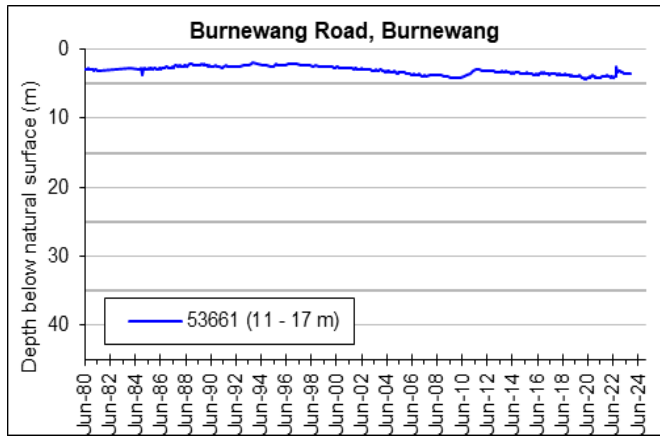
Appendix B – Groundwater level data

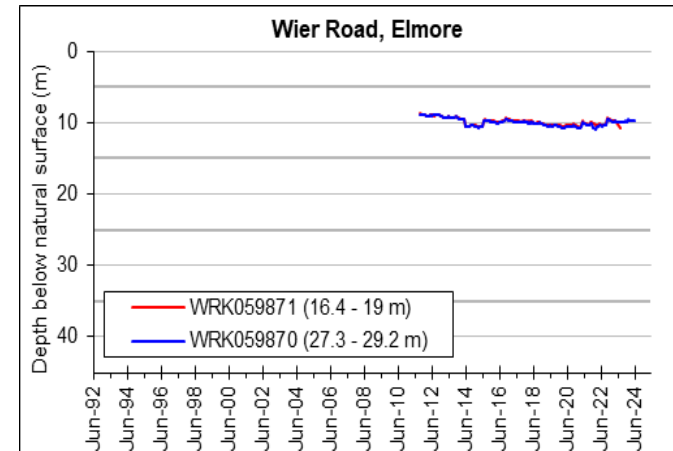
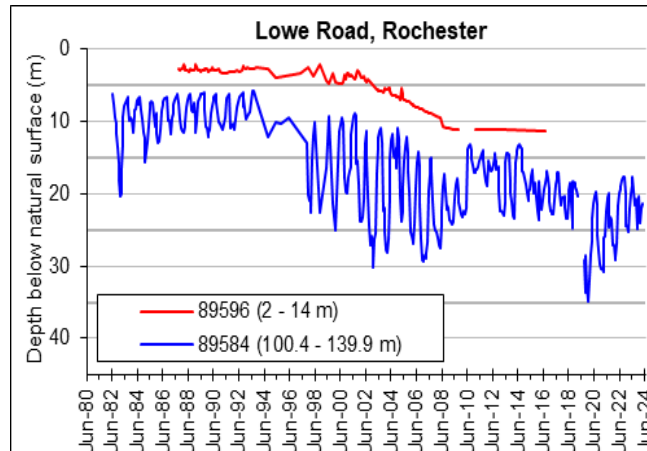
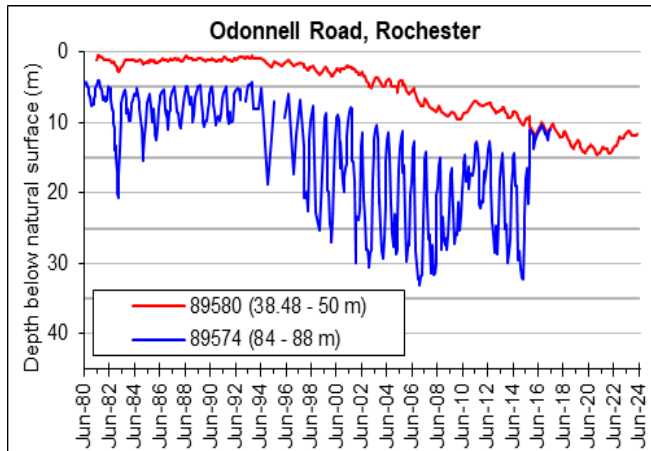
Hydrographs are provided for key monitoring bores listed in Schedule 1 of the Plan. All data is sourced from the Water Measurement Information System (DELWP, 2024). Further information is available on the WMIS website, at <https://data.water.vic.gov.au>.

