

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide supplementary information for the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Strategy.

A copy of the Strategy, executive summary and information sheets are available by phoning GMMWater on 1300 659 961 or from the GMMWater website www.gmmwater.org.au.

WEST WIMMERA GMA - Gymbowen Zone

The management objective for the Gymbowen Zone of the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area (GMA) is to maintain stable trends while allowing some new developments subject to a maximum allowable intensity of entitlement. Parcels of water will be released progressively to ensure that stable groundwater levels are maintained.

Unlike the neighbouring Neuarpur Zone, the aquifer in the Gymbowen Zone is not uniform. Within the Gymbowen Zone the yield of the aquifer progressively reduces from the west to the east of the zone.

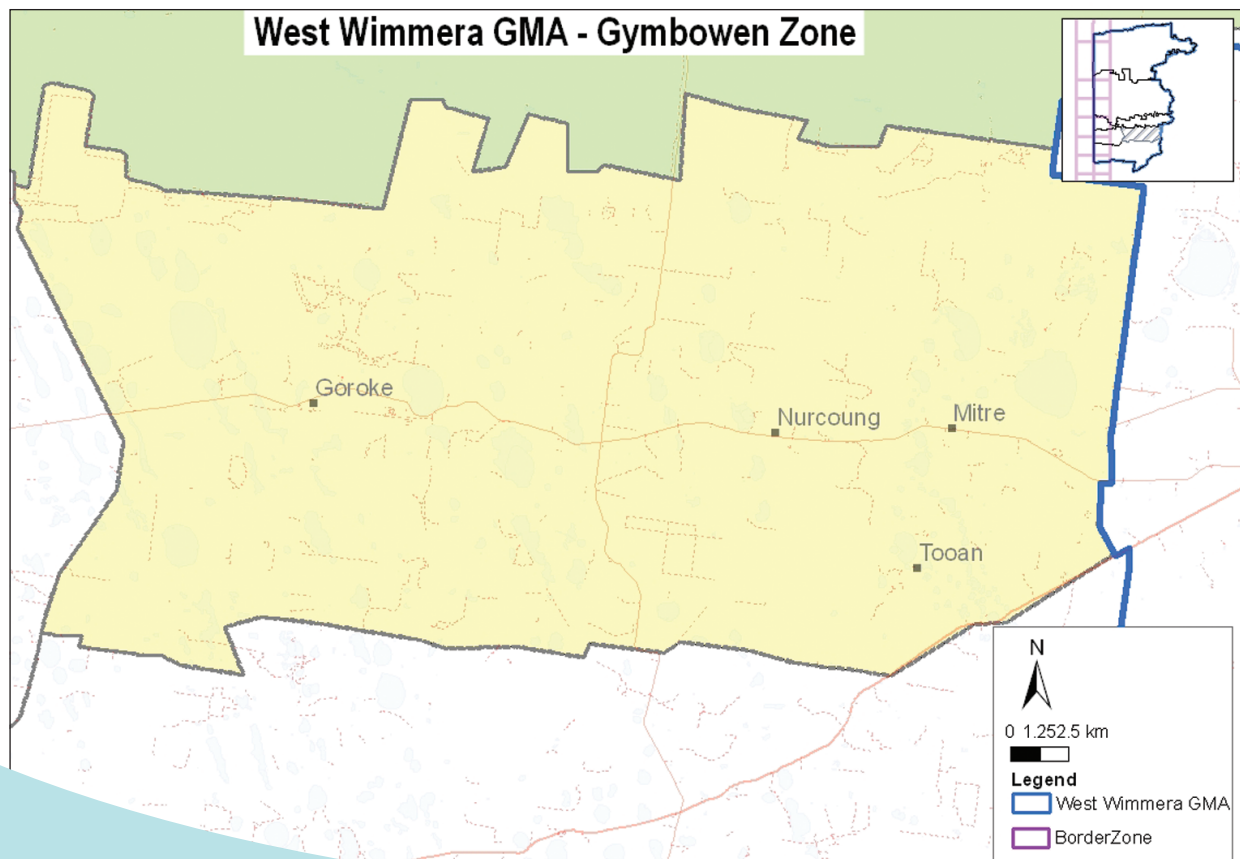
The current use in this zone is relatively small at approximately 508 ML per year.

