



Gippsland  
Water

# Annual Water Outlook

December 2024



# Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Gippsland Water area, the Gunaikurnai people and the Bunurong people, and recognise their strong cultural connection to the land and waterways. We pay respect to their Elders, past and present.



*Cultural Flow by Alice Pepper, for use on Gunaikurnai Country*



*Water Connection by Lakeisha Clayton, for use on Bunurong Country*

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## Executive Summary

We are a regional water corporation that manages 14 water treatment plants and supplies water to more than 76,000 properties from eight water supply systems. This Annual Water Outlook describes the expected outlook for all of our water supply systems over the coming summer season summarised in Table 1.

The forecast period for run of-river systems is 3 months from the start of November 2024 to the end of January 2025, reflecting the period over which the forecast has an acceptable level of uncertainty. However, the Latrobe water supply system forecast period is for the 12-month period from the start of November 2024 to the end of October 2025 and reflects a very secure outlook for this period.

Based on current water resources, we expect water restrictions to be unlikely for our customers over the next year, even under worst climatic conditions.

Victoria's climate and streamflow is highly variable, but within this variability we have experienced a warming and drying trend over recent decades. More information on the observed changes and longer-term future climate and water projections can be found at [www.water.vic.gov.au/our-programs/climate-change-and-victorias-water-sector](http://www.water.vic.gov.au/our-programs/climate-change-and-victorias-water-sector).

Through our water saving program, we continue to work with our customers to encourage water efficient behavior that will reduce dependence on precious drinking water.

Our customers recognise water is a precious resource and shouldn't be wasted. The permanent water saving rules (PWSR) are a set of simple, common-sense rules to make sure we all use water wisely.

Our Annual Water Outlook partners with our [Urban Water Strategy \(UWS\)](#) and [Water Supply Interactive Map](#) which sets out how we will respond to challenges facing our water supplies, both now and into the future. The UWS aims to balance regional, environment and cultural needs to ensure there's enough water to support the prosperity and liveability of our region.

## Background

The Annual Water Outlook (AWO) is prepared to meet the Statement of Obligations (2015), specifically Part 4-2 Customer Information as part of customer and community engagement.

The AWO must provide information on several areas.:

- The current water resource position.
- A forward outlook for water resources over the coming year under a range of plausible climatic scenarios.
- Whether agreed levels of service will be able to be met under these climatic scenarios.
- If not, what actions will be undertaken to improve system performance so that these agreed levels of service can be met.

The AWO is aimed at building an engaged and informed community regarding water supplies in our region. The outlook timeframe for water supply systems is 12 months. However, where a 12-month outlook is not possible due to smaller run of river systems or shallow groundwater systems, the outlook is limited to only the coming summer period with appropriate updates as required.

## Water outlook

All our water supply systems are in a good position as we approach summer. Our customers can be confident that their water supplies will remain secure over the summer season and into 2025.

Year to date rainfall has shown a mixed pattern across the region with the first half of the year (January to June) experiencing average rainfall levels, followed by an increase in rainfall in July, a very dry August and September recording above average rainfall. This mixed pattern rainfall has shown up in the lower layer soil moisture map. It indicates lower-layer soil moisture in our region's catchments currently average to mostly below average with small patches in the northeast and southwest very much below average. This factor has predicted that streamflows across the region for late spring and early summer may show average to below average flow compared to long term historic averages.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (or ENSO) is a climate pattern that describes fluctuations in ocean temperatures and atmospheric conditions in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. It has the potential to affect our water supply region. ENSO has three phases, El Niño, La Niña and ENSO-Neutral. Currently, (mid-October), the Bureau of Meteorology has issued a La Niña watch. La Niña is the positive phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation which for our region is associated with higher-than-average early summer rainfall. However, if La Niña occurs, it is anticipated to be weak and short-lived.

Latrobe Valley resources are at 100 percent with both Moondarra Reservoir and our capacity share of Blue Rock Reservoir being almost full. West Gippsland communities and industries have the security of the Melbourne system water entitlement as well as supply from the interconnecting pipeline between the Moe and Tarago systems. Sale and surrounding areas retain their full access to the deep and reliable Boisdale Aquifer. Supplies for several smaller communities are in a good position due to augmentation programs that have been implemented over the last decade such as the Coongulla interconnection to Heyfield.

Briagolong's existing shallow groundwater resources are currently in a stable position to provide secure supply this summer based on the La Niña watch forecast. Furthermore, our program to augment this system with groundwater from the deeper aquifer is progressing well.

While water restrictions are considered unlikely this summer, permanent water saving rules apply. Information on these rules, and advice on how to save water, can be found at <https://www.gippswater.com.au/reduceyouruse>

### Our Service Area (Region Overview)

Our service area covers over 5,000 square kilometres and stretches from Drouin in the west to Loch Sport in the east, and from Mirboo North in the south to Rawson and Briargolong in the north.

We have 14 water treatment plants that supply water to more than 76,000 properties from eight water supply systems as well as various major industries within our region. Figure 1 displays our water supply regions and associated towns and localities.

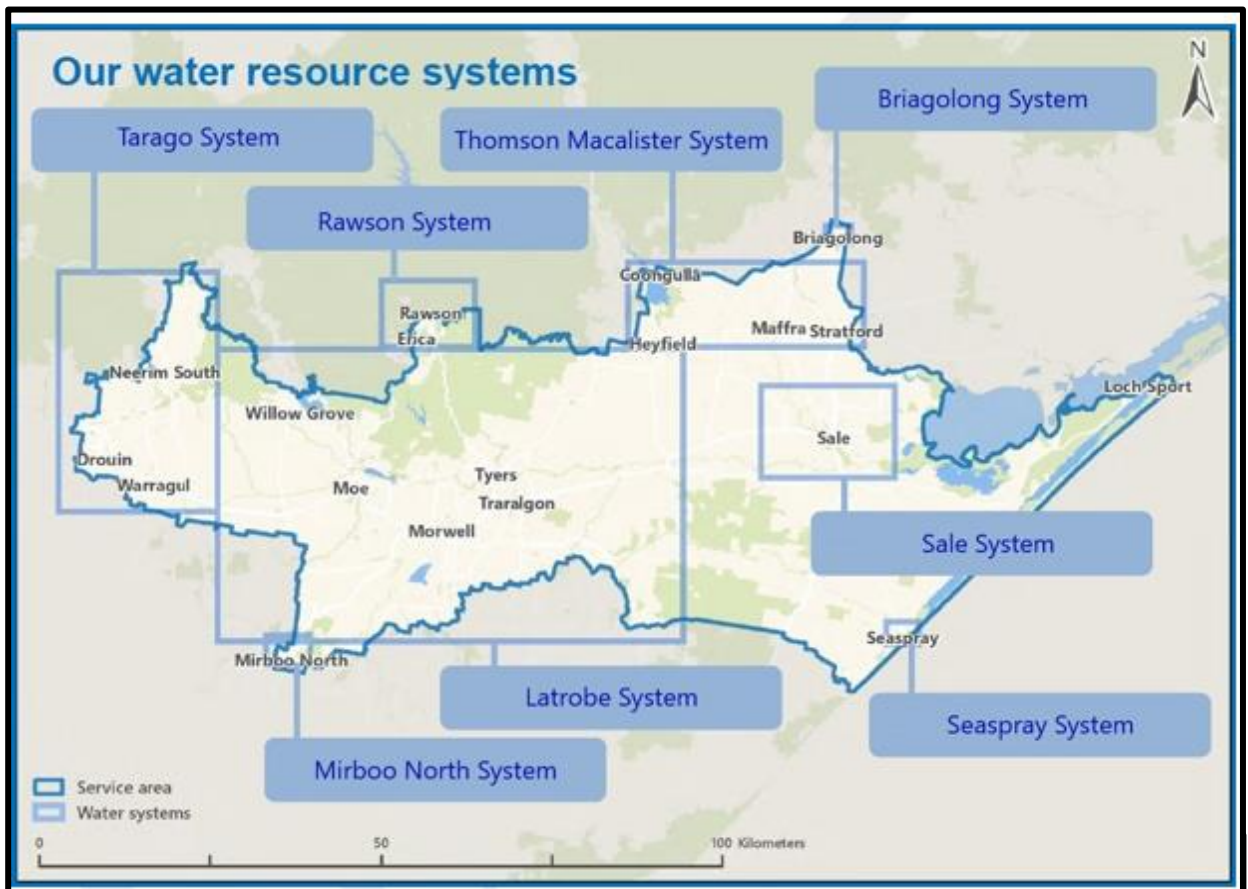


Figure 1. Water Supply Systems and associated towns

### System Summary

Table 1 shows a summary of all our systems and associated towns. It also highlights the primary source of each system supply and the likelihood of restrictions for each water system. All systems for this Annual Water Outlook are rated unlikely for water restrictions for this outlook.



Table 1. System Summary: Water Supply System and Water Restriction Outlook:

\*Notes on likelihood of water restriction ranges: very rare <1%; rare 1-4%, unlikely 5-19%, possible 20-49%; likely 50-79%; almost certain 80-100%

Water system	Towns supplied	Water source	Likelihood* of restrictions	Timeframe (Water restriction outlook period)	Comments
<b>Briagolong</b>	Briagolong.	Wa De Lock Aquifer	Unlikely	The outlook is limited to the coming summer only	This system is in a secure position in the lead up to summer after the rain of early October. This follows a slight fall in aquifer level over the dry months of late winter and early spring., While this provides confidence that water restrictions are unlikely this summer, matters outside our control such as management of the resource as well as use by others could impact this outlook.
<b>Rawson</b>	Erica, Rawson.	Trigger Creek	Unlikely	The outlook is limited to the coming summer only because this is a run-of-river system with minimal storage.	Based on historic performance and current streamflows, the chance of water restrictions this summer is deemed unlikely.
<b>Latrobe</b>	Morwell, Churchill, Yinnar, Boolarra, Traralgon South, Jeeralang Junction, Traralgon, Tyers, Glengarry, Rosedale, Toongabbie, Cowwarr, Willow Grove. Moe, Trafalgar, Yarragon, Darnum (north), Yallourn Nth, Thorpdale.	Moondarra Reservoir, Blue Rock Reservoir, Narracan Creek.	Unlikely	12 months	Current storage levels in the Latrobe system provide excellent supply security for the coming 12 months. The chance of water restrictions during the next year is deemed unlikely.

Water system	Towns supplied	Water source	Likelihood of restrictions	Timeframe (Water restriction outlook period)	Comments
<b>Mirboo North</b>	Mirboo North	Little Morwell River (north arm)	Unlikely	The outlook is limited to the coming summer only because this is a run-of-river system with minimal storage.	Based on historic performance and current streamflows, the chance of water restrictions this summer is deemed unlikely. While a reliable stream, supply could become restricted by a catchment water quality incident such as heavy soil runoff into the stream due to very heavy rain combined with upstream agricultural land use.
<b>Sale</b>	Sale	Boisdale Aquifer	Unlikely	12 months.	This resource is a deep, confined aquifer. While subject to long term decline, short term trends in aquifer levels are more strongly related to usage than climate and are reasonably predictable
<b>Seaspray</b>	Seaspray	Merriman Creek	Unlikely	The outlook is limited to the coming summer only because this is a run-of-river system.	<p>The raw water basin is currently full, providing at around 9 months supply. Algae outbreaks in the raw water basin could lead to water restrictions, but measures to address this have been implemented so the risk is deemed unlikely.</p> <p>While the raw water basin holds up to 30 ML, enough for up to nine months' supply, Merriman Creek sometimes completely stops during summer. Restriction rules are designed to maintain a reserve in the raw water basin.</p>



Water system	Towns supplied	Water source	Likelihood of restrictions	Timeframe (Water restriction outlook period)	Comments
<b>Tarago</b>	Buln Buln, Darnum (south), Drouin, Neerim South, Nilma, Noojee Rokeby, Warragul.	Tarago River, Tarago Reservoir	Unlikely	12 Months	We are placed in a very good position with our allocation from the Greater Yarra - Thomson River Pool of over 2.5 GL. The chance of water restrictions for the remainder of the current financial year is therefore unlikely.
<b>Thomson Macalister</b>	Boisdale, Coongulla, Glenmaggie, Heyfield, Maffra, Stratford.	Thomson River, Macalister River,	Unlikely	12 Months	We have received our full allocation for this system for the 2024-25 financial year. With a full allocation, the chance of water restrictions for the remainder of the current financial year is deemed unlikely.

Disclaimer: While we have considered relevant climate forecasts and taken care in presenting the information in this Annual Water Outlook, we cannot and do not guarantee any forecast outcome or event. There are many factors that could deliver a different outcome and many are beyond our control. Examples include fires and floods that lead to dirty water sources that are untreatable or that can only be treated at reduced rates, requiring water restrictions.

It is always possible that a drought could occur that is worse than any on the historic record. For instance, the 2017-19 east Gippsland drought that affected the northeast of our region including the Briagolong supply system five years ago, was 13% drier at the Giffard rain gauge than any previous lowest rainfall three-year period in over a century.

We undertook modelling in the preparation of our 2022 Urban Water Strategy to determine the resilience of our systems to extreme drought, using a method that creates a test drought event worse than experienced. The results showed that none of our systems failed to meet demand during this test drought under stage four restrictions, meaning all systems were shown to be sufficiently robust to meet critical human needs.

Furthermore, modelling we undertook during the development of the 2022 Urban Water Strategy showed all our systems to be highly resilient to a repeat of the Millennium Drought (1997-2009), with only minimal water restrictions necessary to balance supply and demand.

# Our Regional Climate

## 2024 Rainfall, Streamflows and Soil Moisture:

Rainfall in our region in the 12-month period up to the end of October 2024 has been variable. Figure 2 shows the 12-month rainfall percentages to the end of October 2024 indicating relative deviation from the average across the region. Rainfall was mostly between 80 to 100 percent of mean historical rainfall.

Figure 3 provides twelve monthly rainfall decile values for Victoria and our region to the end of October 2024. The decile value is used to give an indication of the ranking of this year's observations over the long-term period of record. Figure 3 shows that for the past 12 months, rainfall was generally average across most of the region to above average in eastern parts of our region.