Please note that the data presented here are not continuous. Data points which make up these curves are at either monthly or quarterly intervals. Since November 2017, some sites have been converted to remote-read which has allowed for hourly levels to be recorded. For those sites, only one level per month is presented in the hydrographs – 12:00 PM on the 15th day (or closest available).

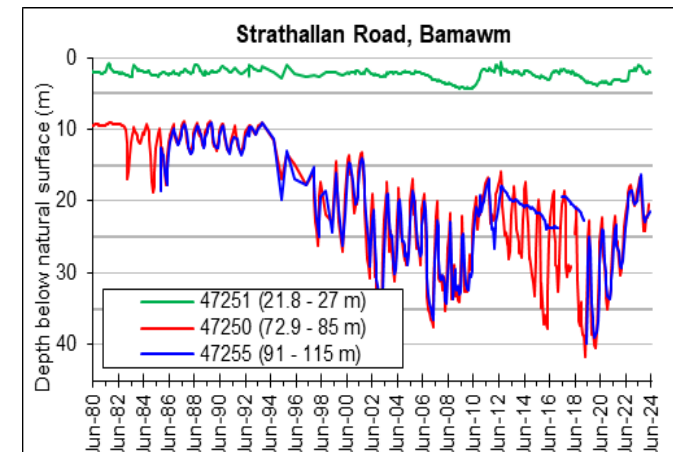
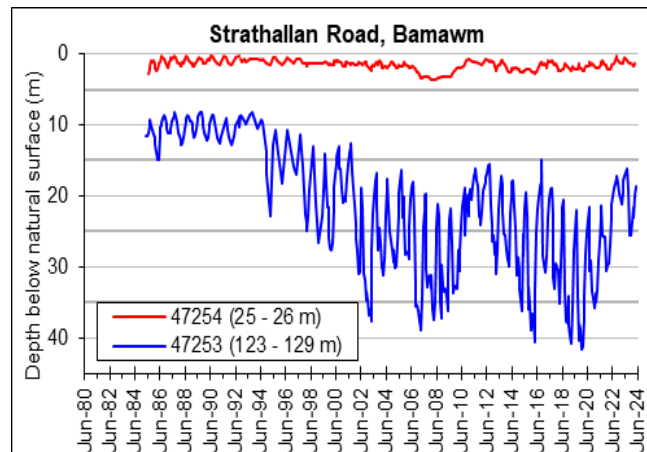
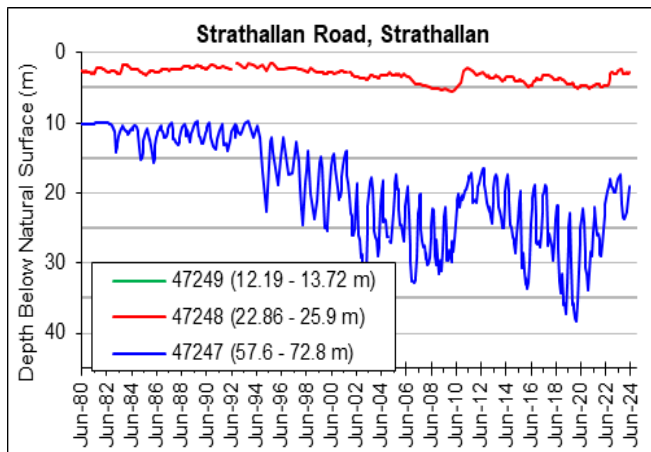
Elmore-Rochester Zone (1031)

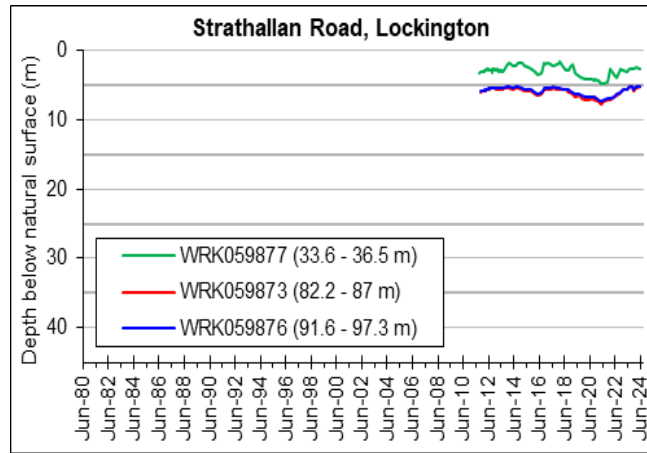
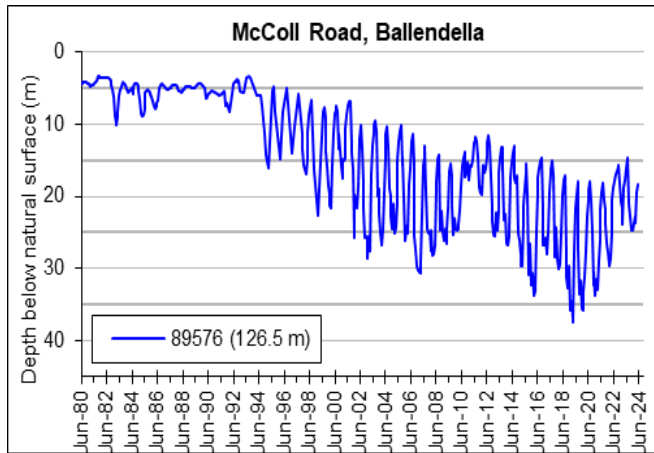