Permissible Consumptive Volume (PCV)

The estimated maximum intensity of entitlement for stable groundwater levels in the Gymbowen Zone is 5 ML/km². This intensity is half the current intensity of use in the adjoining Neuarpur sub-zone 2. This reflects the reduced water availability in the Gymbowen Zone. At this intensity, the total PCV for this area would be 4,720 ML. However, as this would provide the potential for a significant increase in use, it is proposed to progressively step the PCV up to this volume over a period of years. This will be supported by regular monitoring of groundwater levels to ensure the extra use does not lead to declining groundwater levels.

As such, the initial PCV for this area is 2,000 ML. This is an increase of about 1,200 ML on current entitlements. Subsequent staged releases of 1,000 ML may be available after at least five years of monitoring and review by GMMWater.

Current Entitlement	761 ML
Current Use (7 year average 2003-10)	508 ML (approx)
Area	944 km ²
Water Level Status	stable
PCV's	
Tertiary Limestone Aquifer	2,000 ML
Tertiary Confined Sand Aquifer	200 ML
Parilla Sand Aquifer	50 ML
Maximum Intensity of Entitlements	5.0 ML/km ² (TLA)



New Entitlements

New entitlements are available in zones such as Gymbowen where the full PCV has not been licensed.

New entitlements will be available for sale in accordance with Victorian Government requirements that significant new water volumes of entitlement be available for sale through an auction or tender process. This process will be developed by the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area Implementation Committee in consultation with the community.