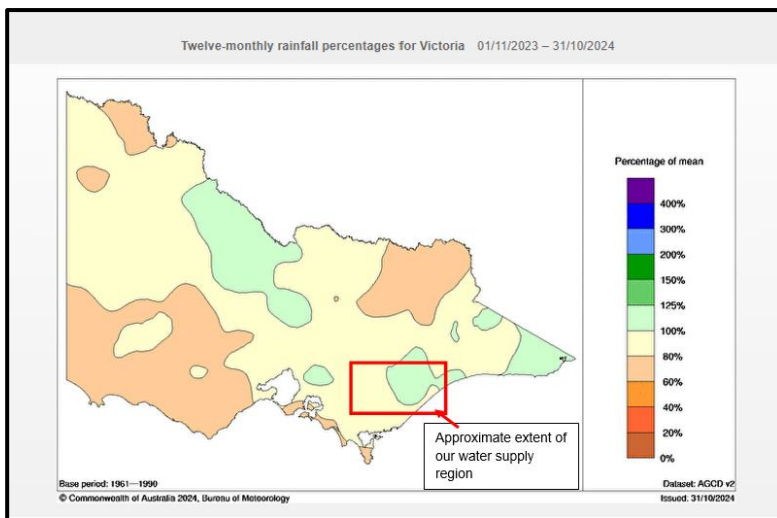


Figure 2. Twelve monthly rainfall percentages for Victoria to end of October 2024 showing the Gippsland Water supply approximate region

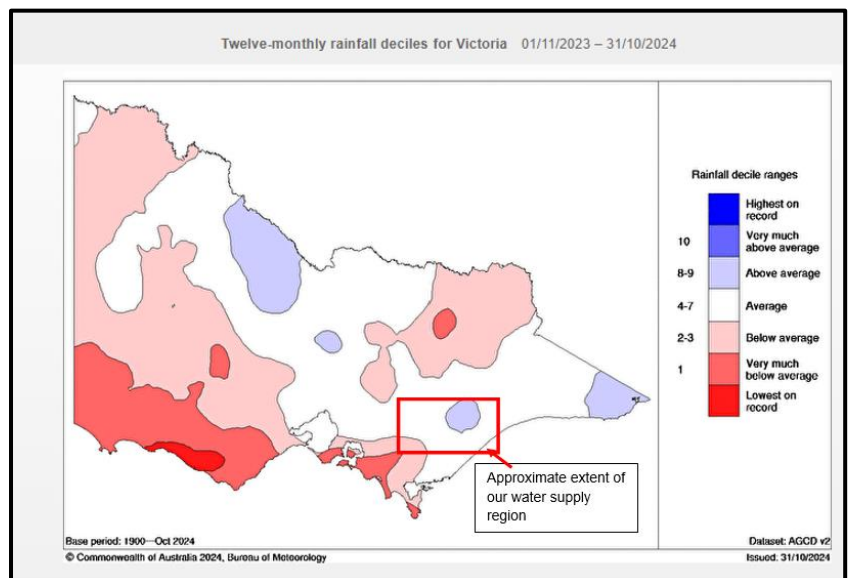


Figure 3. Twelve monthly rainfall deciles for Victoria to end of October 2024 showing the Gippsland Water supply approximate region.

Figure 4 below shows year to date rainfall in our main catchment, the Baw Baw plateau, compared to a wet year, a dry year and an average across the past 19-year period. Rainfall across the earlier half of the year to June was average with above average rainfalls in July and September and returning to average for October.

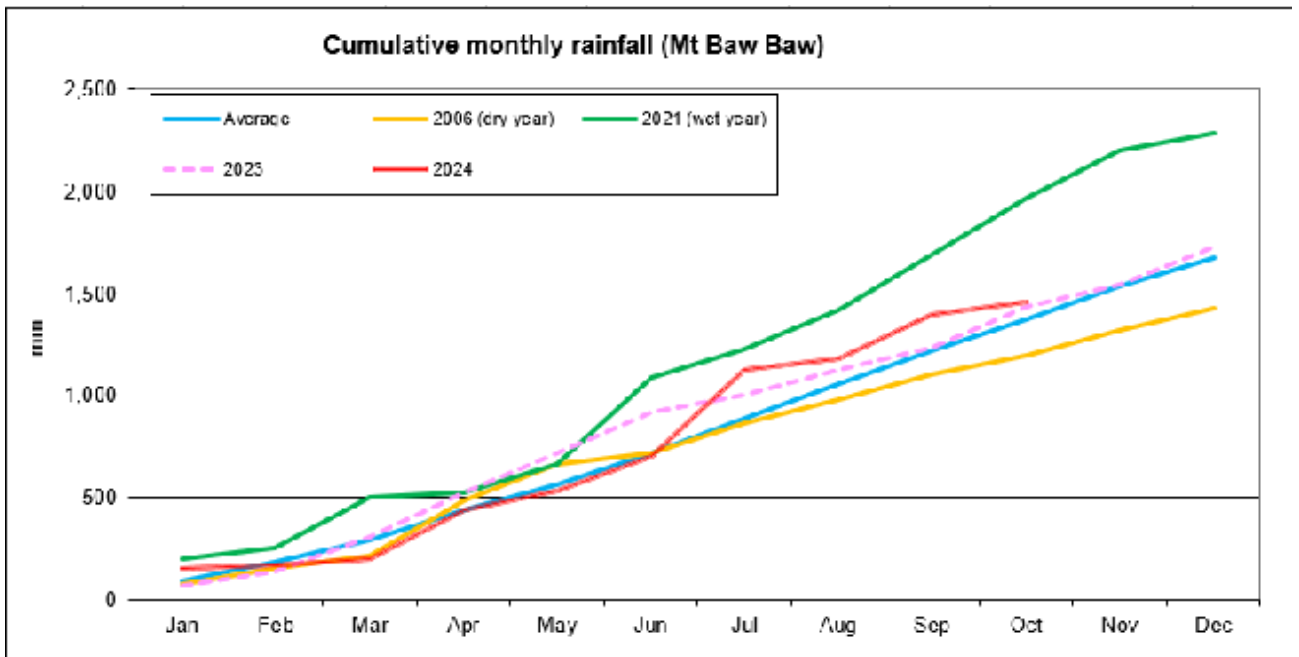


Figure 4. Cumulative rainfall to date at Mt Baw Baw Bureau of Meteorology weather station with comparison to the average rainfall, wet year, dry year and compared to rainfall across the previous year 2023.

Figure 5 shows lower (deeper) soil moisture levels (at 10cm to 1m depth), relative to long term average percentiles for November 2024. Soil moisture percentages represent the relative available water capacity of the lower soil layer and is an important parameter in the hydrological cycle driving factors such as runoff, plant growth and groundwater storage.

We see that even though rainfall has been average across our region, catchments are at average to below average lower layer soil moisture with very small, isolated patches in the region very much below average.

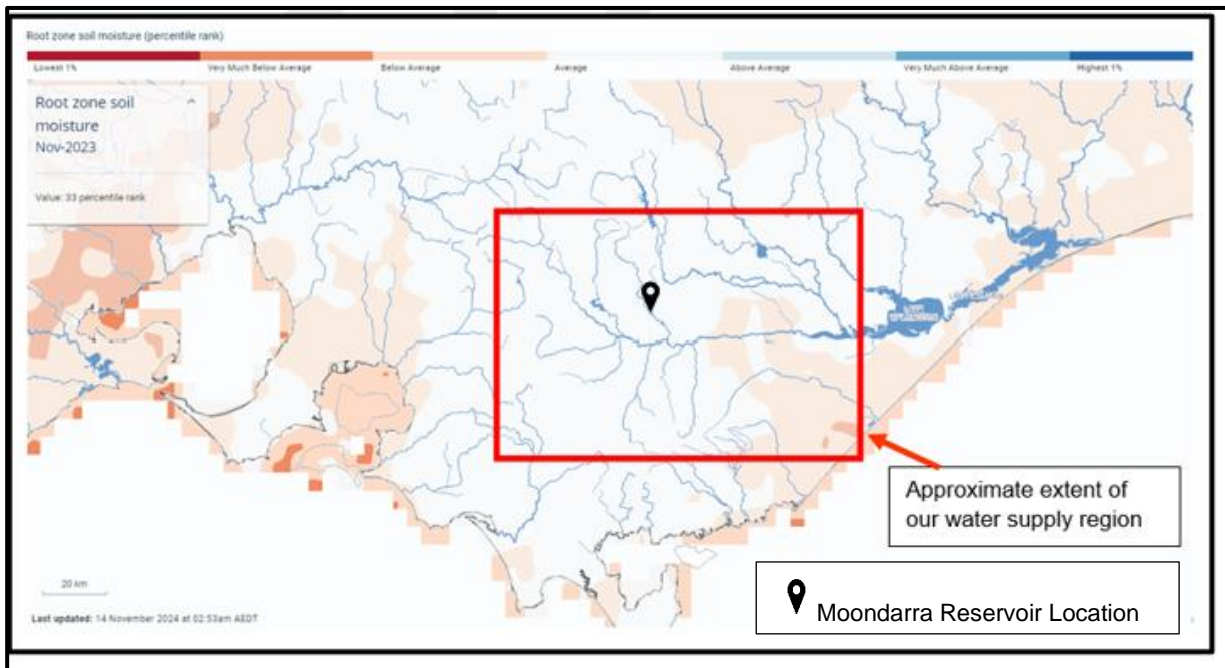


Figure 5. Lower layer soil moisture (10 cm -100 cm) in the Gippsland Water region November 2024

Average soil moisture and below average dampness leads to much of the rainfall being taken up by soil and tree roots. The timing of rainfall is also important in ensuring catchments are kept damp during the “cool season” months when evaporation is lower, so that a greater proportion of rainfall converts to runoff during the typical reservoir fill times.

# Our Regional Climate - Outlook

## Summary Climate Outlook for our Region

The outlook for the few months ahead indicates a slightly increased likelihood of above median to average rainfall during summer, with temperatures above the median maximum and median minimum. Although the chance of exceptionally dry conditions is not forecast for our region, we are currently experiencing average or below average lower layer soil moisture across most of the region as indicated previously in figure 5. This may reduce runoff into streams, and we're therefore expecting streamflows through summer to be average to lower than average compared to the long-term historic average. However, there is still sufficient streamflow to meet consumptive needs with restrictions unlikely.

## Rainfall Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a 60 to 65 percent chance of exceeding median rainfall for our region across the coming summer months. Figure 6 provides a forecast map across the summer months showing a 60 percent chance of rainfall exceeding the median historical value. Figure 7 provides a forecast map for the outlook period of late summer to early Autumn also predicting a 60 to 65 percent chance of above median rainfall compared to historical values.

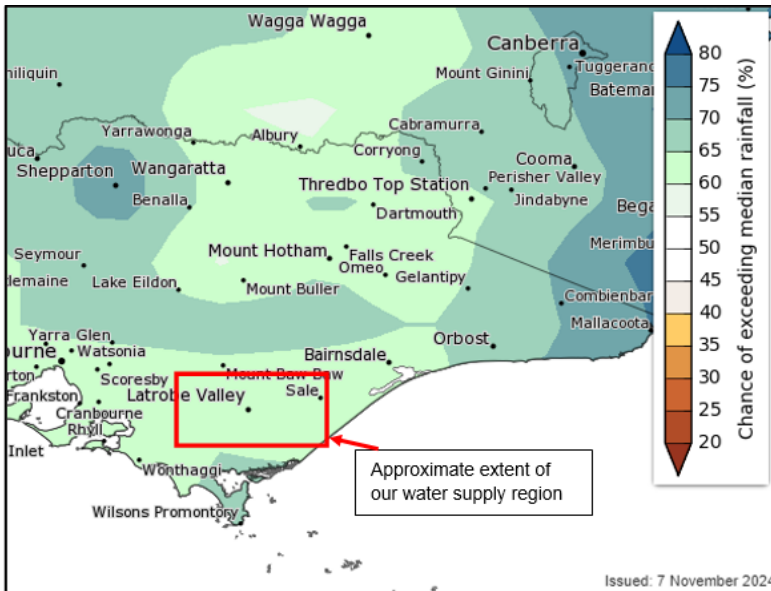


Figure 6 Chance of above median rainfall December to February (issued 7 November 2024)

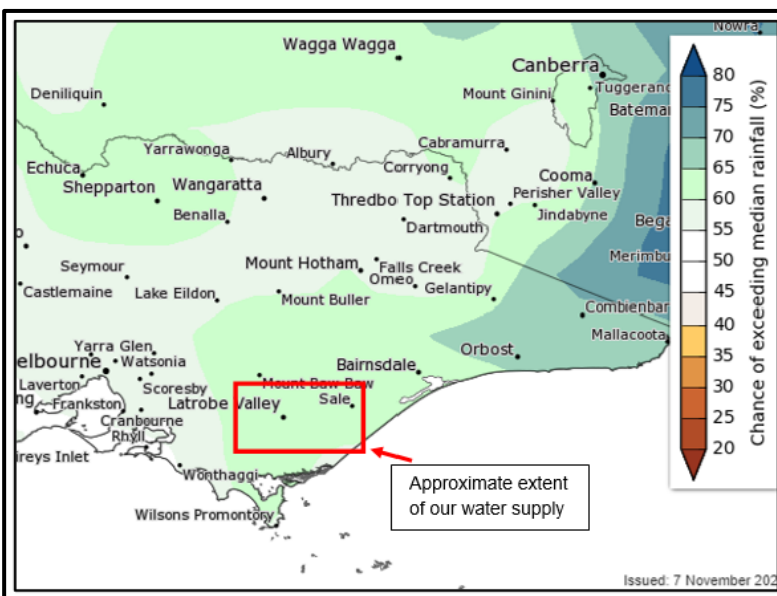


Figure 7 Chance of above median rainfall January to March (issued 7 November 2024)



## Temperature Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology outlook for temperature shows an increased chance of unusually warm days and nights.

The forecast map in Figure 8 indicates that across the summer months of December to February there is a 70-75 percent chance of exceeding median maximum temperatures with very similar percentage forecast numbers for the late summer and early autumn period of January to March represented in Figure 9.

Temperature outlooks can guide expectations for water demand as outside garden watering use is impacted by weather.