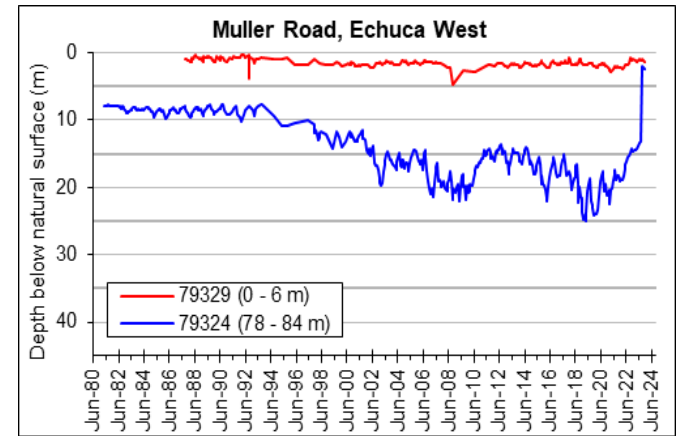
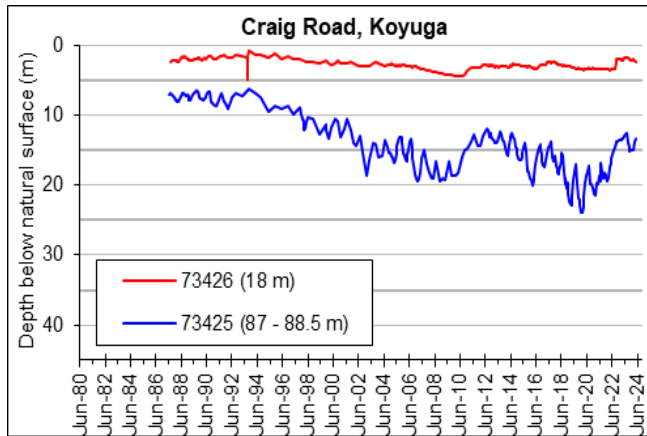
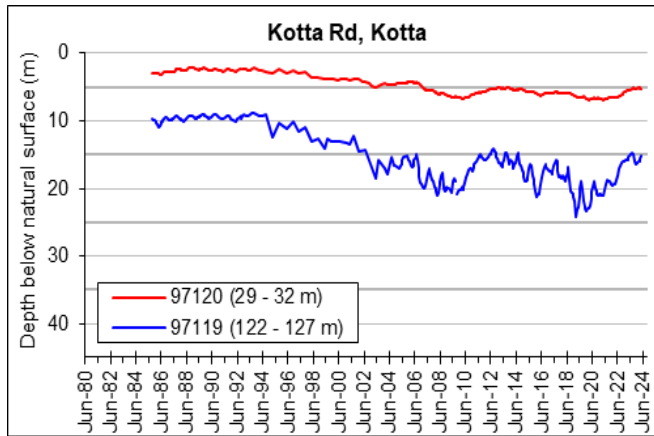


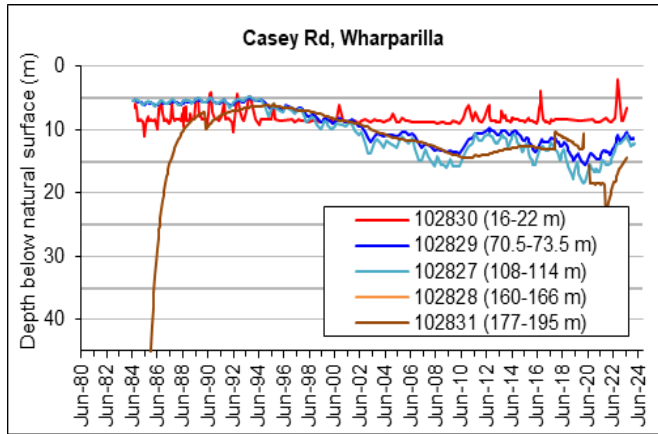
Bamawm Zone (1032)