Site use plans

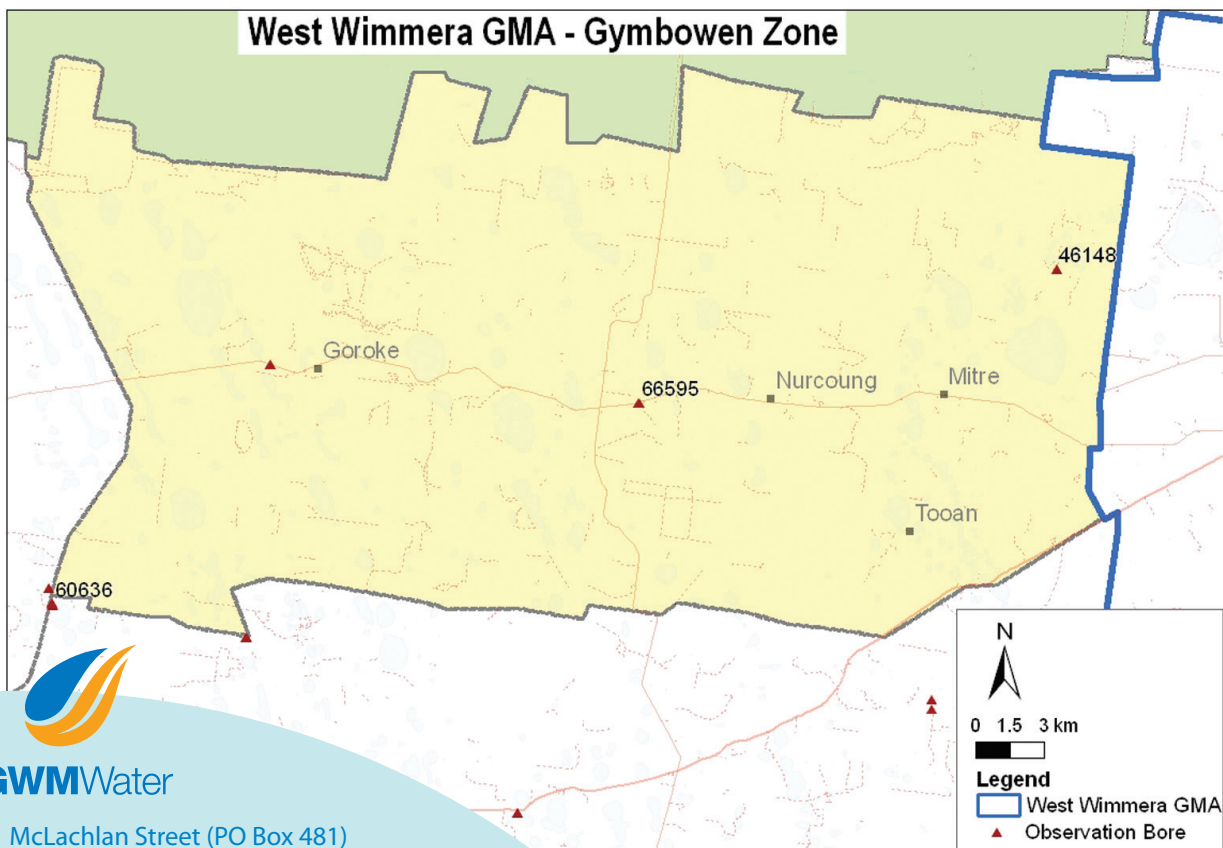
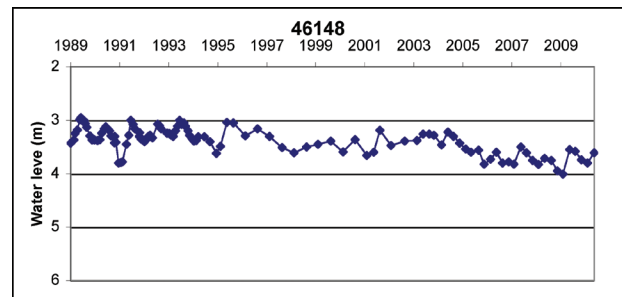
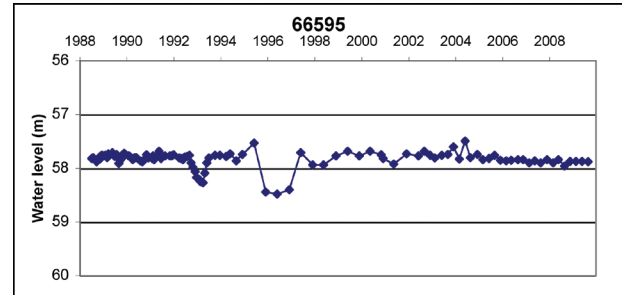
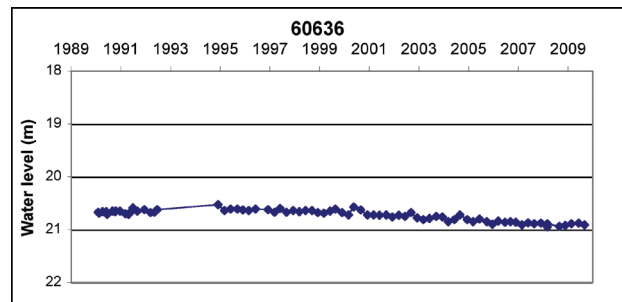
New developments associated with either new entitlements or trades to areas that have not previously been developed will require a site use plan to be developed which addresses issues associated with irrigation and drainage management, soil water holding capacity and related issues.

Trading

Trading of existing entitlements can occur anywhere within the Gymbowen zone subject to the intensity of entitlement limit established.

Selected Hydrographs for the Gymbowen Zone

There are a limited number of observation bores in the Gymbowen Zone. The graphs shown here provide an indication of groundwater trends in the Zone. Groundwater level data can also be viewed at the Department of Sustainability and Environment data warehouse website www.vicwaterdata.net/vicwaterdata.



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