



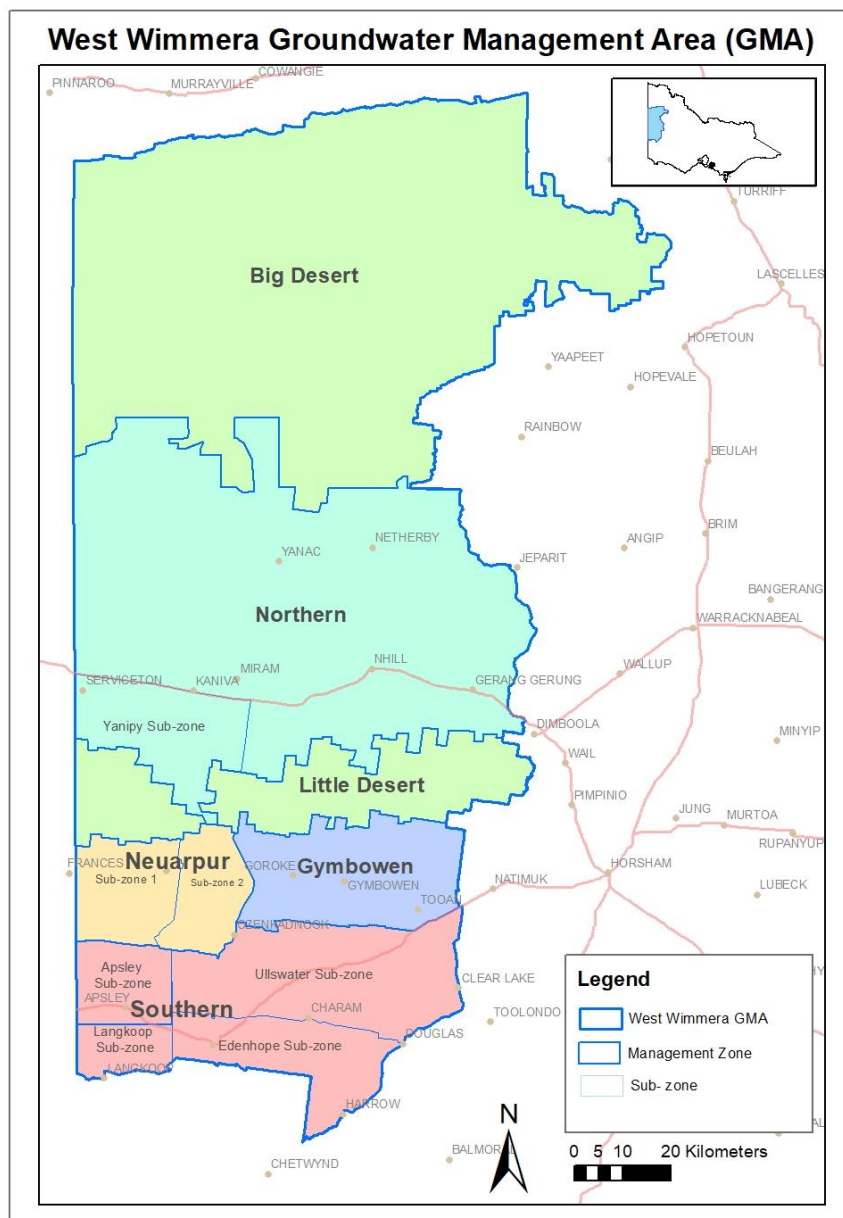
West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area

The GWMWater Board has approved the **West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area (GMA) Local Management Plan 2019**.

*Certified to best practice standards
ISO 9001 / 14001 and AS/NZS 4801*

The Local Management Plan for West Wimmera GMA draws together the local management rules from the 2011 West Wimmera Groundwater Management Strategy, with adaptations and amendments based on recommendations of the recent 2018 technical review. It also includes updated information relevant to management decisions in the area. The West Wimmera Local Management Plan (LMP) is now the primary reference document for groundwater management in the West Wimmera area.

The map below shows the West Wimmera GMA and its management zones.



What is the Local Management Plan?

The West Wimmera GMA Local Management Plan is the “go to” document for groundwater users in the West Wimmera GMA. In addition to outlining the management objectives and the groundwater resource, the Plan also documents the rules and key information relevant to groundwater management in the area, including;

- Annual allocations and restrictions
- Rules about issuing, renewing or transferring licence entitlement
 - Trading rules and limitations
 - Intensity limits (managing localised bore interference)
- Arrangements that allow carryover of unused entitlement
- Protection of domestic and stock supply

The LMP also outlines the program for the monitoring of groundwater levels and quality, and the management method for assessing and implementing new restrictions if they are required.

Why did we need another groundwater plan?

The West Wimmera Groundwater Management Strategy (2011) was prepared as a long-term management framework for the groundwater resources in the West Wimmera GMA. It was developed to enable an adaptive management approach, whereby management regimes can be refined based on social, economic and environmental considerations and groundwater monitoring information. The Strategy was developed prior to the release of Local Management Plan guidelines in 2014. These guidelines have since been used in the development of Local Management Plans for management of groundwater and unregulated surface water across the GWMWater region.

In 2018, consultant GHD completed a five-year technical review of the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Strategy for GWMWater. The outcomes and recommendations of the technical review were sufficient to warrant the preparation of a Local Management Plan for the West Wimmera area. The Local Management Plan complements and adapts aspects of the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Strategy, based on the outcomes and recommendations of the technical review.

The Local Management Plan incorporates additional detail regarding:

- The most recent information on the groundwater resource, which has identified the Neuarpur zone and area northwards as likely being ‘non-renewable’ for management purposes (extraction in the area exceeds natural recharge).
- The declining groundwater levels in Neuarpur Sub-zone 1 being driven by extraction within the zone, and influenced to some degree by extraction in the adjacent South Australian zones and the Apsley sub-zone.
- The method to be used for assessing the need for, and process for implementing any new restrictions, taking into consideration a range of drivers that influence observed changes in groundwater levels.

GWMWater will ensure the Local Management Plan is reviewed and updated when necessary, so that it remains consistent with the groundwater management policy framework, and as our understanding of the groundwater resources of the West Wimmera GMA continues to improve.

For a copy of the Plan, visit gwmwater.org.au/ww-gma or call into our Horsham office. Alternatively, you can contact our Call Centre during business hours to ask for a copy to be mailed to you. Any questions relating to the Local Management Plan or the management of groundwater resources in the West Wimmera Area can be directed to our Water Resources team, by calling 1300 659 961.