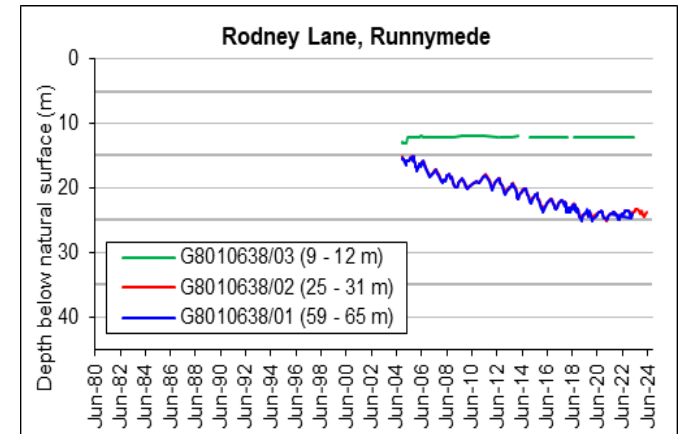
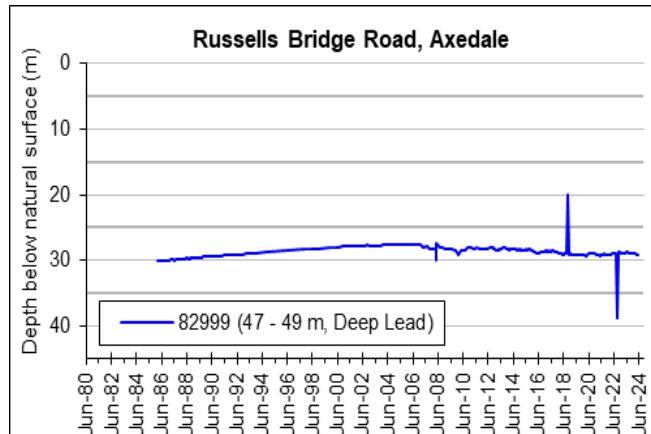
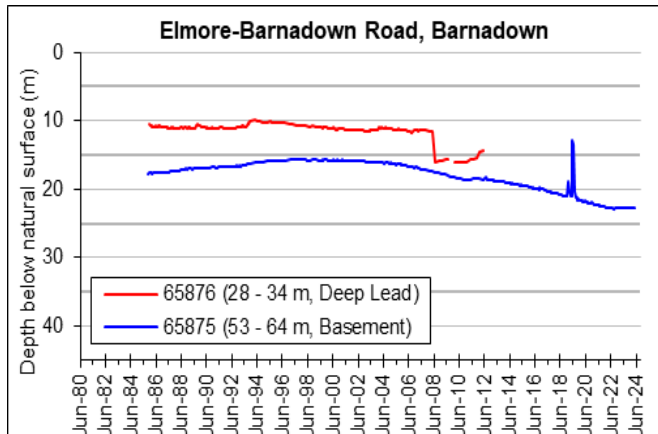