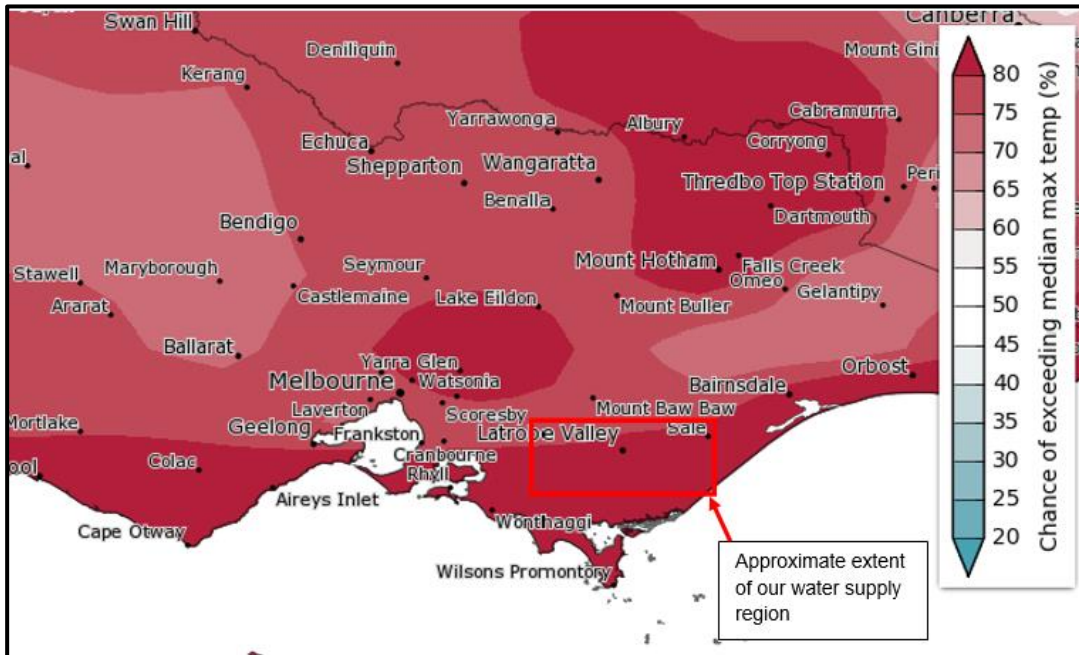


Figure 8 Chance of above median maximum temperatures December to February (issued 7 November 2024)

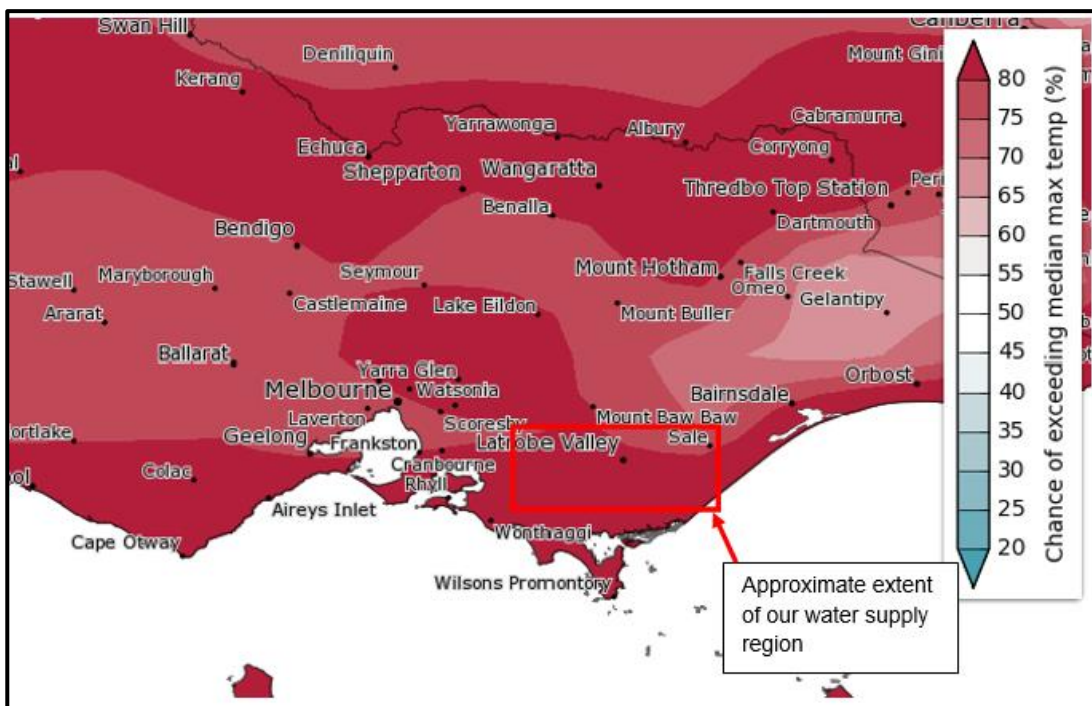


Figure 9. Chance of above median maximum temperatures January to March (issued 7 November 2024)

## Streamflow Outlooks

The following two charts show the Bureau of Meteorology’s outlook forecast for streamflows of two major rivers in our region.

Figure 10 presents forecast terciles for streamflows for November 2024 to January 2025 for the Latrobe River at Willow Grove. While not a source of water for our systems, we believe the Latrobe River outlook to be indicative of likely streamflows in other nearby catchments upon which we rely. This is because some of these other catchments are in relatively close proximity to the Latrobe catchment.

Figure 11 shows the forecast terciles for the Tanjil River at Tanjil River Junction. The Tanjil River is the source of water for Blue Rock Reservoir.

Both outlooks forecast a likelihood of near median to low stream flows to the end of January.

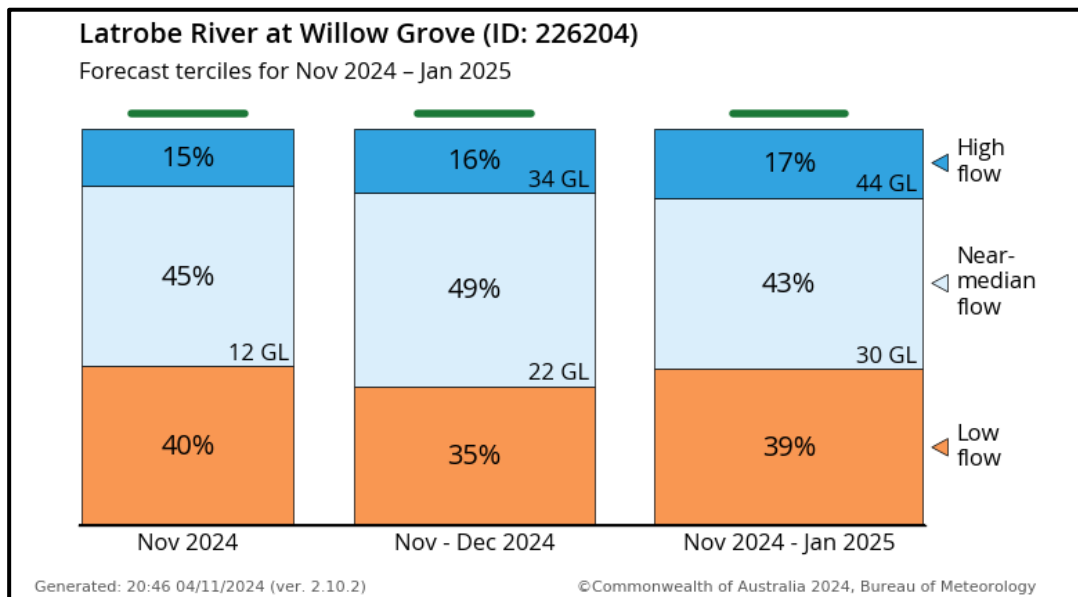


Figure 10. Latrobe River at Willow Grove forecast terciles for November 2024 to January 2025.

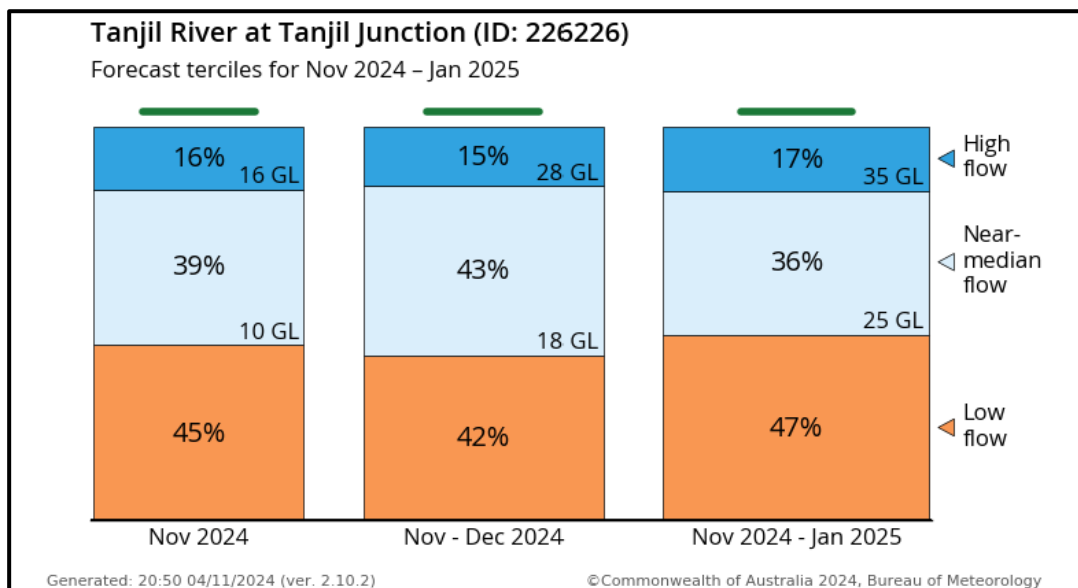


Figure 11. Tanjil River at Tanjil Junction forecast terciles for November 2024 to January 2025.



## El Niño Southern Oscillation Outlook

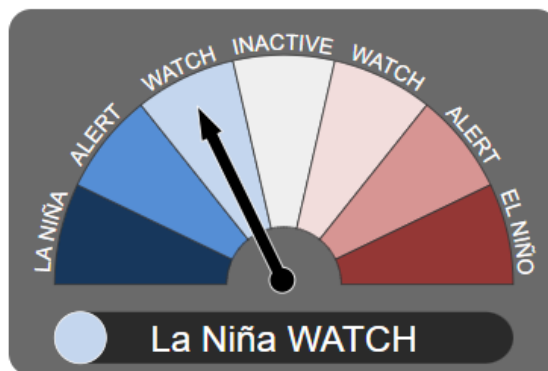
Summary of ENSO Outlook October 2024

Source: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/outlook>

Climate in our region is influenced by several cyclical weather patterns, in particular the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and the Southern Annular Mode (SAM). All of these have phases that contribute to wetter or drier conditions for our region, and their impact also depends on the time of year.

The Bureau of Meteorology ENSO Outlook is at La Niña Watch, meaning there are some signs that a La Niña may form in the Pacific Ocean later in 2024. A La Niña Watch does not guarantee that a La Niña will develop and the chance of it developing are decreasing compared to earlier outlooks in early October. Three of the six international climate models suggest the possibility that sea surface temperatures in the Pacific will exceed the La Niña threshold with the other three models forecasting sea surface temperatures to fall just short of the threshold.

The Bureau of Meteorology however suggest that should La Niña form in the coming months, it is forecast to be relatively weak and short-lived.



The Bureau of Meteorology's model also suggest that Sea Surface Temperatures are likely to remain within the ENSO-neutral range throughout early summer to February 2025. The Indian Ocean Dipole is currently neutral and most models show that this will likely remain neutral for the rest of the year. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is also forecast to return to neutral levels. These neutral conditions generally indicate a stable weather pattern with no significant shifts expected in the upcoming forecast period.

It is important to also note that climate change is influencing our climate, with average warming across Australia of around 1.4 C since 1910. Furthermore, southern Australia has seen a 10–20 percent reduction in cool season (April–October) rainfall in recent decades.

## Victorian climate and streamflow in the longer-term context

(sourced from DEECA Hydrology and Climate Science Team)

Victoria's climate and streamflow is highly variable, but within this variability we have experienced a warming and drying trend over recent decades. Over recent decades we have experienced trends toward:

- higher temperatures and more hot days.
- reductions in rainfall during the cooler months.
- in some locations, increases in extreme, short-duration rainfall events; and
- in some catchments, particularly in western Victoria, a shift in the streamflow response to rainfall with typically less streamflow generated for a given amount of rain.

Some of the rainfall declines in the cooler months can be attributed to increases in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. During the cooler months, we have been getting less rainfall from low-pressure and frontal systems.

Over future decades we can expect:

- the rainfall reductions during the cooler months to persist.
- increases in extreme rainfall events.
- increases in potential evapotranspiration due to higher temperature and lower relative humidity.
- reductions in streamflow because of less rainfall and higher potential evapotranspiration; and
- the streamflow response to rainfall to no longer remain the same, and generally decline.

Victoria's climate will continue to be variable with wet years and dry years, against a background drying trend. With a warmer future and projections of declining water availability, we can expect more frequent and severe droughts in coming decades and increases in extreme rainfall events.

The Victorian Government is investing in further research to better understand how Victoria's climate is changing and the water resource implications, through the Victorian Water and Climate Initiative. More information on the observed changes and longer-term future climate and water projections can be found at: <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/our-programs/climate-change-and-victorias-water-sector/hydrology-and-climate-science-research/victorian-water-and-climate-initiative>

# Water Security Context

## Water Resource Overview and Outlook Summary

This Annual Water Outlook (AWO) fulfils two primary purposes:

- Report on actions set out in our [Urban Water Strategy \(UWS\)](#)
- Provide an outlook of the water supply situation for the year ahead, with a focus on the forthcoming summer and the likelihood of water restrictions.

Our UWS contains comprehensive descriptions of each of our water supply systems as a public record. It was published in September 2022 following the public release of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Central (DEECA) and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy.

The UWS is our principal water resources planning tool which undergoes a major review every five years. In this review, we look at climate and population data for each of our water supply systems and in turn look at actions that may be required to maintain sufficient levels of service for the community.

As well as looking at all our water systems for the present, the UWS looks at long term 50-year supply–demand outlook. It also looks at short-term drought vulnerability risks. If we identify that a system may be at risk of water supply falling short of demand in the next 50-year period, we estimate the extent and possible timing of the shortfall. This then leads us to an action plan to maintain an acceptable supply–demand level of service.

