



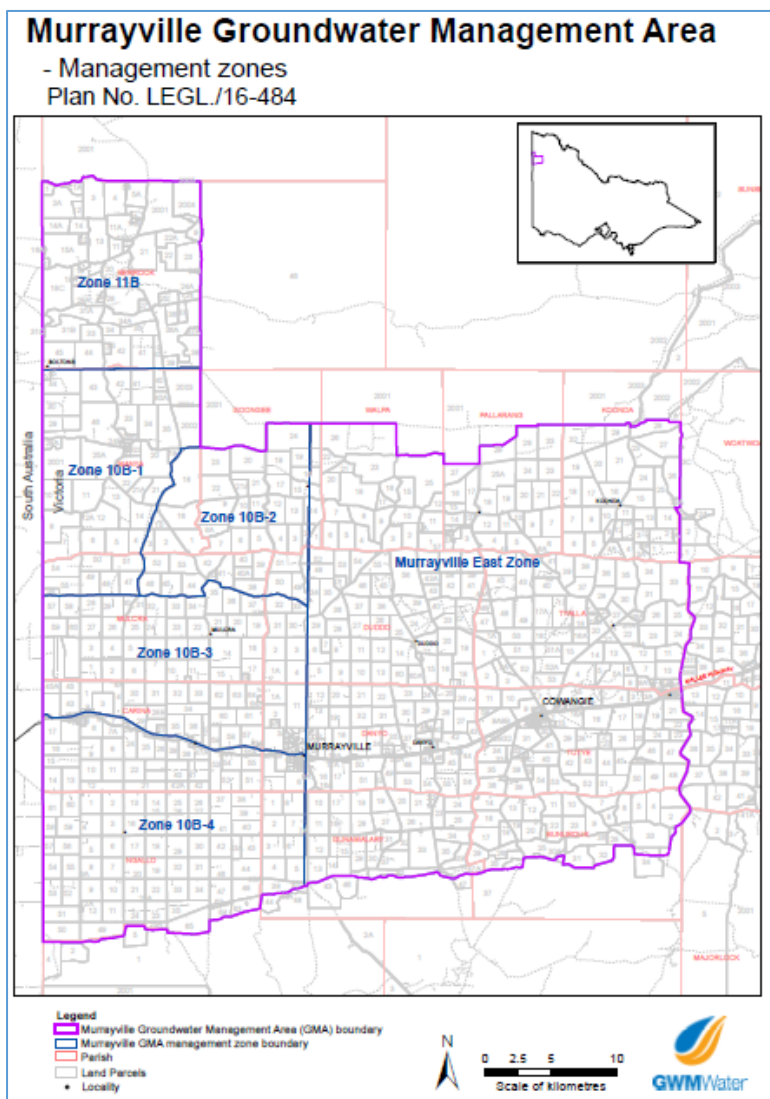
New Groundwater Management Plan For Murrayville

GWMWater has released the new Groundwater Management Plan for the Murrayville Groundwater Management Area (GMA), the Murrayville GMA Local Management Plan (LMP) 2017.

The development of the LMP was guided by the Murrayville LMP Advisory Committee in consultation with customers and key stakeholders. The LMP recognises the values of the groundwater and the non-renewable nature of the resource, and provides clear rules for its use to ensure equitability and longevity.

In July 2017, the Minister for Water approved the adoption of the new plan which replaces the Murrayville Area Groundwater Management Plan 2001 and ensures groundwater is managed consistently with current Victorian government policy.

The below map shows the GMA and its management zones.



What does the Local Management Plan do?

- The LMP provides clear information about groundwater access for all users. It documents the rules that operate in the area, explaining how groundwater licence holders can use their entitlements including;
 - rules about transferring licence entitlement,
 - the minimum separation distance of licensed extraction bores, and
 - arrangements that allow carryover of groundwater entitlement.
- The LMP also outlines the program for the monitoring of the groundwater levels and quality, and the management of the rate of decline in groundwater level.

So what is different under the new Murrayville Local Management Plan 2017?

- The boundary of the Murrayville GMA varies slightly to the old Murrayville Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA). The changes allow the area to align with the Murray Darling Basin and includes an additional area to the east to include some outlying groundwater licences.
- The Permissible Consumptive Volume (upper limit for allowable groundwater licence volume) is now 11,005 ML per year.
- There are new management zones (based loosely on the old) and licensing limits which apply to the zones (refer to map on previous page).
- The zone limits combined with the specified minimum separation of licensed extraction bores protect the existing users from the potential impact of new developments.
- There is the provision for 30% Carryover, allowing a maximum of 30% of a licence holders entitlement to be used in the next year, if the unused volume is available to be carried forward.
- The LMP recommends continuation of the regular monitoring of the network of bores for groundwater level and quality.
- A drawdown threshold trigger has been established to manage the rate of decline in groundwater level.

Is there new water available for licencing?

- There is a small volume of new water available for licencing in some zones.
- There are limits on the total volume of entitlement that can be licenced in each zone which have been established to manage the impact of groundwater use.
- There is an overall limit (PCV) of 11, 005 ML available for licenced use in the Murrayville GMA, this does not include domestic and stock use. Zone limits cap the amount of water that can be licenced in each GMA management zone, and the existing zones of the Border Zone. In assessing any transfer or new application for groundwater, GWMWater must take into account the volumes available within all the limits.
- Currently the total licenced volume for the Murrayville GMA is 9,754.8 ML.
- Water can be permanently or temporarily transferred within the 10B zones subject to the zone limits, but due to the Permissible Annual Volume for Border Zone 10B (6720 ML) there is no new water available in Zones 10B1-4.
- There is however a small volume of permanent water available in 11B (120 ML) and 975 ML in the Murrayville East zone (at August 2017).

What are the zone limits? How much is licensed?

- The following table summarises the zone limits and volumes licenced in the zones. The means of determining the zone limits is outlined in the LMP.

Border Zone	GMA Zone	GMA Zone Limit ML	Licensed Volume ML*
10B	10B-1	2265	2265
	10B-2	1370	1120
	10B-3	2140	1750
	10B-4	2830	1582.8
11B	11B	1720	1600
<i>Outside Border Zone</i>	Murrayville East	2412	1437

**licensed volume at August 2017*

Does the Local Management Plan impact domestic and stock use?

- No, the LMP does not have the capacity to limit domestic and stock use. While landholders must apply for a licence to construct and install a bore, they have the right to take and use groundwater for domestic and stock use under Section 8 of the *Water Act 1989*.

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