Annual Groundwater Season Summary 2024/2025

West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area

Introduction

This season summary provides an overview of groundwater levels and use of groundwater in the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area (GMA).

The West Wimmera Local Management Plan (LMP) 2019 is the primary reference document for groundwater management in the West Wimmera GMA and can be found on the GWMWater website www.gwmwater.org.au/WW-GMA.

As part of the statewide groundwater management strategy GM2030, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) have been undertaking a project to determine the Sustainable Yield for many of the groundwater management areas across Victoria. The results of this project will be released early next year. Advice from DEECA has indicated that the likely impact of the Sustainable Yield project will be negligible in the short term.

Status of the groundwater resource

Monitoring of groundwater in the GMA indicate that groundwater levels continue to respond to the intensity and volume of groundwater being extracted. Where groundwater extraction is more concentrated such as Neuarpur there has been a decline in groundwater level since the late 1990's. Where extraction is more disperse, groundwater levels are generally stable.

The groundwater level observed in Neuarpur continues to be influenced by use within the zone and over the border in South Australia. Groundwater levels have declined by 3.2m since 1997, however since 2016 the rate of decline in groundwater level in Neuarpur has been less.

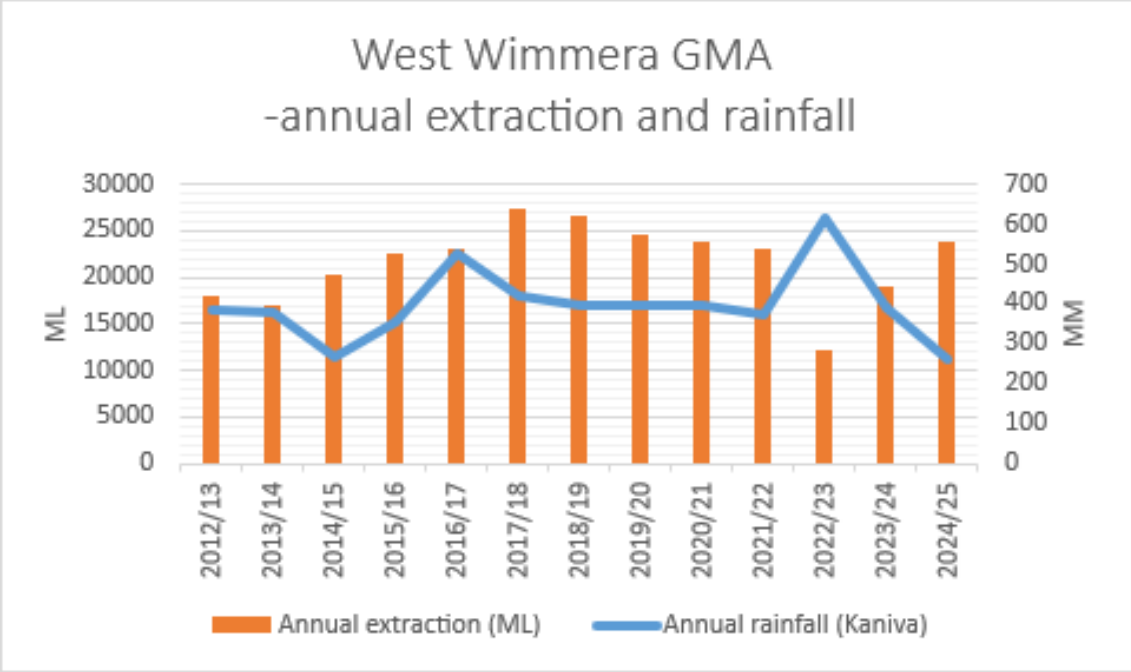
In the east of the Yanipy sub-zone, south of Kaniva, there are relatively large seasonal water level trends due to the effect of local pumping. Groundwater levels are stable in the remaining zones of the GMA. Groundwater level hydrographs and maps are illustrated on the following pages.

