

Lower Loddon Plains Groundwater Management Area

About the Groundwater Management Area and Local Management Plan

How is groundwater managed?

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is responsible for managing groundwater in its area, which includes the Lower Loddon Plains catchment area.

Licensing ensures fair sharing of available resources and protection of the environment and rights of other users.

The Lower Loddon Plains Groundwater Management Area

GMW proposes to establish the Lower Loddon Plains Groundwater Management Area (GMA). The proposed area is shown overleaf in Figure 1.

It will extend from Nyah/Nyah West in the north to south of Boort, and from Quambatook to Cohuna. It will include townships of Woorinen, Swan Hill, Lake Boga, Kerang, Boort and Pyramid Hill, and will cover all major aquifers in the region. A GMA and LMP will aim to:

- Identify key groundwater management issues.
- Manage groundwater resources in the area.
- Manage impacts to the environment and other users.

- Provide guidance where necessary on licensing policy, including the needs and concerns of First Nations people.

Local Management Plans clearly document management objectives and water sharing arrangements for all users and the environment for an area.

Why is there a need for a GMA and LMP?

There is increasing interest in large-scale groundwater access in the Lower Loddon Plains region, which may impact salinity in an area which already has highly saline groundwater.

A LMP ensures that the resource can be managed appropriately and fairly for all licence holders.



State Observation Bores in the Lower Loddon Plains area.

How will the plan affect existing groundwater users?

The plan will not directly impact on existing groundwater users but will explain expectations for new applicants and those looking to increase their existing entitlements.

The plan will outline groundwater monitoring and water sharing arrangements which may apply during times of water shortage.

How will the plan affect the environment?

The risk of impacts to groundwater pumping on surface water, groundwater dependent ecosystems and groundwater quality will be considered during the plan development.

The plan will communicate expectations to applicants to address these issues.



Reedy Lake is part of the Lower Loddon Plains catchment area

Engaging with our community

Understanding the views of local groundwater users, stakeholders and the community is an important part of the plan's development.

GMW will be consulting directly with groundwater customers in the area, as well as Traditional Owner groups, local councils and other stakeholders to help inform early plan development.

The draft GMA and LMP will be available for broader community feedback through GMW's Your Say page in mid-late 2026.

How can I find out more?

More information is available at yoursay.gmwater.com.au or contact Suzanne Hayes, Senior Groundwater and Streams Project Officer on 1800 013 357.

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