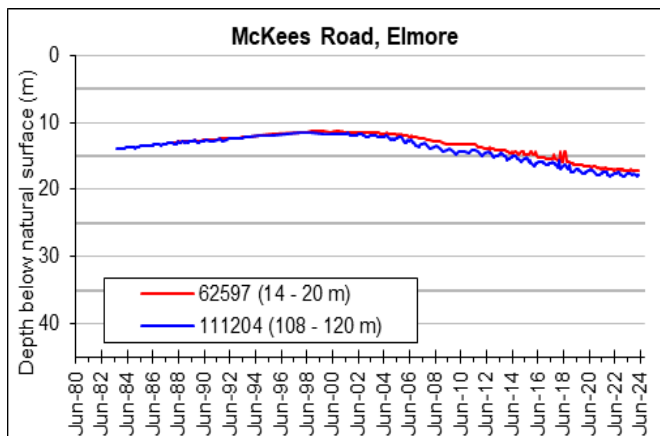
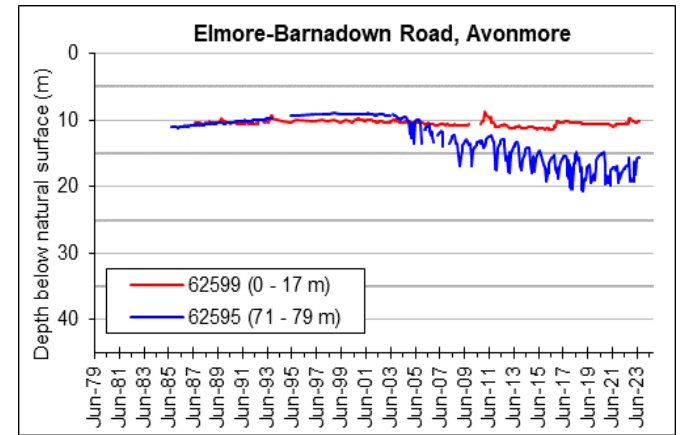
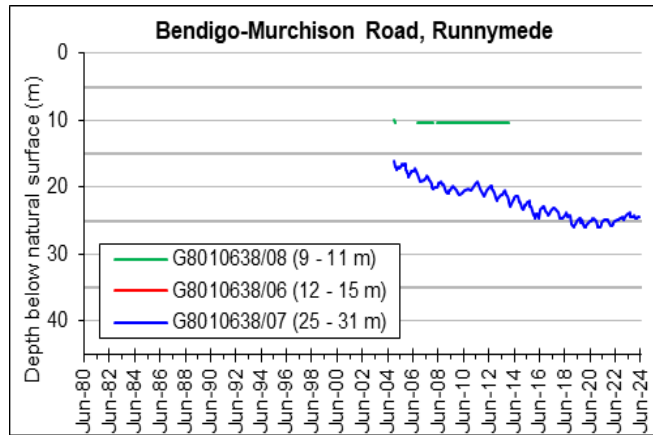
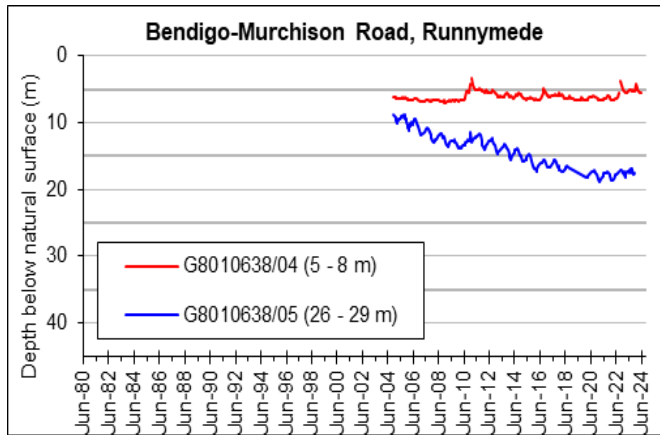
Echuca Zone (1033)





Barnadown Zone (1034)





Appendix C – Groundwater quality results

Analytical chemistry results for 2023/24

Analytical chemistry results are provided for key monitoring bores listed in Schedule 1 of the Plan.

Further groundwater quality information is available on the Water Measurement Information System at <https://data.water.vic.gov.au>

