

Shepparton Irrigation Region Groundwater Management Area

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Groundwater Management Area (SIR GMA) covers an area of approximately 500,000 hectares and incorporates the Shepparton, Central Goulburn, Rochester and Murray Valley irrigation districts.

It extends from Yarrawonga to Echuca, along the River Murray, and south to Murchison and Colbinabbin – refer maps overleaf.

Groundwater resources from the surface to a depth of 25 metres are managed under a local management plan which was approved by Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) in June 2015.

Groundwater licence volume and use

The total groundwater licence entitlement volume (licence volume) in the SIR GMA is currently 185,736.6 megalitres per year (ML/yr). This is 800 ML/yr more than 2019/20 due to six licences being issued (Figure 1).

Groundwater use in the SIR GMA is estimated at the end of each season using a method which considers:

- Annual use percentage by a subset of licensed groundwater bores that are metered.
- Volume of recorded groundwater use in the Katunga Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA).
- Spring rainfall measured at Kyabram.

This method is accepted as a conservative and cost-effective approach to understanding annual use in the SIR GMA.

In the 2020/21 water year the estimated use was 91,567 ML which equates to 49% of the total licence volume. This is a nine per cent decrease from 2019/20 (Figure 1); reflecting reduced use in the Katunga WSPA and close to average rainfall in the region (Figure 2).

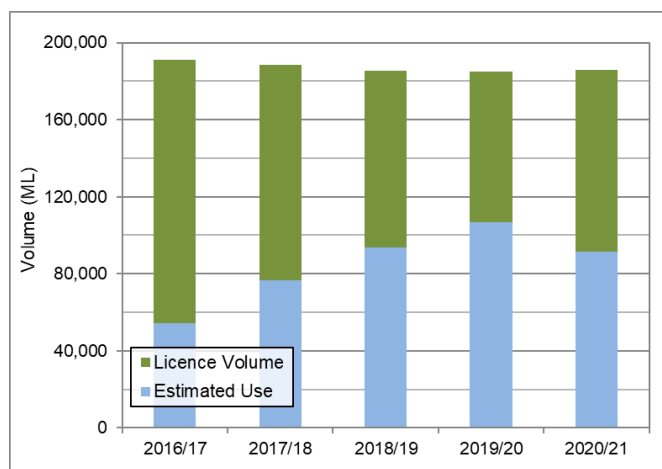


Figure 1 – Annual use as a proportion of total licence volume in the SIR GMA

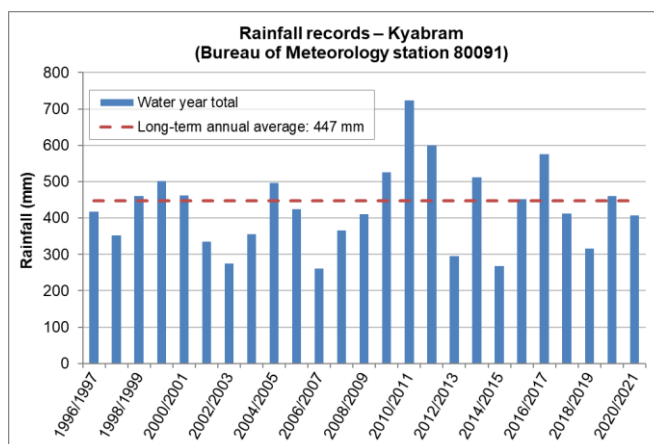


Figure 2 – Rainfall recorded at Kyabram

Monitoring shallow groundwater levels

Groundwater levels in the SIR GMA fluctuate in response to infiltration of rainfall and irrigation. When levels are close to the surface, land salinisation and waterlogging of soils can threaten social, economic and environmental values.

Groundwater levels are monitored in approximately 960 observation bores located across the SIR GMA. An annual watertable map is produced enabling watertable changes and trends to be understood. The four most recent water table maps are provided overleaf.

Want to know more about shallow groundwater?

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Shallow Groundwater website provides information on the benefits and risks associated with shallow groundwater in the region. Key features include easy-to-find shallow groundwater levels and regional salinity risk mapping.

