

Drought Preparedness Planning

Water Resource Drought Definition:

- The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) definition of drought is 'a prolonged, abnormally dry period when there is not enough water for users' normal needs'.
- GMMWater considers 'normal needs' to be the volume of water required to meet customer demand under Permanent Water Saving Rules (PWSR).

GMMWater owns and operates five water supply systems, each with different water sources.

These systems are:

- Murray supplied systems (Northern Mallee Pipeline, Supply System 5 of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline)
- Goulburn supplied systems (Quambatook township, South-West Loddon Pipeline (in part))
- East Grampians & Pyrenees urban systems (townships of Willaura, Lake Bolac, Moyston, Wickliffe, Elmhurst, Buangor, and rural users)
- Grampians supplied systems (towns and rural users supplied from Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Supply System 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, direct from headworks reservoirs, South-West Loddon Pipeline (in part), and when constructed, the East Grampians Rural Pipeline)
- Groundwater towns

Each of these supply systems have a varying degree of water security and require different management approaches. Integrating long-term planning with short-term planning helps to support reliable urban water supplies now and into the future.

Key planning tools include:

Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy

10-year cycle

Includes policy statements and actions for implementation at a regional and local scale.

**Reviewed every 5 years.*

GMMWater Urban and Rural Water Strategy

5-year cycle

Details short and long term water availability. Urban Water Strategies set out what actions might be needed and when, over a 50-year planning period, under a certain set of planning assumptions.

GMMWater Price Submission

5-year cycle

Planned expenditure relating to Urban and Rural Water Strategy is outlined in GMMWater's Price Submission.

GMMWater Drought Preparedness Plan

5-year cycle

Sets out the short-term actions that will be needed to respond to water shortages if they arise.

GMMWater Annual Water Outlook

1-year cycle

Presents an annual assessment of water security and identifies the potential for water security risks to emerge, and subsequent response actions.

GMMWater Drought Preparedness Plan (DPP)

GMMWater is required to develop and implement an effective plan for the urban component of its supply systems.

The DPP documents how GMMWater proactively identifies and responds to water security risks and water shortage situations. The strategies and response options in the plan aim to minimise the impacts of water shortage, while ensuring security of supply for critical needs.

The objectives of the plan are to:

- Be applicable to each of GMMWater's urban and rural pipeline supply systems;
- Have clearly defined water security triggers for each of the GMMWater supply systems;
- Have clear triggers for implementing drought response planning and drought response actions;
- To provide flexibility, be adaptable, and be easily updated as supply systems are augmented, developed, or significant new information becomes available.

Demand reduction options

- Increase water supply system efficiency.
- Increase and use efficiency.
- Implement water restrictions.
- Promote alternative sources of supply.

Supply enhancement options

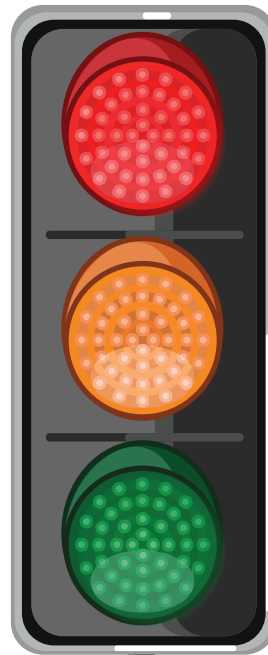
- Purchase of temporary/permanent water entitlement.
- Pumping dead storage.
- Groundwater supplementary supply.
- Groundwater supplementary supplies to Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline.
- Supplementary water carting.
- Activate existing cross connections.
- Construction of new cross connections.

Traffic Light Approach

The DPP and GMMWater's Annual Water Outlook is underpinned by a 'Traffic Light Approach' to water security.

The Annual Water Outlook report is released December 1 each year and can be found at gmmwater.org.au/publications

The Urban Rural Water Strategy and Drought Preparedness Plan can be found at gmmwater.org.au/strategies



Drought response

- Immediate water security risk.
- DPP enacted.
- Actions will be implemented to reduce demand and/or improve supply.
- Restrictions are expected.

Heightened awareness

- There may be an emerging water security risk.
- Increase frequency of water system monitoring.
- Ready the business for contingencies.
- Some form of action or restrictions may be considered in the current year.

General monitoring

- Business as usual, but continue to monitor.
- No water restrictions due to availability.