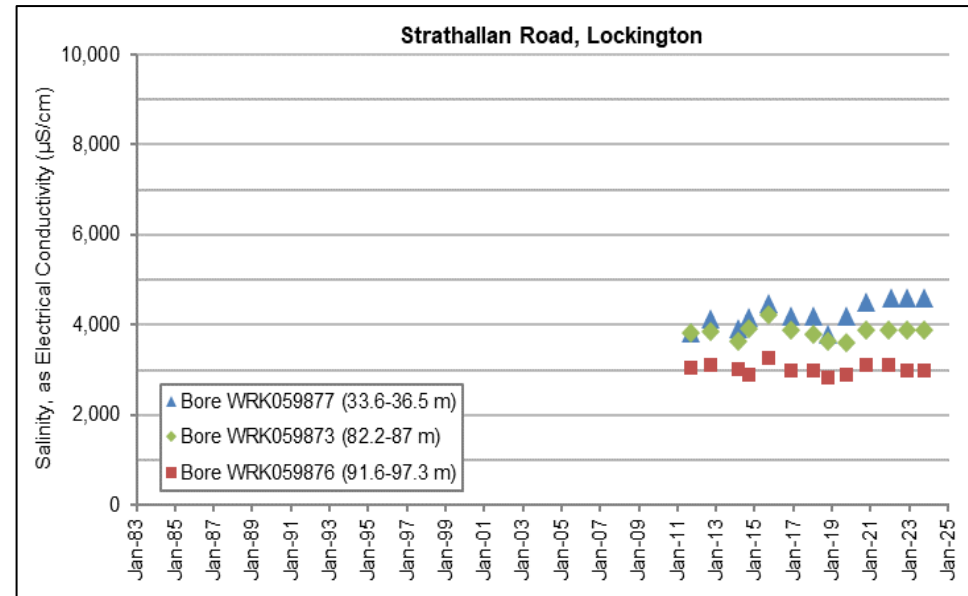
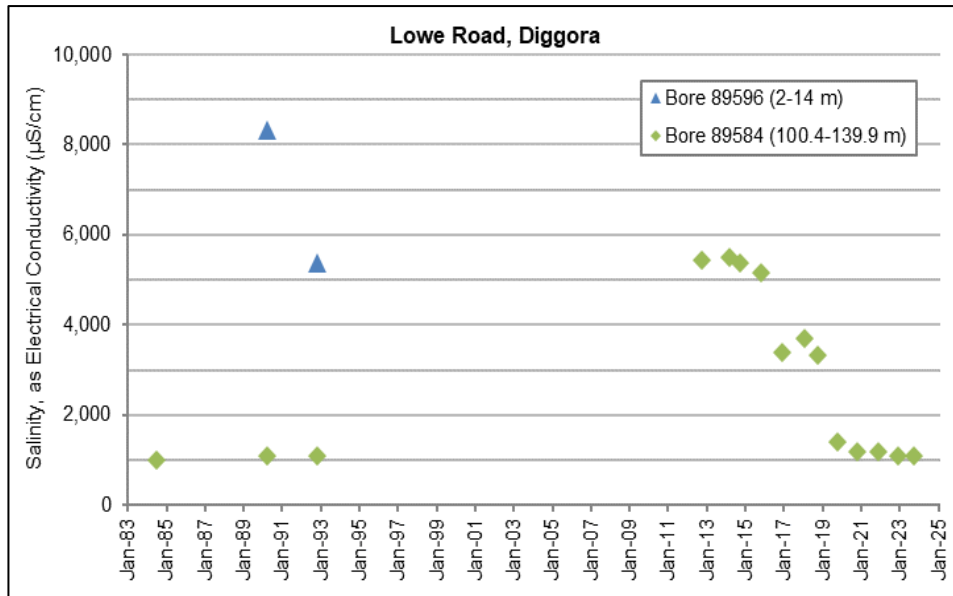
		102827	102828	102829	47250	47251	73425	73426	89584	WRK059873	WRK059877	WRK059876
Bore:		102827	102828	102829	47250	47251	73425	73426	89584	WRK059873	WRK059877	WRK059876
Aquifer:		Deep Lead		Deep Lead	Shepparton Formation	Deep Lead	Shepparton Formation	Deep Lead	Shepparton Formation	Deep Lead	Deep Lead	Deep Lead
Date:		17/10/2023	17/10/2023	17/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	31/10/2023	31/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023
Analyte	Unit											
Conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	4700	8800	4000	1900	3800	11000	9200	1100	3900	4600	3000
pH	pH	9.2	8.2	7.6	9	8.8	7.2	7	9	7.1	7.4	7
Oxidised Nitrogen	mg/l	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.2	0.01	2.5	0.01	0.02	1.2	0.01
Ionic balance (%)	%	3.2	-0.74	3.27	5.32	1.45	1.89	-2.53	-1.39	1.2	-1.41	1.16
Total Anions (meq/l)	meq/L	43	79	37	16	34	110	87	9	35	39	26
Total Cations (meq/l)	meq/L	40	81	35	14	33	105	91	10	34	40	25
Ion Balance - TDS (EC) vs TDS	mg/l	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6
Bicarbonate Alkalinity, CaCO_3	mg/L	220	170	170	160	140	200	42	140	120	140	160
Calcium, as Ca	mg/L	12	56	39	14	23	130	120	16	66	63	42
Carbonate Alkalinity, as CaCO_3	mg/L	150	2	2	36	29	2	2	31	2	2	2
Chloride, as Cl	mg/L	1200	2600	970	430	980	3300	2300	230	1000	1000	800
Hydroxide Alkalinity, as CaCO_3	mg/L	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Potassium, as K	mg/L	10	14	7	5	12	13	7	3	9	11	7

