

Goulburn River Basin

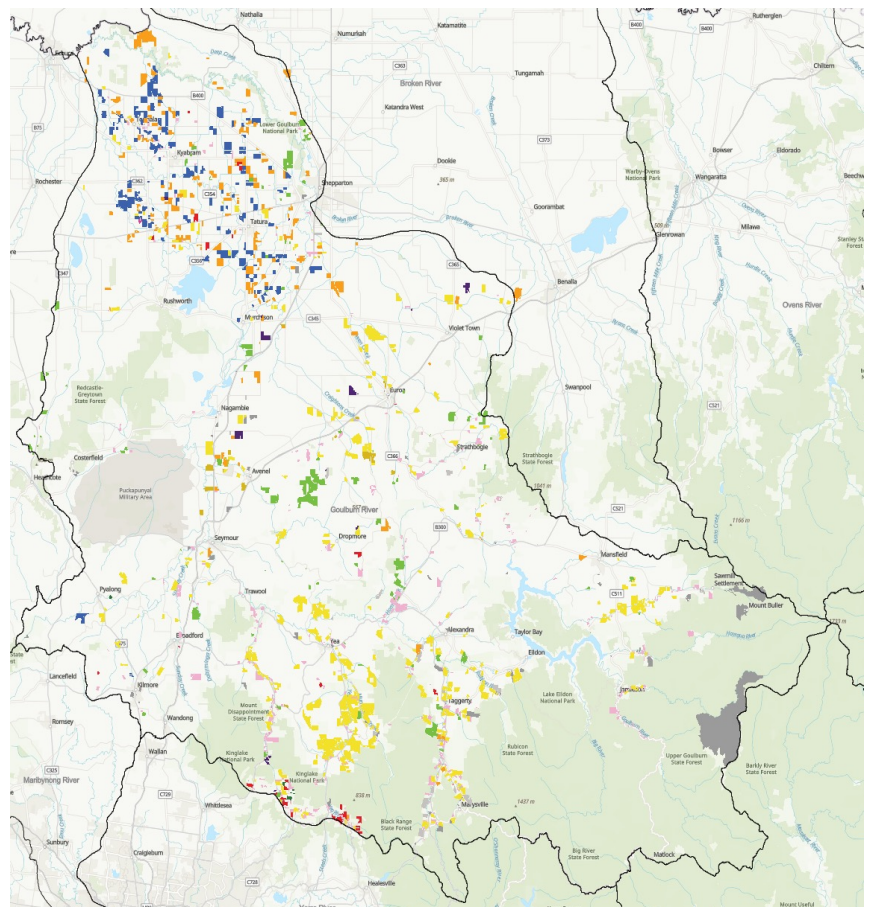
Unregulated and Groundwater Diversions 2023/24

The Goulburn River basin spans from Mt Buller and Marysville in the south to the Murray River at Echuca in the north, covering 1,619,158 ha. Victoria's longest river at 654 kms, the main tributaries are the Acheron, Rubicon and Yea Rivers. There are two main storages, Lake Eildon and Waranga Basin. The river is also regulated through the Goulburn Weir at Nagambie. Groundwater usage, especially in the northern area of the basin contributes significantly to the total water used across the catchment.

Throughout the catchment, there are landowners that divert water from the unregulated sections of the rivers and streams and from the groundwater system.

As part of the Land and water use mapping project, assessment of these unregulated water users was undertaken to determine the amount of water used, what industry the water was used in and the number of Take and Use Licences within the catchment. Future data collection will provide an opportunity to then analyse changes in these criteria and inform future decision making across the basin for both land use and water use as well as industry types. The industry types are consistent with the Regulated Diversion project and the GMID project.

FIGURE 1: GOULBURN RIVER BASIN



INDUSTRY TYPES:

- 
Cropping
- 
Dairy (Combined)
- 
Energy
- 
Glasshouse Plant / Vegetable
- 
Horses
- 
Horticulture Annual
- 
Horticulture Perennial
- 
Intensive Animals
- 
Livestock Non Dairy
- 
Rural Lifestyle/ Residential
- 
Other
- 
Not Irrigated

Goulburn River Basin Results 2023/24

The results of the inaugural data collection provides an excellent basis to build on into the future.

For the Goulburn River basin, there were 2,121 Take and Use Licences covering almost 119,00 ha, where over 10.4 gigalitres (GL) of water was used. Further details are provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF AREA, WATER USE AND TAKE AND USE LICENCES

GOULBURN RIVER BASIN LAND USE	AREA (ha)	WATER USAGE (ML)	TAKE AND USE LICENCES
Cropping	15,105	1,401	188
Dairy (Combined)	15,388	268	178
Energy	57	—	1
Glasshouse Plant/Vegetable Production	361	120	12
Horses	1,954	75	21
Horticulture – Annual	2,467	625	59
Horticulture – Perennial	12,955	1,684	149
Intensive Animals	1,558	59	21
Livestock – Non Dairy	39,156	2,298	412
Rural Lifestyle/Residential	11,102	2,096	900
Other	15,410	1,636	125
Not irrigated	3,461	176	55
TOTAL	118,975	10,438	2,121

Please note: Licence area represents the parcels of land/title to which the licenced is attached and not the irrigation footprint.

Area (ha)

The total area with a Take and Use Licence for the Unregulated diversions and Groundwater users in the Goulburn River basin was almost 119,000 ha, with Livestock – Non Dairy and Other representing the largest areas at 39,156 ha and 15,410 ha respectively, representing 45% of the Take and Use Licence area. The ‘other’ category includes the large parcels of public land in the southern end of the catchment including Mt Buller and a large gold mine holding.

The total licence area represents the parcels of land/title to which the licenced is attached and not the irrigation footprint.

Water Use (ML)

The total water use for the Unregulated diversions and groundwater users in the Goulburn River basin was just over 10.4 GL, with Livestock – Non Dairy and Rural Lifestyle/ Residential enterprises using the most water at 4.3 GL, representing 42% of the total water used.

Take and Use Licences

The total number of Take and Use Licences for the Unregulated diversions and Groundwater users was 2,121. Rural Lifestyle / Residential and Livestock – Non Dairy enterprises held the highest number of licences at 900 and 412 respectively, representing 62% of Take and Use Licence holders.