Licensed groundwater use

Groundwater use in 2024-25 was 23,799 ML or 42% of total entitlement. The volume of recorded use was greatest in the Neuarpur Zone where the majority of the licence entitlement for the GMA is held. The total volume extracted in the GMA was approximately 1,200 ML more than the average annual extraction in the 10-year period since 2015/16. Neuarpur's use was less than the average for the past 10 years.

Management Zone	Zone Cap*	Number of Licences	Licence Volume ML	10 Year Average Use ML	Use (Etraction) 2024/25 ML
Neuarpur	24,750	42	24,691	13,752	13,127
Northern	22,390	67	21,952	6,711	8,282
Southern	6,469	36	5,650	1,818	2,132
Gymbowen	2,000	11	1,052	290	258
Total	**55,609**	**157**	**53,355**	**22,605**	**23,799**

**Tertiary Limestone Aquifer*



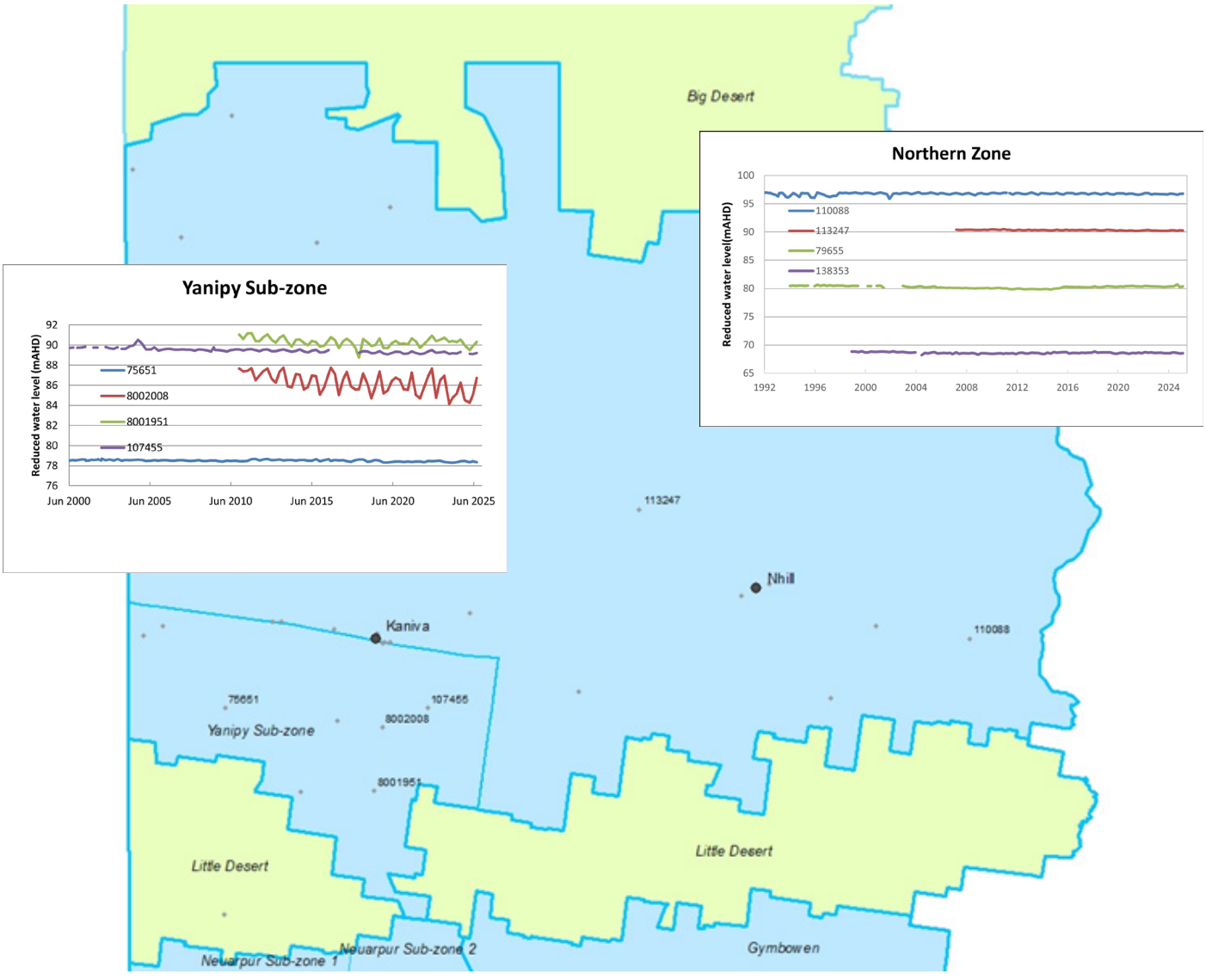
Restrictions and groundwater use

Restrictions have been in place in Neuarpur sub-zone 1 since 2011 to address the declining groundwater levels. All licences in Neuarpur sub-zone 1 were restricted to 80% of entitlement in 2024/25. While the rate of decline in groundwater level is less than that observed in the period to 2016, the restriction will continue for season 2025/26 due to the continued decline. Licences within all remaining zones of the West Wimmera GMA will be unrestricted at 100% of licence entitlement.

Groundwater trading

Much of the GMA is fully allocated except for Gymbowen Zone and the Ullswater and Edenhope sub-zones where new entitlement is available for purchase through GWMWater. Trade of existing entitlement can occur on a temporary or permanent basis within the groundwater management area in accordance with rules described in the local management plan, which can be found on our website.

In 2024/25 there were six temporary transfers of water entitlement, mostly in Neuarpur sub-zone 1. No new licences were issued or any permanent trades in the West Wimmera GMA.



