

Loddon River Basin

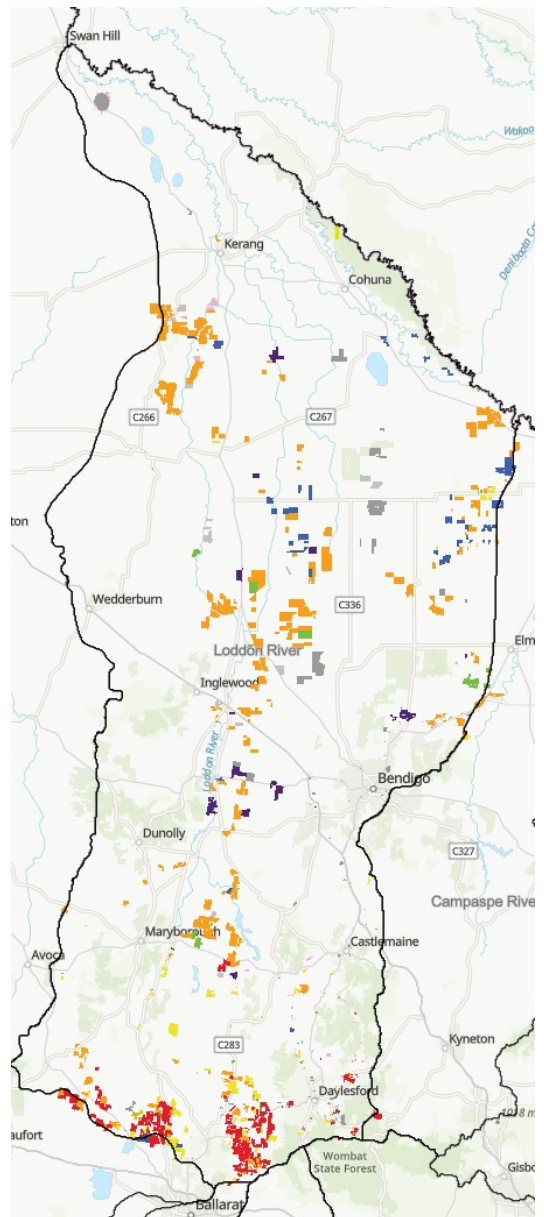
Unregulated and Groundwater Diversions 2023/24

The Loddon River basin spans from Creswick in the south to the Murray River at Swan Hill in the north, covering 1,531,998 ha. The Loddon River is 392 km long with three main storages; Cairn Curran, Tullaroop and Laanecoorie, which regulate the river flows to meet the needs of downstream users.

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: LODDON 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

Loddon River Basin Results 2023/24

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

For the Loddon River basin, there were 779 Take and Use Licences covering just over 100,000 ha, where 37.6 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

LODDON RIVER BASIN LAND USE	AREA (ha)	WATER USAGE (ML)	TAKE AND USE LICENCES
Cropping	47,571	22,027	193
Dairy (Combined)	8,375	4,450	58
Energy	—	—	—
Glasshouse Plant/Vegetable Production	75	53	2
Horses	271	2	2
Horticulture – Annual	17,726	6,173	139
Horticulture – Perennial	4,113	593	37
Intensive Animals	5,201	761	23
Livestock – Non Dairy	8,084	397	84
Rural Lifestyle/Residential	1,449	338	137
Other	7,450	2,832	82
Not irrigated	2,754	29	22
TOTAL	103,069	37,654	779

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 Loddon River basin was 103,069 ha, with Cropping and Horticulture – Annual representing the largest areas at 47,571 ha and 17,726 ha respectively, representing 63% of the TUL area. 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 Loddon River basin was 37.6 GL, with Cropping and Horticulture – Annual enterprises using most of the water at 28.2 GL, representing 75% 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 779. Cropping, Horticulture – Annual and Rural – Residential enterprises having the highest number of licences at 193, 139 and 137 respectively, representing 60% of Take and Use Licence holders.