The UWS is prepared at a point in time, using the best available knowledge at that time and we acknowledge that new, better information will be forthcoming in the future and we need to be adaptable in our planning. The last section of this AWO will report on all the actions set out in our UWS.

The AWO also provides an outlook of the water supply (water security) situation for the year ahead applicable to each water supply system, with a focus on the forthcoming summer and the likelihood of water restrictions being necessary.

While water restrictions are considered unlikely this summer, permanent water saving rules apply as always. Information on these rules, and advice on how to save water, can be found at <https://www.gippswater.com.au/reduceyouruse>

The modelling we undertook during the development of the 2022 UWS showed all our systems to be highly resilient to a repeat of the Millennium Drought (1997-2009), with only minimal water restrictions necessary to balance supply and demand. We have also undertaken many augmentations to our water supplies over the past decade to minimise risk to our water supply systems which include:

- Connecting Boolarra to the Latrobe system.
- Constructing a 30 ML water storage for Seaspray.
- Purchasing an increased share of Blue Rock Reservoir.
- Permanent carting of potable water to Thorpdale.
- Moe to Warragul Interconnect.
- Connection of Coongulla to Heyfield.
- Purchase of a bulk entitlement in the Greater Yarra System – Thomson River pool for Warragul and Drouin
- Currently in the process of drilling a deep water bore for Briagolong water supply augmentation.

## Other risks to water supply

In addition to supply shortages and higher than expected demand, a range of other factors can impact upon our ability to meet the target supply–demand level of service. Water quality incidents such as the floods of 2007 that followed the 2006-07 Summer Great Divide Fires, can lead to the inability to treat water to a potable standard, or at least a reduction in the rate of treatment and the ability to meet demand. Also, Blue Green Algae outbreaks in storages can impact upon water treatment and supply reliability. Therefore, even our supply systems that are secure from a water quantity perspective are not guaranteed to be immune from restrictions.

The next section of Water Systems Overview covers each of our water supply systems and the water resource outlook pertaining to each system.

Please note the disclaimer that while we have considered relevant climate forecasts and taken care in presenting the information in this Annual Water Outlook, we cannot and do not guarantee any forecast outcome or event. There are many factors that could deliver a different outcome, and many are beyond our control. Examples include fires and floods that lead to dirty water sources that are untreatable or that can only be treated at reduced rates, requiring water restrictions.

It is always possible that a drought could occur that is worse than any on the historic record. For instance, the 2017-19 east Gippsland drought that affected the northeast of our region including the Briagolong supply system five years ago, was 13% drier at the Giffard rain gauge than the previous lowest rainfall three-year period in over a century. We undertook modelling in the preparation of our 2022 UWS to determine the resilience of our systems to extreme drought, using a method that creates a test drought event worse than experienced. The results showed that none of our systems failed to meet demand during this test drought under stage four restrictions, meaning all systems were shown to be sufficiently robust to meet critical human needs.

# Water Systems Overview

## Briagolong Water Supply System and Outlook



Briagolong is in the most northeastern end of our service area and sources its water from two bores in the Wa De Lock aquifer. From these bores, water is pumped to the Briagolong water treatment plant.

### Briagolong Outlook period

While the Wa De Lock Aquifer is a groundwater system, the aquifer is shallow and unconfined. It is also connected to the Freestone Creek. This source is also used for irrigation by others. While the source has a history of reliability, the short-term volatility in draw down and recharge, and the potential uncertainty of use by others, means the outlook is limited to the coming summer only.

Water source	No. of connections (June 2024)		Major customers	Alternative water source	Current supply position	Current consumption comments
	Residential	Non-residential				
Wa De Lock Aquifer.	326	22	None	Deeper groundwater resource being developed.	Aquifer level is in an excellent position for this summer period and well above restriction levels.	As expected but may increase with hot outlook.

### Augmentation / Alternative water sources:

In the years 2016 through to 2019, East Gippsland experienced significant drought and historically low levels in the Wa De Lock aquifer. During this time, water restrictions were introduced to the town for a brief period. An action to secure water into the future for Briagolong is to construct a new bore into a deeper aquifer. This is currently underway, and a production bore is planned to be drilled by the end of 2024 at the Briagolong water treatment plant with upgrades to the plant due shortly thereafter. This will secure the water supply for Briagolong into the future.

For further information on our long term water supply system outlook please see our outlook section in our [Urban Water Strategy 2022 interactive map](#) as well as our Drought Preparedness Plan as part of our [Urban Water Strategy \(UWS\)](#).

## Consumption and Demand Forecasts

Figure 12 below shows historic consumption and provides demand forecasts for the Briagolong system with raw water consumption for the past three years from 2021-22 to date overlaid as red dot points on the graph.

Consumption is compared each year to ensure action can be taken to manage any evolving trends that differ from the water demand forecasts.

Demand for the Briagolong system was slightly higher than the previous two years due to lower rainfall compared to the previous years of 2021-22 and 2022-23. Demand this year was still significantly lower than the water demand forecast indicating that we are in a comfortable, water resource position with minimal risk of water restrictions.

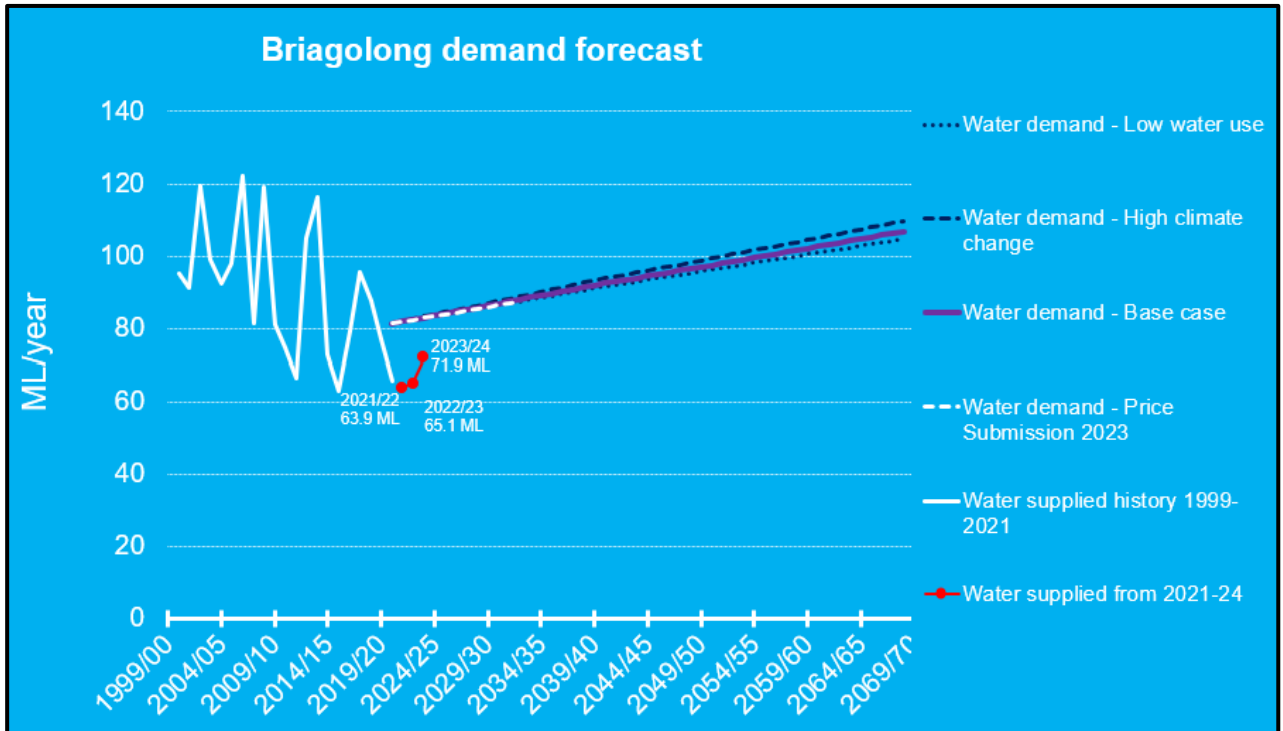


Figure 12: Briagolong Demand Forecast Chart



## Rawson Water Supply System and Outlook



Rawson water supply system includes water supply to the townships of Rawson and Erica located in the foothills of Mount Baw Baw at the most northern end of our service area. The water is sourced from a weir on Trigger Creek, a tributary of the East Tyers River. An on-stream weir diverts a portion to the creek flow via a pipeline to a 60 ML storage basin adjacent to the Rawson water treatment plant. The storage basin adds resilience to the system by providing a few weeks of raw water supply.

### Rawson Outlook period

While Trigger Creek is historically a reliable source, a long-term outlook is not possible because this is a run-of-river system with minimal storage. The outlook is therefore limited to the coming summer only.

Water source	No. of connections (June 2024)		Major customers	Alternative water source	Current supply position	Current consumption comments
	Residential	Non-residential				
Trigger Creek	304	44	None	Water carting for short term emergency supplies	Stream flows adequate.	As expected, but may increase with hot outlook.

### Augmentation / Alternative water sources

The impact of climate change on this water source is forecast to result in stream flow reductions under medium and high climate change scenario. The Erica-Rawson system is forecast to experience a significant yield surplus for the next 50 years and we are not planning any actions.

For further information on our long term water supply system outlook please see our outlook section in our [Urban Water Strategy 2022 interactive map](#) as well as our Drought Preparedness Plan as part of our [Urban Water Strategy \(UWS\)](#).

## Consumption and Demand Forecasts

Figure 13 below shows historic consumption and shows demand forecasts for the Erica Rawson system with raw water consumption for the past three years from 2021-22 to date overlaid as red dot points on the graph.

Consumption is compared each year to ensure action can be taken to manage any evolving trends that differ from the water demand forecasts.

Demand for the 2023-2024 period was higher than forecast. Reasons for this are to be investigated but there were significant flushing events of the reticulated system that occurred during the year as part of our water quality maintenance program.

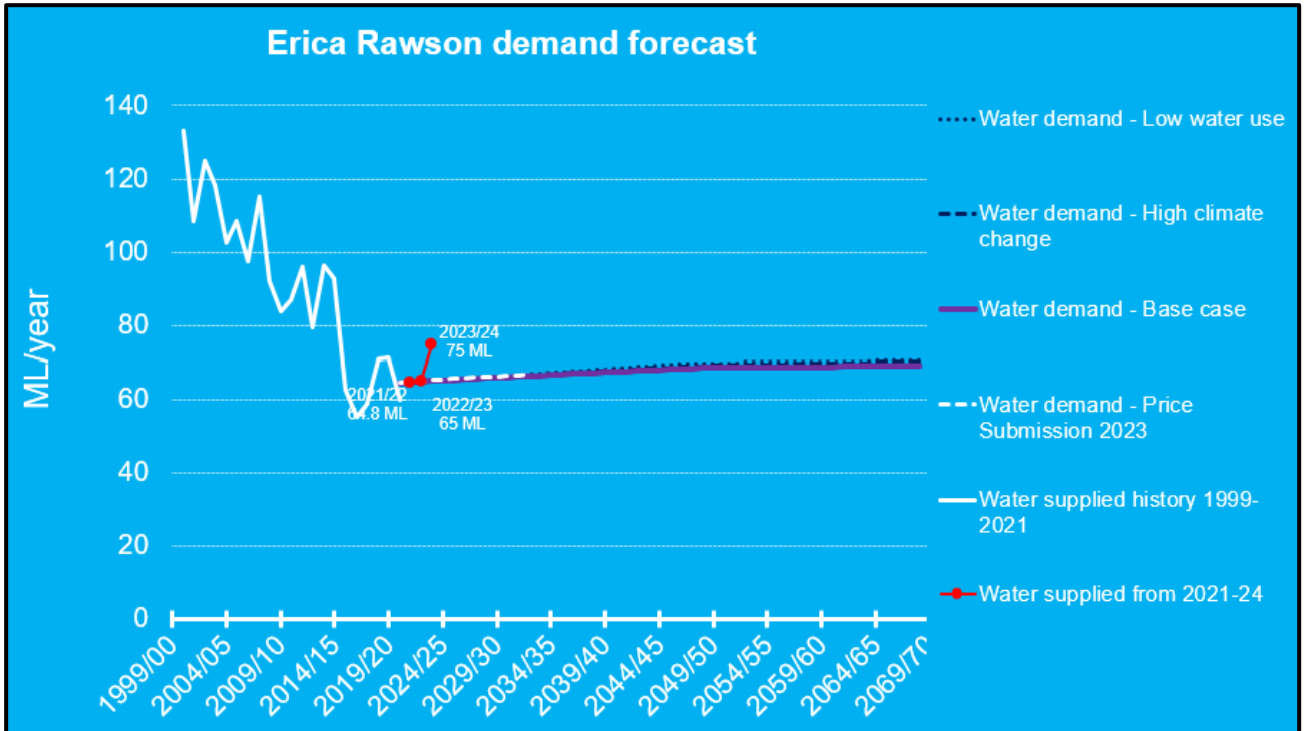
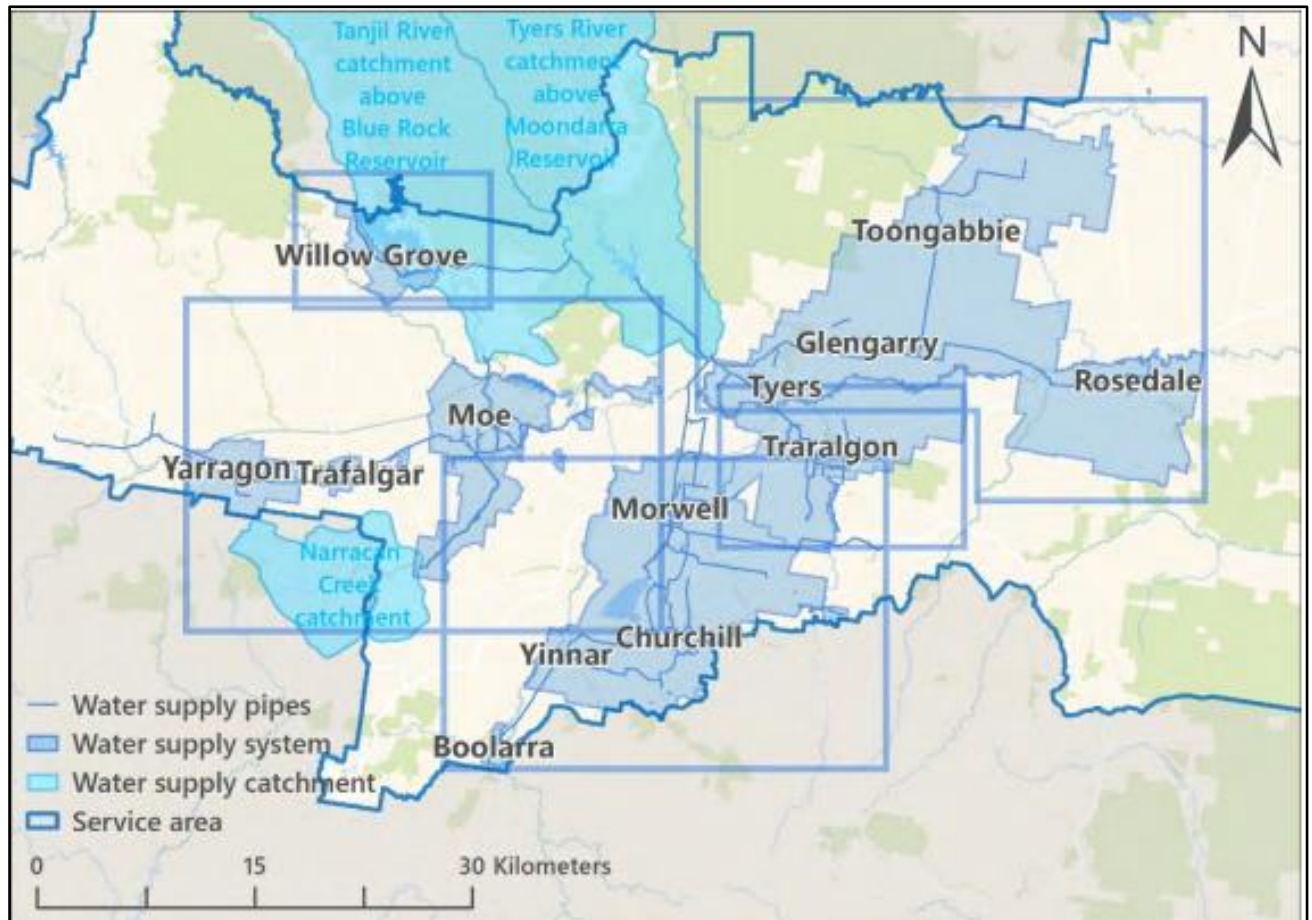