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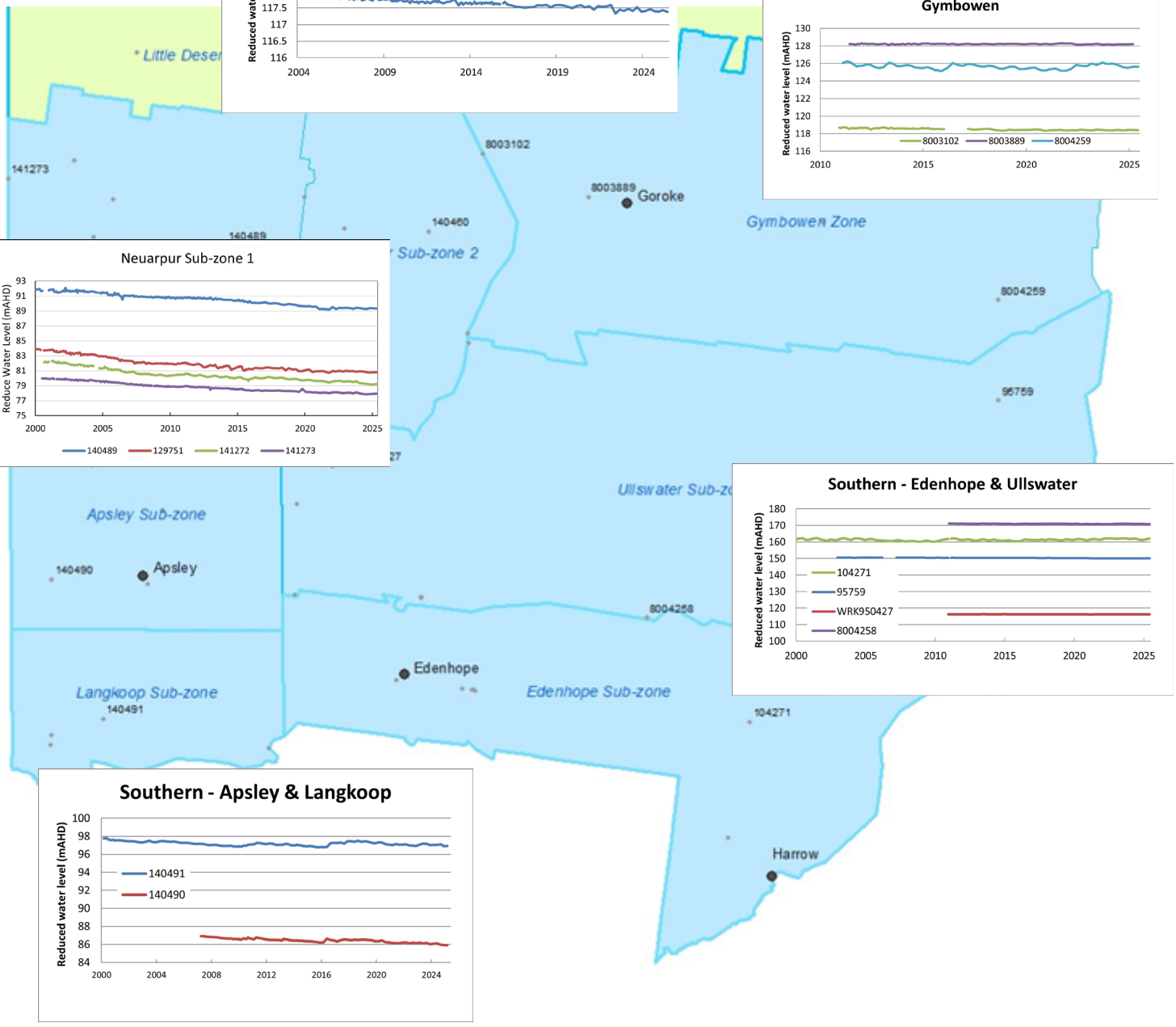
Neuarpur Sub-zone 2
Reduced water level (mAHD)
140460
8003102
Gymbowen
Reduced water level (mAHD)
8003102
8003889
8004259
Neuarpur Sub-zone 1
Reduce Water Level (mAHD)
140489
129751
141272
141273
Southern - Edenhope & Ullswater
Reduced water level (mAHD)
104271
95759
WRK950427
8004258
Southern - Apsley & Langkoop
Reduced water level (mAHD)
140491
140490
Little Deser
141273
8003102
8003889
Goroke
140460
140489
Sub-zone 2
Gymbowen Zone
8004259
95759
Ullswater Sub-zone
Apsley Sub-zone
140490
Apsley
8004258
Edenhope
Langkoop Sub-zone
140491
Edenhope Sub-zone
104271
Harrow