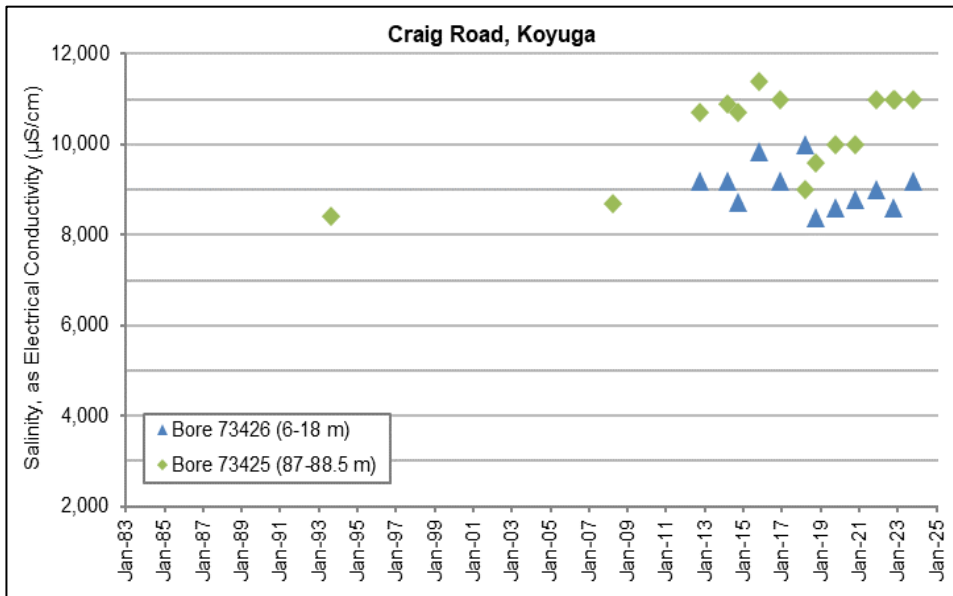
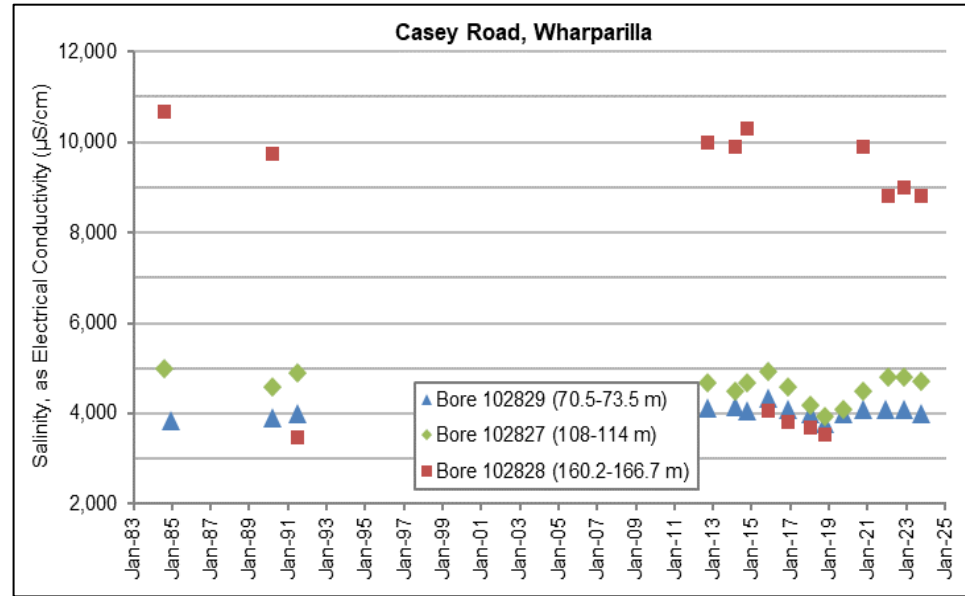
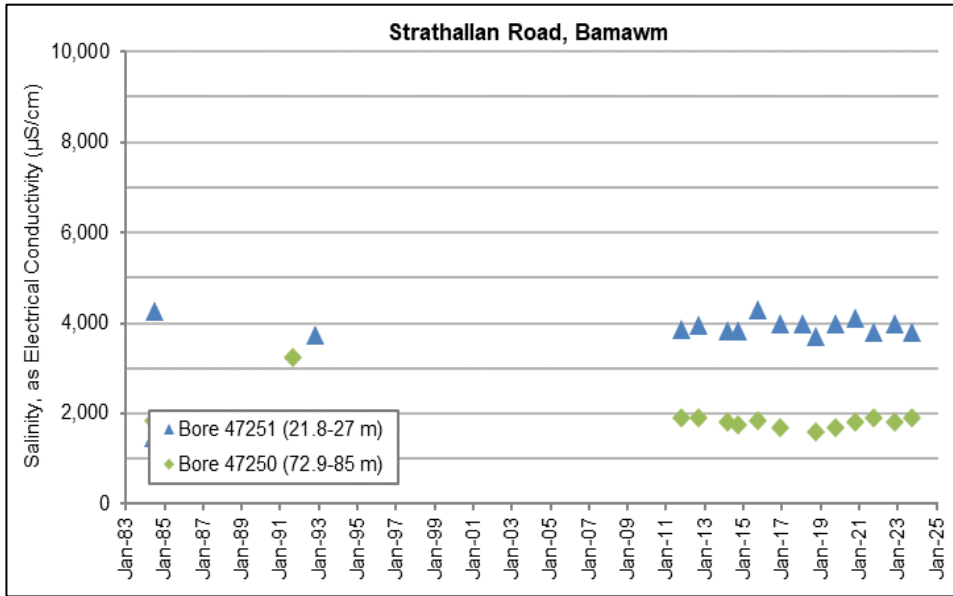
Bore:	102827	102828	102829	47250	47251	73425	73426	89584	WRK059873	WRK059877	WRK059876
Aquifer:	Deep Lead		Deep Lead	Shepparton Formation	Deep Lead	Shepparton Formation	Deep Lead	Shepparton Formation	Deep Lead	Deep Lead	Deep Lead
Date:	17/10/2023	17/10/2023	17/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	31/10/2023	31/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023