Figure 13: Erica Rawson Demand Forecast Chart

## Latrobe Water Supply System and Outlook



The Latrobe system is a very large and complex system and the major source of catchment run-off for central Gippsland. We operate five water treatment plants within the Latrobe system - Moe, Morwell, Traralgon, Willow Grove and Tyers.

We hold three bulk entitlements for the Latrobe system which include an entitlement within the Moondarra Reservoir located on the Tyers River; a share of Blue Rock Reservoir on the Tanjil River and an entitlement from Narracan Creek.

The Latrobe system's water is normally sourced from four offtakes which are:

1. Moondarra Reservoir,
2. Tanjil River pumping station,
3. Narracan Creek Weir and
4. Blue Rock Reservoir.

The Latrobe system supplies the township of Yarragon, Trafalgar, Willow Grove, Moe, Yallourn North, Morwell, Yinnar, Boolarra, Churchill, Hazelwood North, Traralgon, Traralgon South, Tyers, Glengarry, Rosedale, Toongabbie, Cowwarr, Darnum and Thorpdale.

### Latrobe Outlook Period:

The large storage volume of Moondarra provides reliable minimum streamflows, and typically predictable demand from a major industry dominated customer base, means this system lends itself to a 12-month outlook. A storage forecast chart for the next 12 months under a range of climate scenarios is provided in Figure 14.

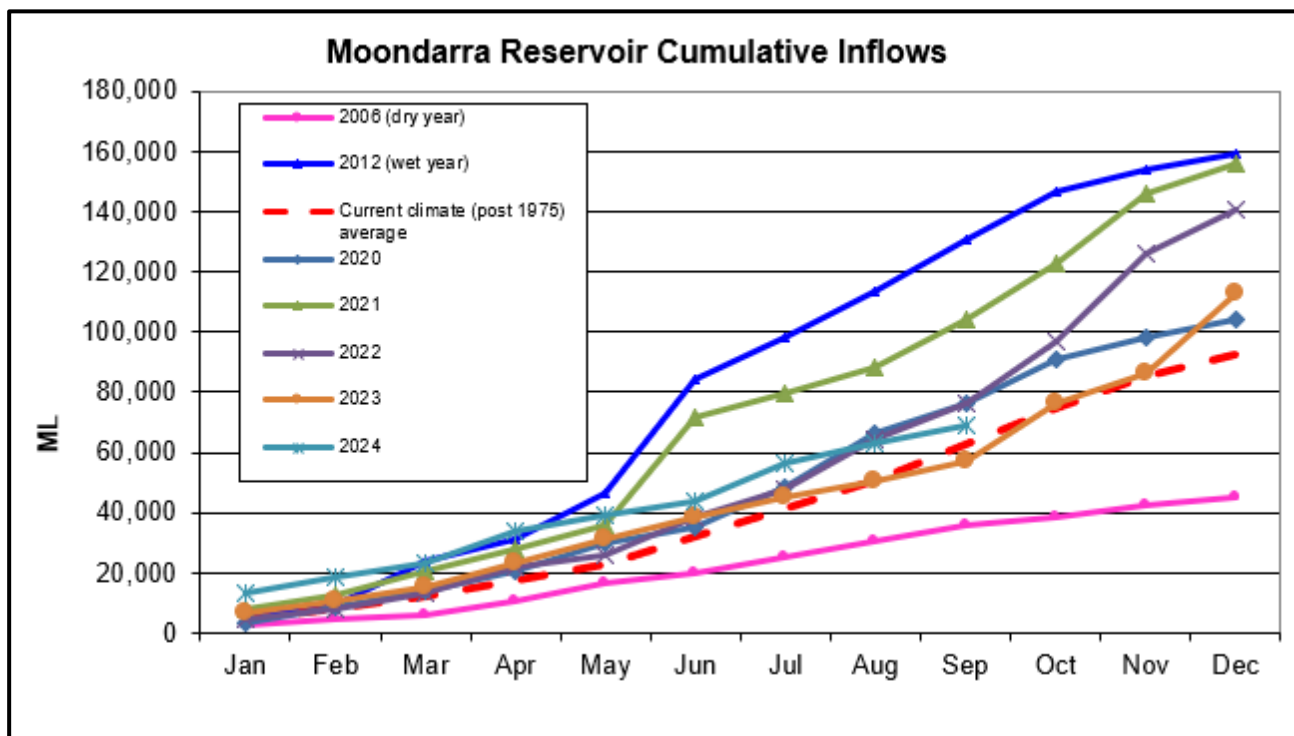


Figure 14. Moondarra Reservoir cumulative inflows across dry year, wet year, current climate average and the past 5 years

Water source	No. of connections (June 2024)		Major customers	Alternative water source	Current supply position	Current consumption comments
	Residential	Non-residential				
Moondarra Reservoir, Blue Rock Reservoir, Narracan Creek	38,998	3,405	AGL Loy Yang A, Alinta Loy Yang B, Australian Char, Bega, Energy Aust. Yallourn W, Engie Hazelwood mine, Fonterra, IXOM, Jelfor Timber, Latrobe Regional Hospital, Omnia, Opal Aust. Paper.	Blue Rock Drought Reserve	Storages at 100%.	From November 2021 demand has increased to supply Hazelwood mine fire protection system. This has been partially offset by reduced demand by Australian Paper.

### Augmentation / Alternative water sources

The Latrobe system currently has a yield surplus under all climate scenarios with only the high climate change scenario anticipated to present supply reliability challenges into the future. For further information on the 50 year long term water supply system outlook please see our outlook section in our [Urban Water Strategy 2022 interactive map](#).

The Blue Rock Reservoir share is used to supplement Moondarra Reservoir in dry periods, to supply Moe during periods when water availability in Narracan Creek is insufficient or water quality is untreatable, and as the sole source of supply for Willow Grove.

Additional information can also be found in our [Urban Water Strategy 2022](#).

## Consumption and Demand Forecasts

Figure 15 below shows historic consumption and provides demand forecasts for the Latrobe water supply system with raw water consumptions for the past three years from 2021-22 to date overlaid as red dot points.

Consumption is compared each year to ensure action can be taken to manage any evolving trends that differ from the water demand forecasts.

Demand decreased during this 2023-24 period because of reduced demand from Australian Paper. In contrast, the increase in demand seen across the 2021-2022/23 period compared with the four years that immediately followed the closure of Hazelwood power station in 2017 is due to supply recommencing to the Hazelwood site in November 2021 to meet the mine operator's obligations in protecting the mine from the risk of fire. Note that this supply is not part of the base demand forecast.

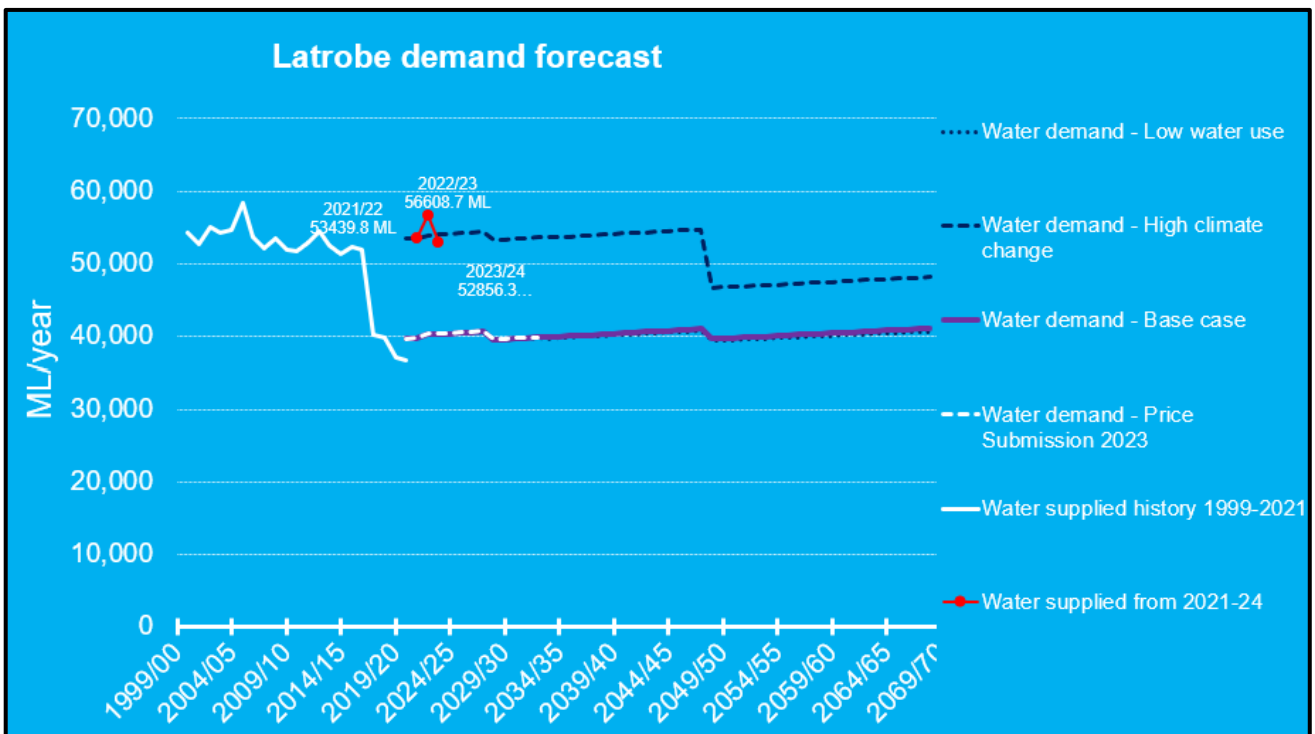


Figure 15: Latrobe Demand Forecast Chart

Figure 16 shows a chart that has a 12-month outlook in megalitres of the combined water holdings in Moondarra Reservoir and our share of Blue Rock Reservoir under five scenarios starting from the current storage level of 100%. The scenarios present three differing outlooks for reservoir inflows:

1. Post 1975 average, nominated by the Victorian Water and Climate Initiative as the 'current climate'.
2. Post 1997 average, recognising that Victoria's climate took a 'step change' in 1997, the commencement of the Millennium Drought, and that some climatic characteristics of this change persist despite several wetter periods; and
3. Worst year on record.

The outlook scenarios adopt typical demand levels that would be anticipated with the weather conditions likely under each inflow scenario, e.g. in a drier year, inflows decrease but demand would increase with less rain leading to more garden watering.

Hazelwood mine continues drawing significant flows of water from the Latrobe system and includes estimates of the drawdown on the storage that could result from this use under two scenarios of reservoir inflows at the average since 1975 and 1997.



We have not applied this demand to the worst on record inflow scenario because in this condition we may consider ceasing or reducing supply to the mine as it is not a guaranteed supply and restricting supply to the mine to protect reservoir levels for residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Also, the outlook presented in the preceding sections suggests a low chance of such low inflows occurring this summer.

Australian Paper also continues with a reduction in its demand after the closure of its white copy paper production in December 2022. This has resulted in a reduction in water use of about 35 percent. This reduction has not been included in the outlooks in the chart below and in the short term will serve to reduce the drawdown due to mine supply. Longer term the water needs of Australian Paper remain uncertain with a range of projects being considered at the site.

The chart in Figure 16 also shows a significant buffer between both the ‘worst on record’ streamflow and ‘maximum Hazelwood mine fire protection’ demand drawdowns compared with the stage one restriction review point.