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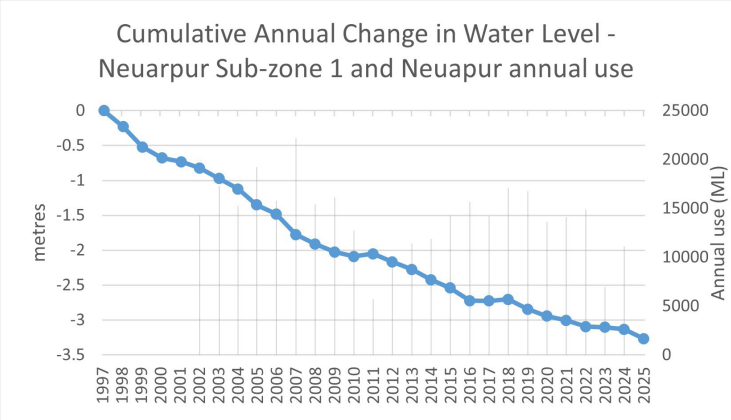
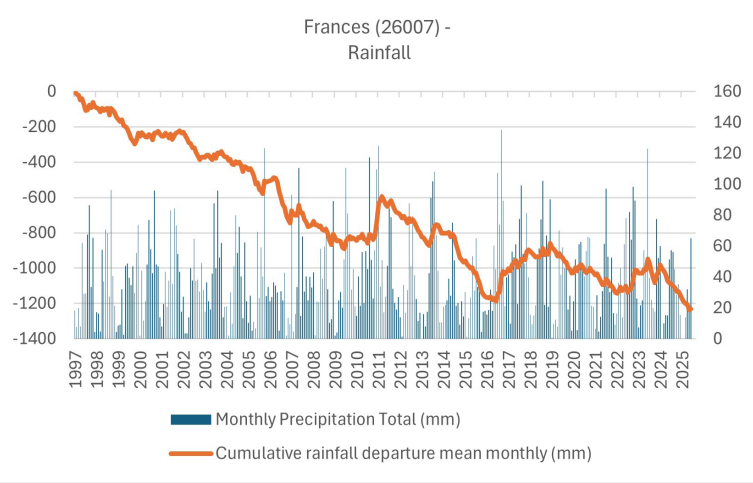
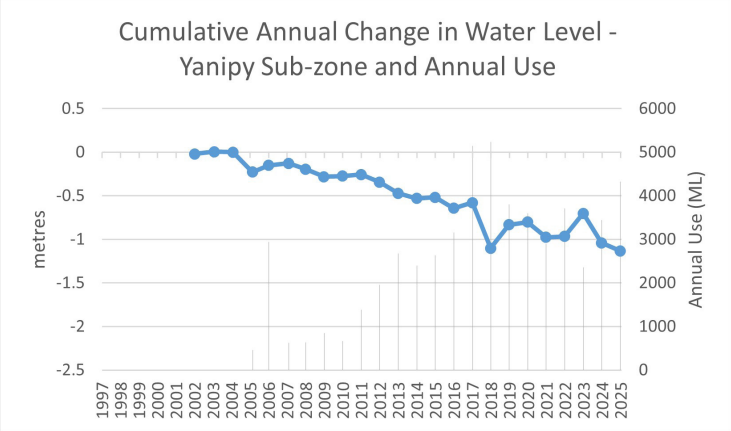
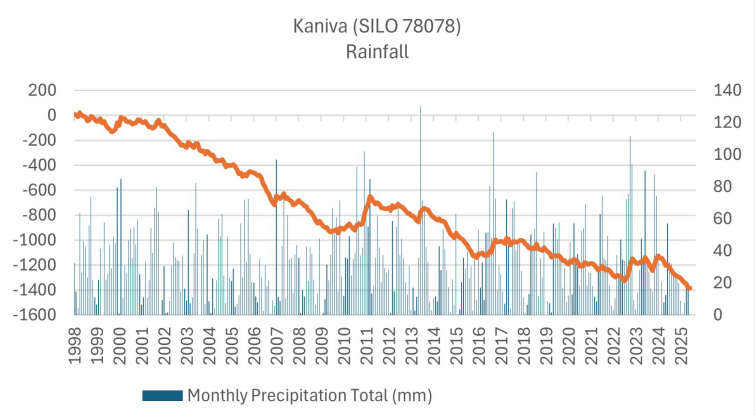
Groundwater level changes are influenced by usage (including cross border use) and rainfall. We can however only report on use within our region. These graphs show the average annual change in groundwater level over time.