Analyte	Unit											
Sodium, as Na	mg/L	700	1400	580	260	630	1700	1500	160	510	640	410
Ammonia, as N	mg/L	0.1	1.4	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Nitrite, as N	mg/L	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Nitrate, as N	mg/L	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.2	0.01	2.5	0.01	0.02	1.2	0.02
Nitrate + Nitrite, as N(0.003d	mg/L	0.2	2.6	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.1	2.5	0.1	0.1	1.6	0.2
Sulphate, as SO4	mg/L	230	130	310	20	190	600	1000	1	200	390	7
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, as N	mg/L	0.2	2.6	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1
Arsenic, as As	mg/L	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Iron, dissolved as Fe	mg/L	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.46	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.19
Mercury, as Hg	mg/L	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Magnesium, as Mg	mg/L	110	200	91	24	55	300	240	21	100	110	63
Manganese, dissolved as Mn	mg/L	0.028	0.29	0.032	0.024	0.021	0.14	0.003	0.02	0.11	0.001	0.083
Total Dissolved Solids, 180C	mg/L	2400	4800	2000	880	2100	6600	5700	500	2100	2500	1700
Total Organic Carbon	mg/L	0.7	1.7	0.5	1.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	3
Turbidity, NTU	NTU	5.8	17	4.7	4.2	0.6	3.3	17	0.3	25	0.1	2.7
Phosphorus, total as	mg/L	0.05	0.24	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.09	0.05	0.15	0.05	0.07
Lead, dissolved (ICP-	mg/L	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Nickel, dissolved	mg/L	0.001	0.001	0.092	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.015	0.002	0.001	0.003	0.002
Cadmium, dissolved	mg/L	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Chromium, dissolved	mg/L	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.006	0.001

Bore:	102827	102828	102829	47250	47251	73425	73426	89584	WRK059873	WRK059877	WRK059876	
Aquifer:	Deep Lead		Deep Lead	Shepparton Formation	Deep Lead	Shepparton Formation	Deep Lead	Shepparton Formation	Deep Lead	Deep Lead	Deep Lead	
Date:	17/10/2023	17/10/2023	17/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	31/10/2023	31/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	18/10/2023	
Analyte	Unit											
Copper, dissolved	mg/L	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.004	0.005	0.001	0.001	0.003	0.001
Zinc, dissolved (ICP-	mg/L	0.004	0.009	0.012	0.013	0.02	0.015	0.023	0.013	0.053	0.009	0.026

Historic groundwater salinity data for key monitoring bores listed in Schedule 1 of the Plan





Historic groundwater salinity data for private bores sampled in the targeted sampling program