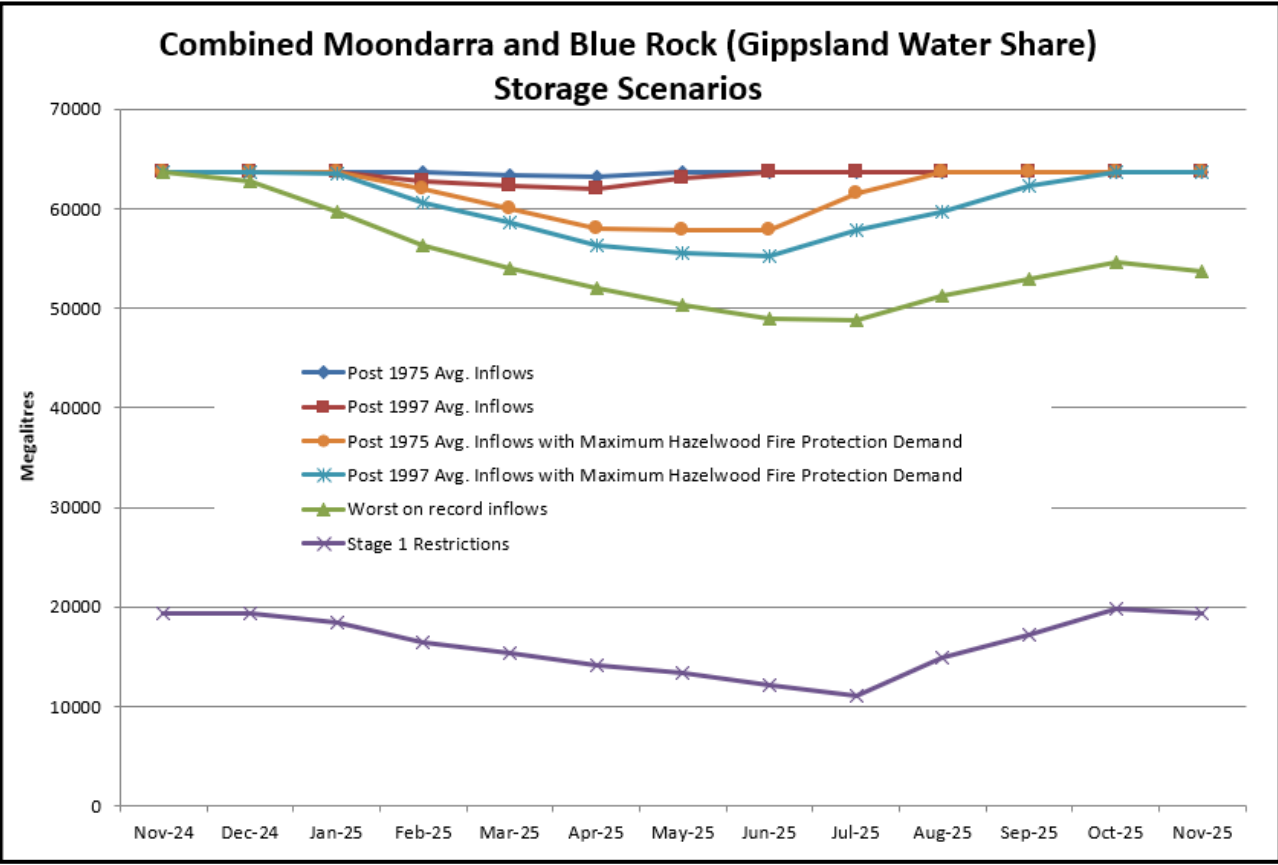
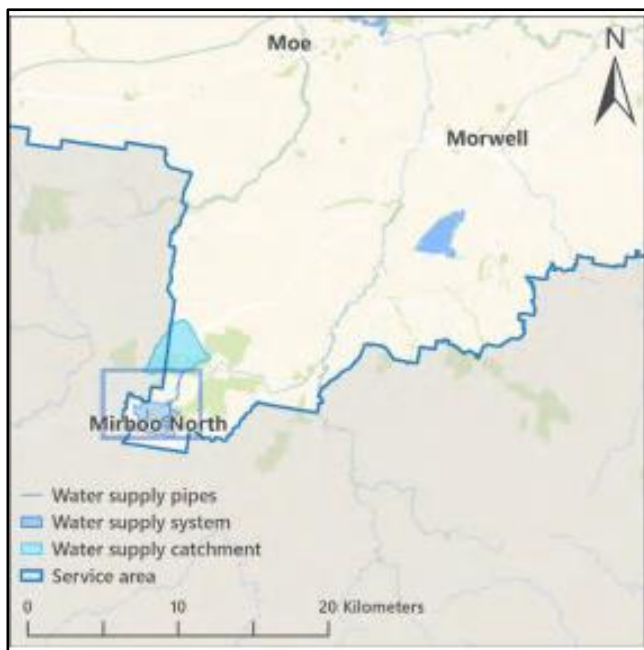


Figure 16. 12-month outlook in megalitres of the combined water holdings in Moondarra Reservoir and Gippsland Water’s share of Blue Rock Reservoir



## Mirboo North Water Supply System and Outlook



Mirboo North is located on top of the Strzelecki Ranges. Water for the town is sourced from a weir on the north branch of the Little Morwell River which converts a portion of the streamflow via a pumping station and pipeline to the Mirboo North water treatment plant.

### Mirboo North Outlook Period:

While the Little Morwell River (north arm) is historically a reliable source, a long-term outlook is not possible because this is a run-of-river system with minimal storage. The outlook is therefore limited to the coming summer only.

Water source	No. of connections (June 2024)		Major customers	Alternative water source	Current supply position	Current consumption comments
	Residential	Non-residential				
Little Morwell River (north arm)	758	86	None	Water carting for short term emergency supplies	Stream flows adequate.	As expected, but may increase with hot outlook.

### Augmentation / Alternative water sources

This is a run-of-river system with no significant drought buffering capacity. Despite this, being spring fed, this system has a history of having no issues during periods of drought. Water can be carted to a system with demand of this size if the need arose.

For further information on our long term water supply system outlook please see our outlook section in our [Urban Water Strategy 2022 interactive map](#) as well as our Drought Preparedness Plan as part of our [Urban Water Strategy 2022](#).

## Consumption and Demand Forecasts

Figure 17 shows historic consumption and provides demand forecasts for the Mirboo North water supply system with raw water consumptions for the past three years from 2021-22 to date overlaid as red dot points.

Consumption is compared each year to ensure action can be taken to manage any evolving trends that differ from the water demand forecasts.

Demand is lower than forecast with good rainfall and cooler conditions likely to have reduced outdoor water use.

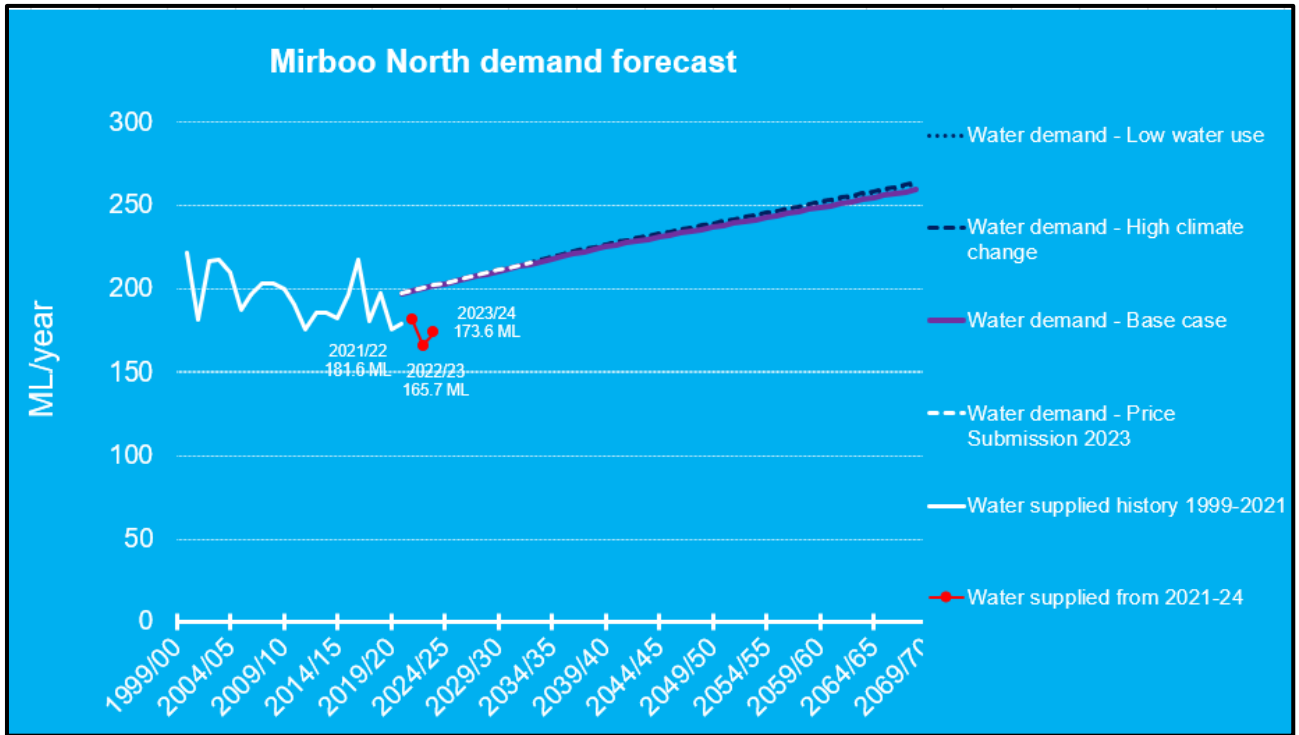


Figure 17: Mirboo North Demand Forecast Chart

## Sale Water Supply System and Outlook



The town of Sale sources its water from four bores in the Boisdale aquifer located on the west side of Sale. Raw water from the bores is pumped to the Sale water treatment plant for treatment. The Sale water supply system supplies townships of Sale and Wurruk.

### Sale Outlook Period:

Although the Boisdale Aquifer is a state of long-term decline, this aquifer is relatively deep and is confined. The aquifer behaves fairly predictably with annual drawdown from urban and irrigation use, followed by a recharge that returns the aquifer to a level usually (except for particularly wet years) slightly below the previous year's peak level. For short term outlook purposes, this resource allows a 12-month outlook with good confidence.

Water source	No. of connections (June 2024)		Major customers	Alternative water source	Current supply position	Current consumption comments
	Residential	Non-residential				
Boisdale Aquifer	7,502	889	Sale Hospital, RAAF Base, Livestock Exchange, Fulham Correctional Centre.	None	Secure aquifer	As expected, but may increase with hot outlook.

### Augmentation / Alternative water sources:

Our outlook for Sale shows that our current groundwater licence conditions provide ample water to meet forecast demand over the coming 50 years. As the licence holder, and with the current extent of information available from the regulators of the groundwater resource, DEECA and SRW, we are not able to provide any other robust alternative forecast.

For further information on our long term water supply system outlook please see our outlook section in our [Urban Water Strategy 2022 interactive map](#) as well as our Drought Preparedness Plan as part of our [Urban Water Strategy 2022](#)

## Consumption and Demand Forecasts

Figure 18 below shows historic consumption and provides demand forecasts for the Sale water overlaid as red dot points.

Consumption is compared each year to ensure action can be taken to manage any evolving trends that differ from those upon which the UWS action plan was based.

Sale demands this year 2023-2024 was lower than forecast but similar to last 2022-23 year.

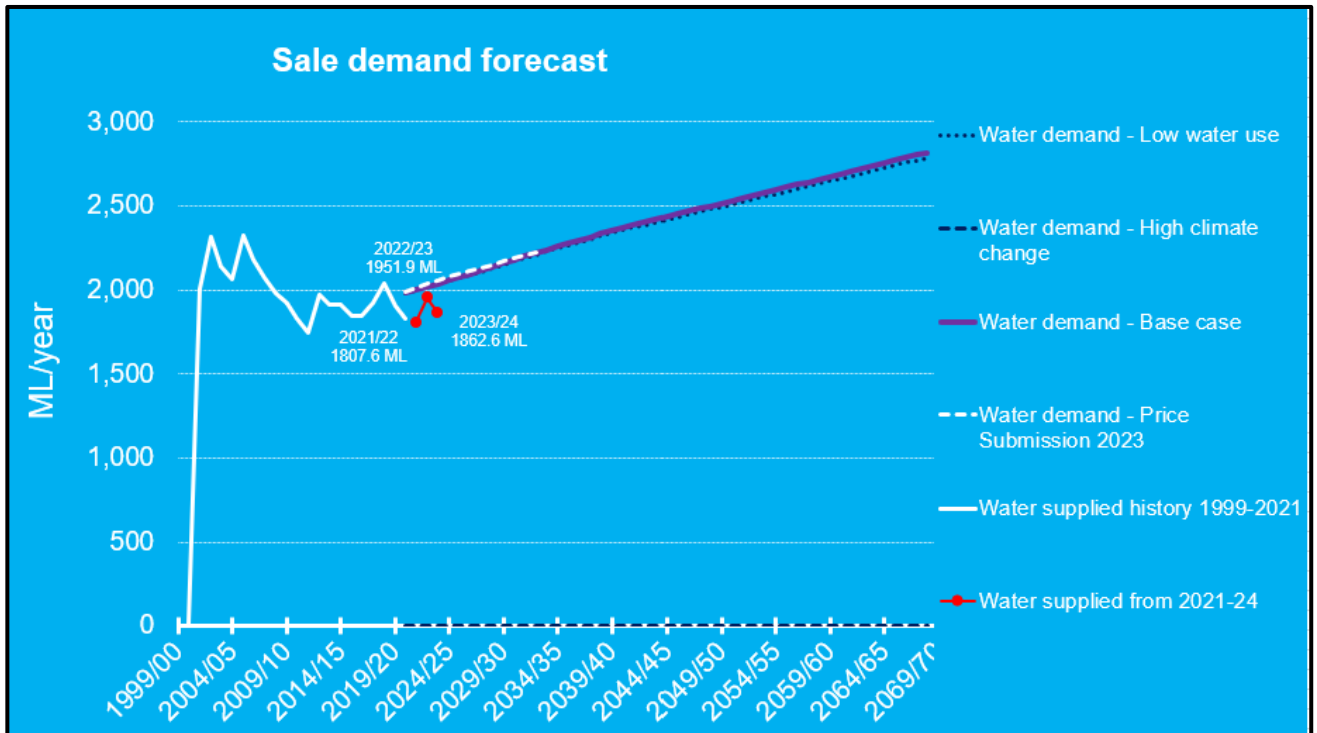


Figure 18: Sale Demand Forecast Chart

## Seaspray Water Supply System and Outlook



Seaspray sources its water from a weir on Merriman Creek, which diverts a portion of the creek's flow via a pump and pipeline to the 30ML Seaspray raw water basin from where it is stored awaiting transfer to the water treatment plant for treatment.