Visit: <https://salinitywatch.gbcma.vic.gov.au>

Groundwater salinity monitoring

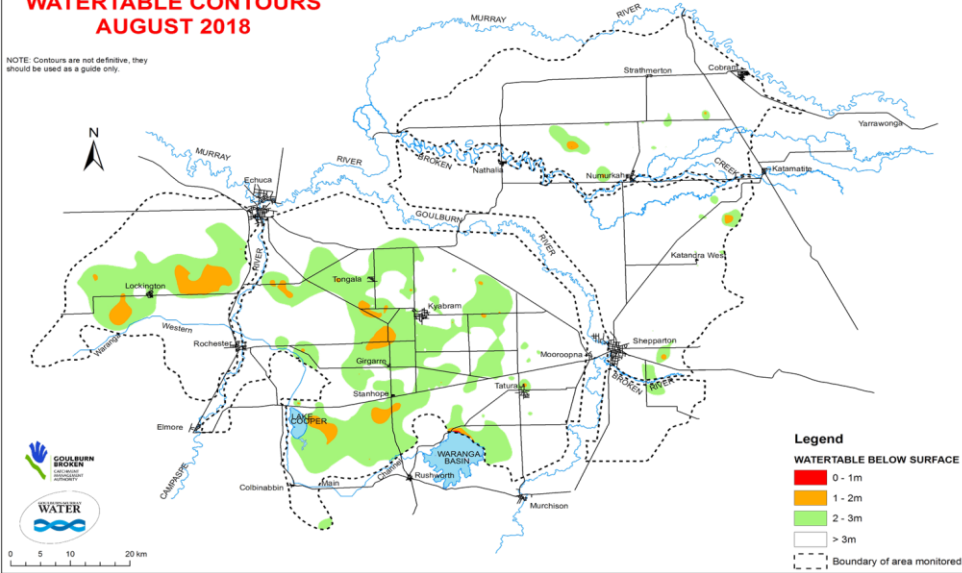
If you would like your groundwater salinity checked, please contact GMW to organise a sampling bottle to be sent to you. Once you have returned your sample, GMW will test your groundwater salinity and provide you with the results.

Where can I get more information?

You can download a copy of the Local Management Plan and previous newsletters from the GMW website, www.gmwater.com.au or call GMA on 1800 013 357.

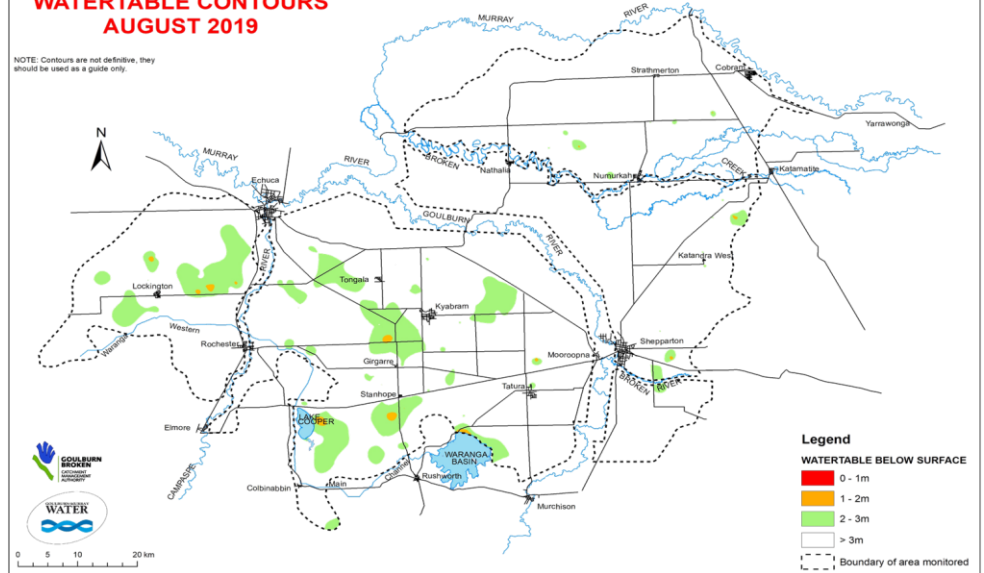
**SHEPPARTON IRRIGATION REGION
WATERTABLE CONTOURS
AUGUST 2018**

NOTE: Contours are not definitive, they should be used as a guide only.