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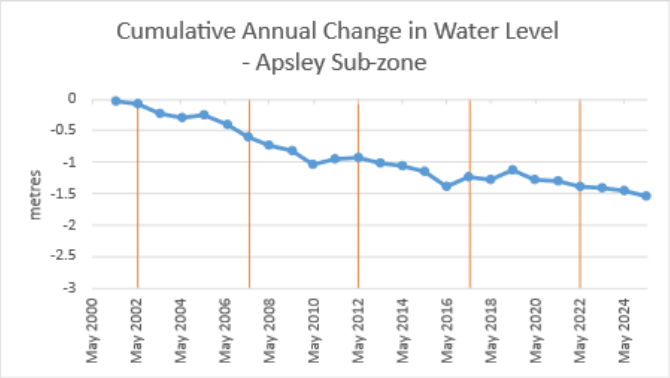
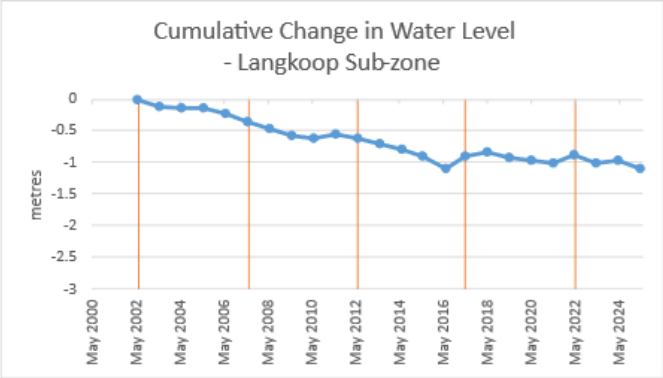
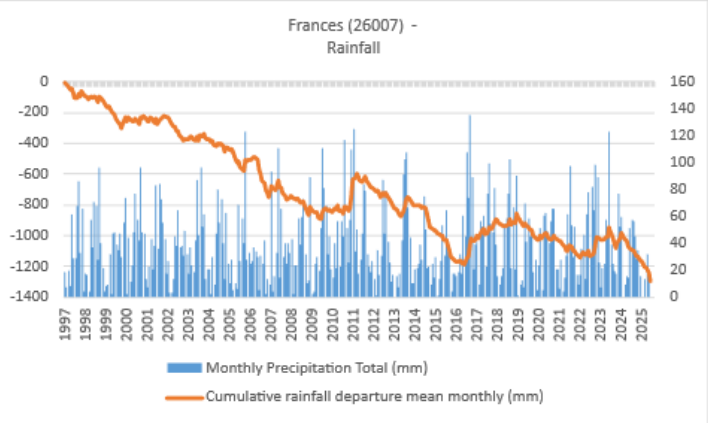
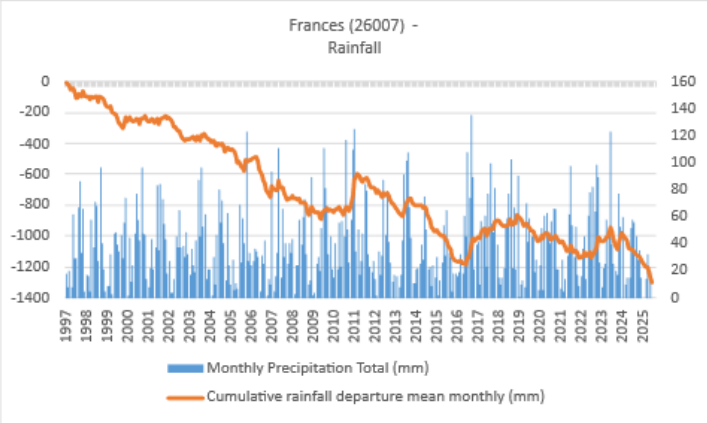

Cumulative Annual Change in Water Level
- Apsley Sub-zone
metres
0
-0.5
-1
-1.5
-2
-2.5
-3
May 2000
May 2002
May 2004
May 2006
May 2008
May 2010
May 2012
May 2014
May 2016
May 2018
May 2020
May 2022
May 2024


Cumulative Change in Water Level
- Langkoop Sub-zone
metres
0
-0.5
-1
-1.5
-2
-2.5
-3
May 2000
May 2002
May 2004
May 2006
May 2008
May 2010
May 2012
May 2014
May 2016
May 2018
May 2020
May 2022
May 2024


Frances (26007) -
Rainfall
Monthly Precipitation Total (mm)
Cumulative rainfall departure mean monthly (mm)


Frances (26007) -
Rainfall
Monthly Precipitation Total (mm)
Cumulative rainfall departure mean monthly (mm)