### Seaspray Outlook Period:

Our raw water at the Seaspray water treatment plant basin holds up to 30ML of water which is enough for about nine months' supply. There are various constraints around water supply for Seaspray that we work around to make sure that supply meets demands.

These constraints include the flow in Merriman Creek which can become quite low in summer to at times completely stopping as well as flows remaining quite low during autumn.

At times of higher flows due to significant rain events the water in the creek can become unsuitable for diversion due to poor water quality.

As well as these factors, we also have the requirement of providing various passing flows across the year which at times is subject to particularly high minimum passing flow in the creek before diversions can be made. Because of these constraints, water stored in the basin may be needed well beyond a summer.

Restriction rules are therefore designed to be conservative and maintain a reserve in the raw water basin, so the restriction outlook is limited to three months only.

Water source	No. of connections (June 2024)		Major customers	Alternative water source	Current supply position	Current consumption comments
	Residential	Non-residential				
Merriman Creek	353	10	None	Water carting	Raw water basin at 100%.	As expected, but may increase with hot outlook.

### Augmentation / Alternative water sources:

In addition to the large raw water basin, which has storage capacity up to nine months' demand, the Seaspray treated water demand can also be met by water carting.

For further information on our long term water supply system outlook please see our outlook section in our [Urban Water Strategy 2022 interactive map](#) as well as our Drought Preparedness Plan as part of our [Urban Water Strategy 2022](#)

### Consumption and Demand Forecasts

Figure 19 shows historic consumption and provides demand forecasts for the Seaspray water supply system with raw water consumptions for the past three years from 2021-22 to date overlaid as red dot points.

Consumption is compared each year to ensure action can be taken to manage any evolving trends that differ from the water demand forecasts.

Demand for the last two years has been below the forecast but within the typical historic range.

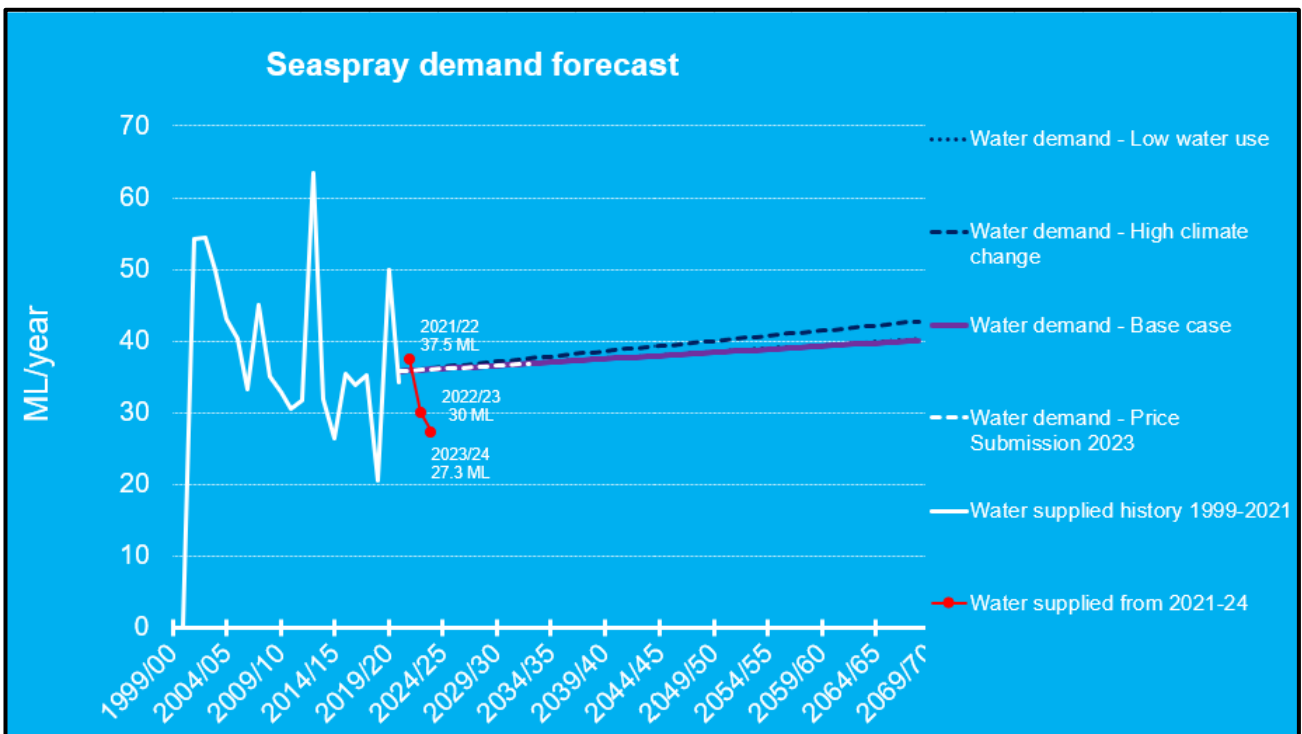


Figure 19: Seaspray Demand Forecast Chart

The 30ML raw water basin between the Merriman Creek weir and the water treatment plant is a critical part of the Seaspray system. It helps maintain supply reliability during times of no streamflow or when the terms of our water entitlement prevent us from accessing streamflow. Although the chart shows significant variations in the amount of water drawn from Merriman Creek from year to year, the usage of potable water within the town is much steadier.

The large spike seen in the ‘Water supplied history 1999-2021’ trace in Figure 19 from approximately a decade ago relates to the construction and initial basin fill for both the Seaspray sewerage treatment plant and raw water basin. The later spike was in 2018-19 indicates when we could not divert water from the creek and we therefore drew down the basin. When adequate streamflow returned in 2020, we were able to refill the basin.



## Tarago Water Supply System and Outlook



The townships of Warragul, Drouin, Buln Buln, Rokeby, Darnum, Nilma, Neerim South and Noojee are in the west of our region. These townships are supplied by two water supply systems: Warragul and Neerim South. Together, these systems are described as the Tarago water resource system. The Tarago water resource system also has an interconnection between the Warragul water supply system and the Moe water supply system.

The Tarago system draws its water from the Pederson Weir on the Tarago River west branch (upstream of Tarago Reservoir) and Rokeby pump station on the Westernport Pipeline (downstream of Tarago Reservoir) to supply water to Warragul water treatment plant.

Water is also directly taken from the Tarago Reservoir to supply the Neerim South water treatment plant.

The Warragul water treatment plant services the townships of Warragul, Drouin, Buln Buln, Rokeby, Darnum and Nilma while the Neerim South water treatment plant services Neerim South and Noojee.

### Tarago Outlook Period

In July 2023 we purchased a bulk entitlement to the Greater Yarra System – Thomson River pool from Yarra Valley Water. This provides us with access to water stored in the Greater Yarra-Thomson Pool (Melbourne system) which we access from Tarago Reservoir. This significantly augments our Tarago River bulk entitlement, providing much greater reliability of supply to Warragul and Drouin. In October 2024 we have a net carryover balance of 2.5 GL, which combined with expected river flows enables us to provide an outlook of 12 months.

For further information on our long term water supply system outlook please see our outlook section in our [Urban Water Strategy 2022 interactive map](#) as well as our Drought Preparedness Plan as part of our [Urban Water Strategy \(UWS\)](#).

Water source	No. of connections (June 2024)		Major customers	Alternative water source	Current supply position	Current consumption comments
	Residential	Non-residential				
Tarago River and Reservoir	17,178	1,360	Park Avenue Laundry, Pureharvest, Warragul Linen, Warragul Sale Yards, Warragul Hospital.	Moe-Warragul Interconnect.	Stream flows adequate. Allocation in Melbourne system over 2,000 ML.	Ongoing urban growth driving greater demand. Offset in short term by recent leak reduction work.

### Augmentation / Alternative water sources

The Tarago water supply now has very healthy water security with our acquisition of a 3.3GL yield Bulk Entitlement to the Yarra-Thomson Pool securing Warragul and Drouin’s future water needs for the forecast period.

We also have an interconnection from Warragul with our Moe water system providing another avenue of securing supplies for the future.

### Consumption and Demand Forecasts

Figure 20 below shows historic consumption and provides demand forecasts for the Tarago water supply system with the raw water consumptions for the past three years from 2021-22 to date overlaid as red dot points.

Consumption is compared each year to ensure action can be taken to manage any evolving trends that differ from those upon which the UWS action plan was based.

Demand was close to forecast for the 2023/2024 period.

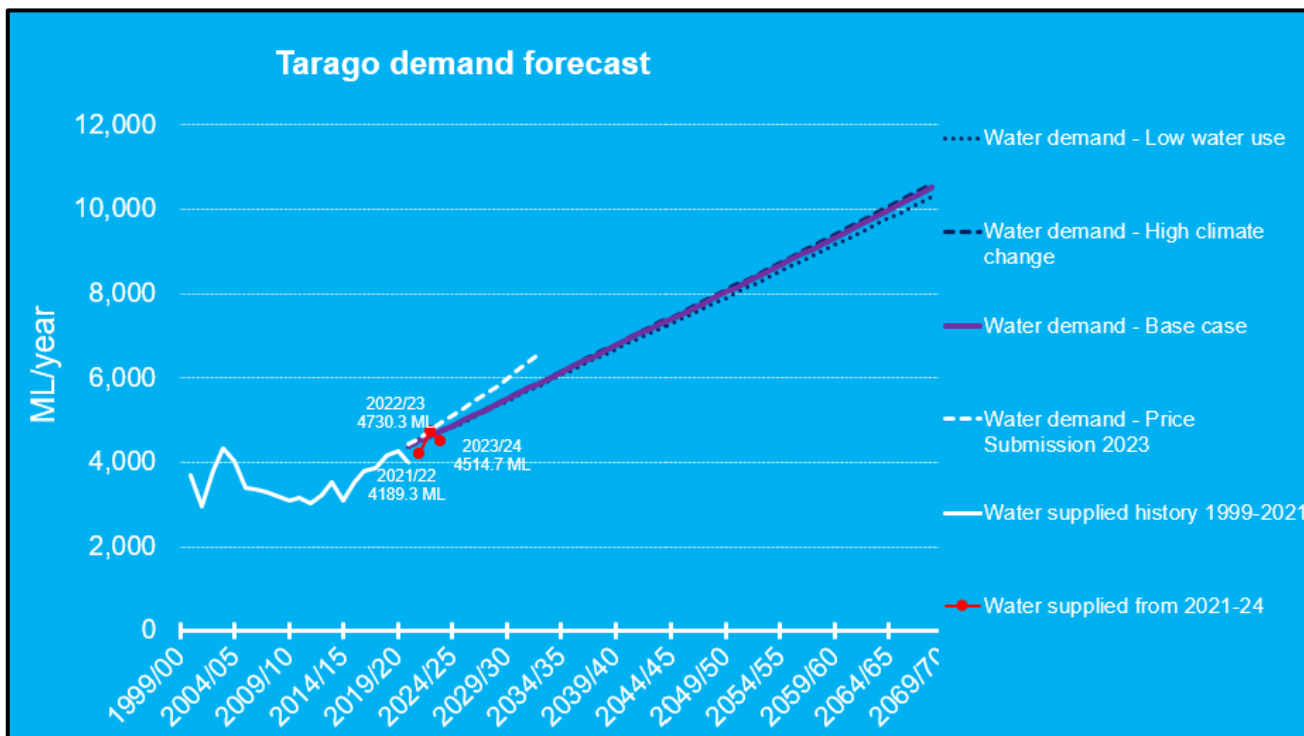
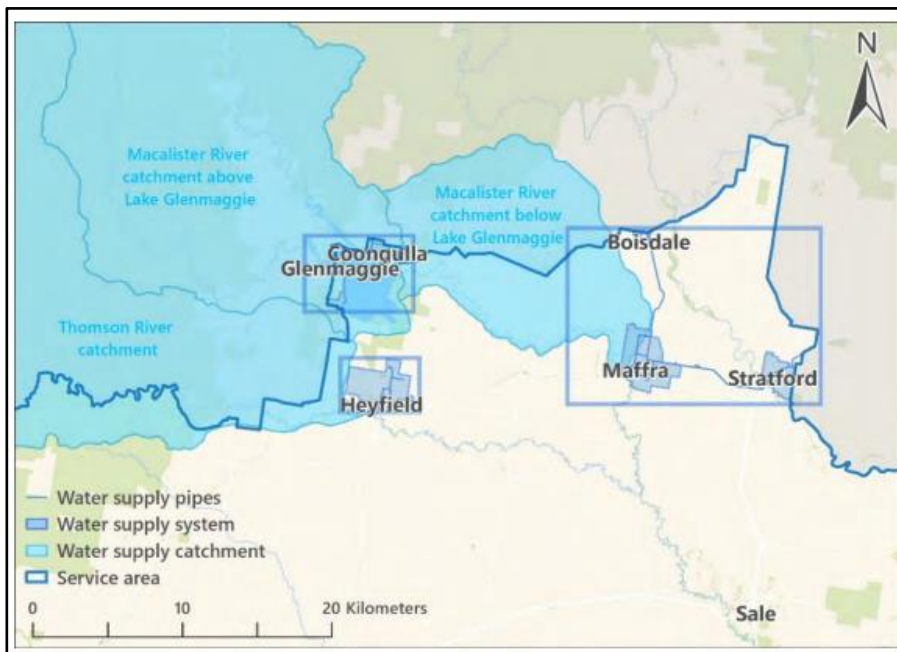


Figure 20: Tarago Demand Forecast Chart

## Thomson-Macalister Water Supply System and Outlook



The townships of Maffra, Stratford, Boisdale, Heyfield, Coongulla and Glenmaggie are in the north-east of our service area. These townships are supplied by two water treatment plants – Maffra and Heyfield. The Maffra water treatment plant is supplied by a pump station on the Macalister River, downstream of Lake Glenmaggie. The Heyfield water treatment plant is supplied by a pump station on the Thomson River and together, these systems are described as the Thomson-Macalister water resource system.