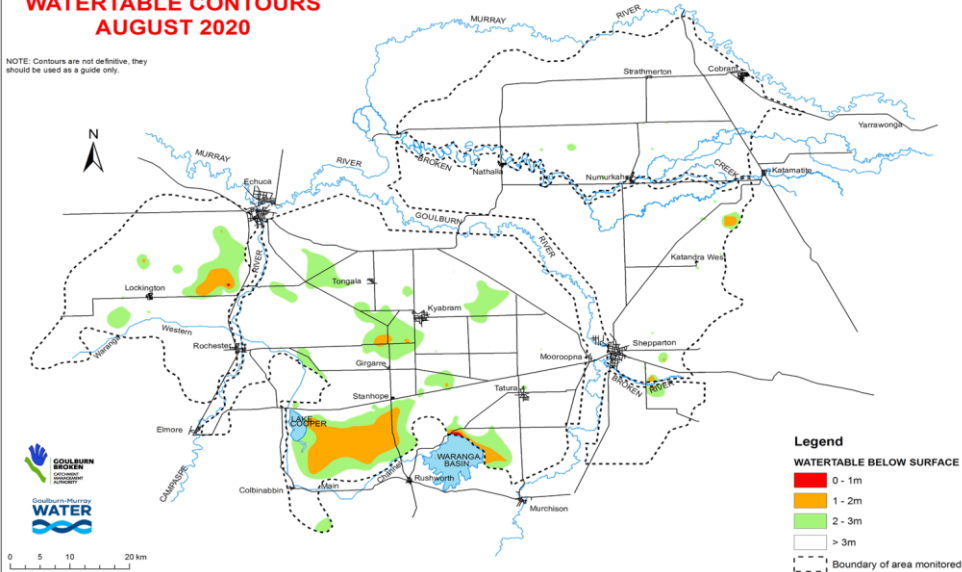
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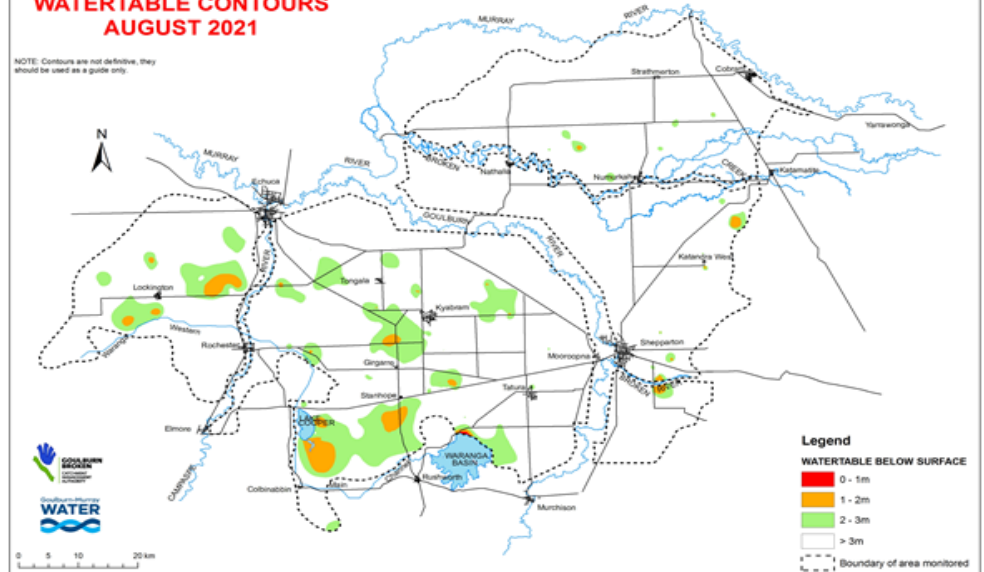
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