### Thomson-Macalister Outlook Period:

The outlook period is to 30 June 2025, because we have received our full allocation for this system for the 2024-25 financial year. The outlook beyond that will depend on the opening allocation and subsequent allocation progression during the 2025-26 year.

Water source	No. of connections (June 2024)		Major customers	Alternative water source	Current supply position	Current consumption comments
	Residential	Non-residential				
Thomson River, Macalister River, Lake Glenmaggie	4,837	418	None	Trade in Macalister Irrigation District.	2024-25 allocation 100%.	Lower than historic due to milk factory closure.

### Augmentation / Alternative water sources

This system is presently very reliable and any possible shortfall can be managed by trading allocation on the well-established temporary market.

For further information on our long term water supply system outlook please see our outlook section in our [Urban Water Strategy 2022 interactive map](#) as well as our Drought Preparedness Plan as part of our [Urban Water Strategy 2022](#).

## Consumption and Demand Forecasts

Figure 21 shows historic consumption and provides demand forecasts for the Thomson-Macalister water supply system with the actual raw water consumptions for the past three years from 2021-22 to date overlaid as red dot points.

Consumption is compared each year to ensure action can be taken to manage any evolving trends that differ from the water demand forecasts.

Demand for the 2023-2024 period was significantly lower than forecast with the closure of Saputo milk factory.

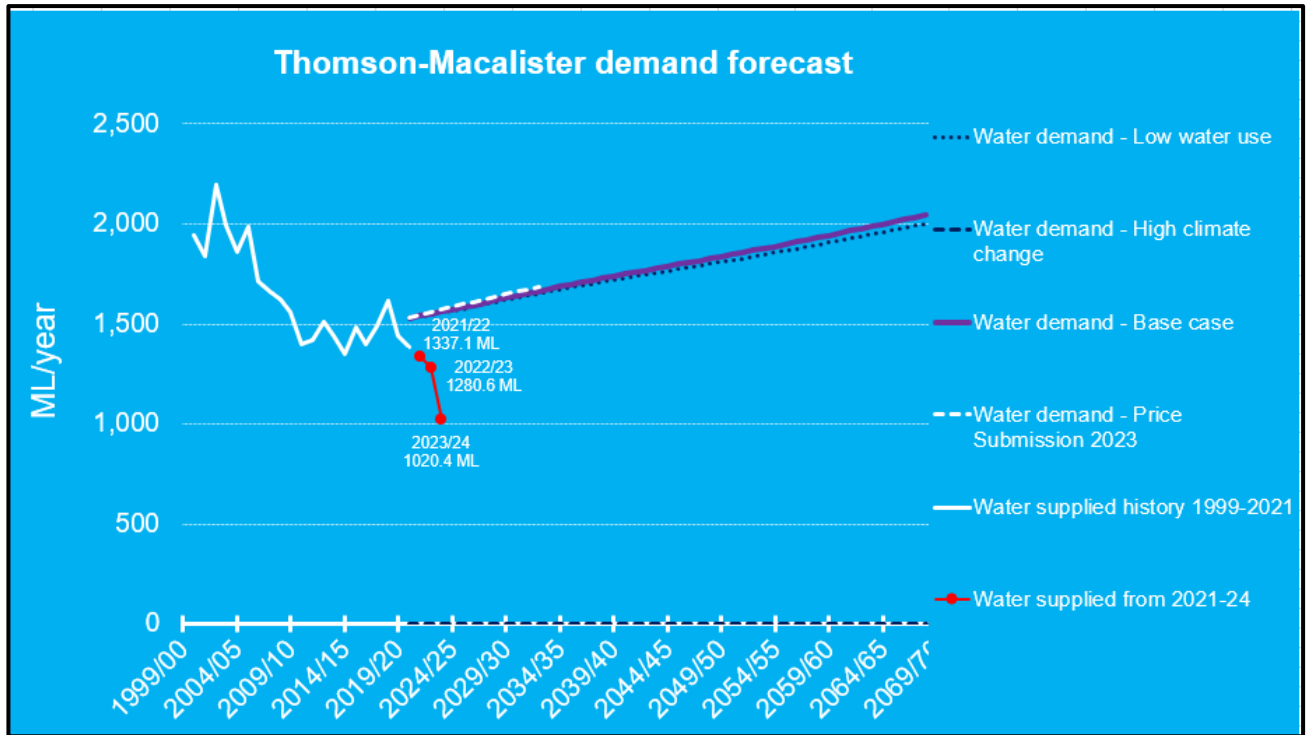


Figure 21 Thomson-Macalister Demand Forecast Chart

## Our Urban Water Strategy Actions

Our Urban Water Strategy 2022 set eighteen actions for the 2023-28 price submission period. Progress against these is shown in the table below.

Table 2. Urban Water Strategy Actions

Action/Theme or System	Description	Timeframe	Progress
<b>Action 1 Partnering with our Traditional Owners</b>	Develop and implement a Moondarra On-Country Plan, which focuses on Traditional Owner access to land and water, increasing opportunities to realise objectives for cultural values and uses, building the cultural awareness of our staff and the community.	To be progressed during the 2022-27 Urban Water Strategy period	We continue to work with the <i>Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)</i> and Traditional Owners on projects that build cultural awareness across our community. An installation of Aboriginal artwork on the Stratford water tower and tank is in the advanced planning phase and we have incorporated Traditional design elements into stage one of the Moondarra visitor area upgrade.
<b>Action 2 Partnering with our Traditional Owners</b>	Provision of reticulated water to Knob Reserve, a significant meeting place for the Gunaikurnai Community. Reticulated water will support cultural events at the site and support sustainable use of water and health outcomes for Community.	Action complete	Drinking water is now available on Country at Knob Reserve in Stratford following completion of a joint project between GLaWAC and Gippsland Water. The project was jointly funded by Gippsland Water, GLaWAC and the Victorian Government's Integrated Water Management Program and was launched by the Minister for Water Harriet Shing.
<b>Action 3 Partnering with our Traditional Owners</b>	Pilot the application of the 'Multiple Benefits of Ownership and Management of Water by Traditional Owners Framework' on key projects.	To be progressed during the 2022-27 Urban Water Strategy period	This action continues with GLaWAC leading the assessment. We are contributing by ensuring the availability of suitable resources.
<b>Action 4 Partnering with our Traditional Owners</b>	Integrate the 'Multiple Benefits of Ownership and Management of Water by Traditional Owners Framework' into our planning frameworks to ensure quadruple bottom line assessments are integrated into business decisions.	To be progressed during the 2022-27 Urban Water Strategy period	This action will build on learnings from Action 3.

Action/Theme or System	Description	Timeframe	Progress
<b>Action 5 Engaging with our stakeholders</b>	Build on our existing close relationship with West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) to better identify opportunities to collaboratively achieve outcomes that benefit each other's objectives and values, and to foster an enhanced mutual understanding of our respective challenges.	Ongoing	We continue to be involved in collaborative arrangements. We participate in three WGCMA environmental watering advisory groups for the Latrobe and Thomson basins. This year has seen the reinstatement of quarterly management meetings and we continue to work closely with WGCMA, SRW and GLaWAC on <a href="#">Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy</a> Action 4-15 as well as investigation for better flow sharing rules in the Seaspray Bulk Water Entitlement.
<b>Action 6 Engaging with our stakeholders</b>	Continue to work with local councils and government to embed better water conservation planning for greenfield development.	Ongoing	The guidance document on Integrated Water Management Planning Guidelines is being released in December this year supporting water cycle and land use planners. We will continue to support the Integrated Water Management Forums and Planning Guidelines.
<b>Action 7 Water efficiency and conservation</b>	Continue to deliver our Non-revenue Water Action Plan	Ongoing	Our Non-revenue Water Action Plan has identified sixteen actions to address gaps to achieve industry standard in bulk meter management. We have recently awarded a contract to provide active leak detection to focus on Warragul and Drouin water systems and we are trialling systems that monitor network flows and automatically detect abnormalities that could be leaks. We have also undertaken a review of the metered hydrant program looking at accounting for operational use of water as well as undertaking an audit of illegal connections and working with DEECA on framework for addressing water theft.



Action/Theme or System	Description	Timeframe	Progress
<p><b>Action 8</b>  <b>Water efficiency and conservation</b></p>	<p>Expand our activities that support the government's Target Your Water Use program including continuing with the Schools Water Efficiency Program, facilitating any applicable grant schemes for water efficiency improvements in homes and businesses, and expanding our community education programs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>We have continued to support the Target Your Water Use program in our community education activities and with our water conservation campaign, 'Reduce Your Use' that commenced in early 2024. Across the year, our campaign included events, social media posts, media releases, website content, features in our newsletters and bill inserts, an interactive quiz, updated education resources and new roadside signage.</p> <p>We have also continued to encourage local schools to improve their water efficiency. Twenty-eight schools from our region are actively involved in the Schools Water Efficiency Program. Our face-to-face education sessions on water efficiency reached 330 students from five schools and kindergartens in the region.</p> <p>We have signed up fifty-one sites on the Stage 1 of the Water Smart Program. Most of these are associated with local council sites and other state government department local sites (e.g.: CFA and Ambulance Victoria).</p>

Action/Theme or System	Description	Timeframe	Progress
<p><b>Action 9</b> <b>Engaging with our stakeholders</b></p>	<p>Continue to work closely with our Gippsland Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forum partners to identify and deliver feasible IWM initiatives that benefit the security of our water resources, the liveability of our urban landscapes and the health of our waterways and the broader environment.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Gippsland IWM Forum recruited an IWM Officer this year. The officer is hosted by us in the Water Resources team with functions that include the coordination of IWM projects and fostering collaboration throughout the Gippsland region. During this time key relationships have been established and there is ongoing promotion of IWM within the regions.</p> <p>The IWM Officer will continue to focus on assisting Forum members to achieve IWM initiatives by reviewing and supporting the implementation of municipal IWM Plans and other key strategies across the Forum organisations.</p> <p>Stormwater Offsets schemes are a focus for the next 12 months, with the officer working with Local Government Authorities to investigate how these can best be utilised across the region to establish precinct scale stormwater treatments.</p> <p>The officer is also supporting the progress of the <a href="#">IWM Forum Gippsland Strategic Directions Statement</a> by addressing challenges in each project delivery and identifying other opportunities.</p>

Action/Theme or System	Description	Timeframe	Progress
<b>Action 10</b> <b>Briagolong water</b> <b>**Key action noted by</b> <b>Minister for Water</b>	Drill a production bore in the deeper aquifer at Briagolong, buy a water licence and upgrade the water treatment process at our Briagolong water treatment plant.	2023/24 Ongoing	Following a three-year period of aquifer monitoring and testing, two years of which included detailed hydrogeological work to support our application to extract deeper groundwater, we received approval to proceed to drill a production bore and acquire a 120 ML/y groundwater licence. The drilling is scheduled to be completed in by the end of 2024. A concept design for the Briagolong water treatment plant has been undertaken and amendments are currently underway with the detailed designs to follow. This is a major milestone in this important project to provide a secure supply for Briagolong.
<b>Action 11</b> <b>Latrobe water</b> <b>**Key action noted by</b> <b>Minister for Water</b>	Continue working with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and other agencies to plan and deliver on directions for the Latrobe basin set by the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (CGRSWS) and the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy.	Ongoing – subject to regulatory timeframes	Over the last 12 months we have collaborated via multiple workshops with other Gippsland agencies such as WGCMA, Southern Rural Water (SRW), GLaWAC and DEECA to develop a draft scoping report and initial project plan. The Gippsland agencies and DEECA have continued to discuss via scheduled workshops the vision alignment, guiding principles, community engagement insights and situation analysis to identify shared opportunities and conflicts.
<b>Action 12</b> <b>Sale water</b>	Continue to work with Southern Rural Water (SRW) and DELWP to better understand the Boisdale aquifer and its future sustainable use.	Ongoing – subject to regulatory timeframes	This action is being progressed through the Groundwater 2030 program. A commitment has been made by the Victorian Government through this program to complete a sustainable yield assessment of the Boisdale Aquifer by 2024. We have and will continue to communicate with Southern Rural Water around this program and implications that may arise for water security for the region.

Action/Theme or System	Description	Timeframe	Progress
<b>Action 13</b> <b>Seaspray water</b>	Explore alternative flow sharing arrangements for the Merriman Creek Bulk Entitlement.	2022/23 Ongoing	Discussion have commenced with partner organisation's (GLaWAC, WGCMA and SRW) to discuss opportunities for more flexible flow sharing rules and opportunity to return excess annual water entitlement to Traditional Owners. We will continue these discussions and work in 2025 aiming to achieve an outcome that is positive for all partners and the environment to recommend to the Minister for Water.
<b>Action 14</b> <b>Tarago water</b> <b>**Key action noted by Minister for Water</b>	Acquire a 2 GL yield Bulk Entitlement to the Yarra-Thomson Pool to secure Warragul and Drouin's future water.	2023/24 Action Completed	On 1 July 2023 we purchased a 3.33 GL/y bulk entitlement in the Greater Yarra System – Thomson River pool, completing this action.
<b>Action 15</b> <b>Heyfield sewage</b>	Develop an augmentation strategy for servicing future growth at the Heyfield sewage treatment plant.	2026/27	We have made provision in our Corporate Plan for budget to deliver this action by the required timeframe. No other progress has occurred since our UWS release.
<b>Action 16</b> <b>Mirboo North sewage</b>	Deliver project for additional irrigation capacity at the Mirboo North sewage treatment plant site to allow greater re-use by our agribusiness operation.	2023/24	The design for this project is complete, component purchases are underway, and installation is scheduled by May 2025.
<b>Action 17</b> <b>Neerim South sewage</b>	Develop an augmentation strategy for servicing future growth at the Neerim South sewage treatment plant.	2026/27	We have installed storm attenuation tanks at the site, and this will be reviewed over a period to assess if these are efficient.
<b>Action 18</b> <b>Warragul sewage</b>	Plan and deliver augmentations to increase Warragul sewage treatment plant capacity.	First stage by 2026/27	The business case was Board approved in October 2023 and we have since undertaken a detailed design phase. Some early procurement is underway with equipment. We are on track for delivery as scheduled.

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