



StreamNews

A bulletin for Melbourne Water diverters
Issue 32 - June 2025

Season wrap up

After several years of unusually cooler and very wet weather, over summer the 2024/25 irrigation season returned very quickly to warm and drier conditions across Melbourne Water's operating areas.

We have seen a significant increase in the volume of water being extracted by licence holders across both the Yarra and Maribyrnong catchments. A significant uptick in water trading meant Diversions staff have assessed more water trade applications than at any point in the last ten years and we have seen most catchments either on restrictions or bans for the whole of summer and early autumn.

Some catchments remained on bans for significant periods of times. The Yarra River main stem had substantially lower flows from the start of 2025 which, because of very low rainfall, continued well into Autumn, staying on Level 2 restrictions for large periods of time.

Get to know your Diversions Team

Sarah Gaskill

Service Lead Water Resources and Compliance

Adam Roszak – Senior Diversions Officer

Peter Theoharakos

Diversions Officer (Authorised Water Officer)

Stef Cooper – Diversions Officer

The team are available to assist in any matter relating to Diversions Management and can be contacted directly through our Customer Call Centre on 131722 or through diversions@melbournewater.com.au.

Rainfall January to April 2025

Rainfall statistics for Coldstream over the past three months from the BOM site indicate:

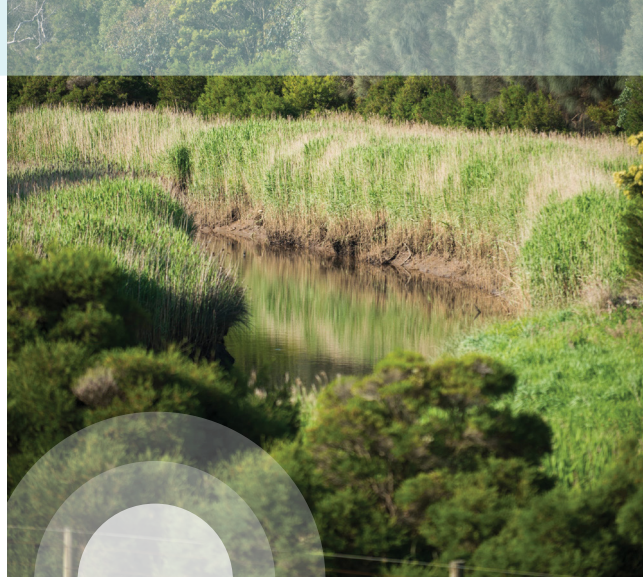
Month	2024/2025	Mean (1994/2025)
December	52.6	59.1
January	51.4	54.1
February	21.6	46.5
March	53.8	48.3
April	23.4	65.6

The 5 month total for December 2024 to April 2025 was **202.8mm**. 70.8mm below the combined monthly means for the period (273.6mm). Total rainfall for 2024 for the Coldstream gauge was **804.6mm**, compared to long term average of **759.4mm**.





Image courtesy of Doug Gimesy



Metering and Telemetry update

As part of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's metering framework for Victoria's non-urban irrigation meters, it is a requirement that all Water Corporations' meters comply with Australian Standard AS4747 and have telemetry to record and transmit readings installed by 2025.

We continue to set the benchmark for metering standards and implementation across the state.

We have been implementing a program of meter upgrades to AS4747 and installing telemetry over the last 5 years as part of our capital upgrade program. 100 per cent of our meter fleet that is required to meet the state-wide plan currently meets AS4747 and National Measurement Institute - NMI-10. In the first 3 months of 2025, we have installed over 30 new and replacement compliant meters that have reached end of life as part of our capital upgrade program. We will continue a rolling program each year to upgrade meters that have met end of life.

We are well placed to meet the requirements and timeline that Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action has set. We are currently installing state of the art AS4747 and NMI-10 compliant, Arad Octave Ultrasonic meters. These new meters provide benefits to both us and our customers. They provide the best possible reliability, ease of operation and longevity, and most importantly accuracy, giving a 0.2 per cent accuracy compared to 5 per cent with old mechanical meters.

This means that our customers can be confident that they are taking the correct amount of water with less losses due to meter error. We are continuing to roll out installation upgrades of our telemetry system which employs both radio and 4G technology.

Over the next 6–12 months, we plan to install an additional 250 telemetry units on meters. With this network, we can remotely review live meter data to ensure compliance with licence conditions as well as receiving alerts for over-use, taking during bans and meter errors. Customers will also be able to access their meter data remotely to monitor their usage.

Metering Action Plan Review



In 2025 we will be reviewing and updating our Metering Action Plan to ensure it meets current statewide requirements as well as national standards whilst continuing to meet customer and Melbourne Water expectations.

Meter reading reminder

Melbourne Water Diversion's Officers will begin undertaking meter readings from May until the end of June to obtain final consumption data for the 2024/25 irrigation season to ensure licence holders are compliant with licence conditions and volumes.

If you use water after the meter has been read, please inform the Melbourne Water Diversions Team on 131 722 or diversions@melbournewater.com.au so usage can be accounted for the current season.

Failure to do so will result in any usage after the end-of-season meter reading being accounted for against your 2025/26 usage.

It is a condition of licences that the licence holder maintains a clear and safe access to flowmeters for the purposes of meter reading and maintenance. If there is a safety issue in accessing your meter, Melbourne Water will contact you to discuss your responsibilities as the licence holder.

Do we have your correct contact details?



Please email diversions@melbournewater.com.au or call the Diversions Team on 131 722 to update your contact details on our records. This will ensure you never miss out on important information regarding your licence.



Your Diversion Service: 2026 Pricing Submission update

Further to the online survey and consultation process for diversion services fees for the 2027/31 pricing period, Diversion services and prices will remain largely unchanged following feedback received from customers.

Customer engagement has indicated a clear preference for the Standard package which was selected as first preference in 90 per cent of survey responses.

The standard package that was chosen by customers includes:

- The continuation of current service levels to meet Customer Charter including an increased communications focus
- Meter installation to comply with the Victorian Government's Non-urban Metering Policy and associated renewals
- Continuous improvement to embrace new technologies and digital platforms.

Licence fee description	Indicative Licence Costs (2026/27)
Licence Service Fee (per annum)	\$338.94
Volumetric rates (per ML)	
All months licence (Yarra)	\$44.46
All months licence (Maribyrnong)	\$93.07
Winter fill licence	\$22.38
Note: Licence fees for 2026/27 assume CPI at 2.9 per cent.	

Next steps

We will put forward the Standard package in our 2026 Price Submission. Following this:

- The submission is due to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) on 1 October 2025
- The ESC will review our Price Submission, after which new prices will come into effect from 1 July 2026
- Melbourne Water is proposing that Diversion prices increase by CPI + 0 per cent in 2026/27, CPI + 1 per cent from 2027/28 to 2030/31.



A dry season: restrictions and bans information

With a drier season on our hands so far, many waterways have been constantly switching between Available, Restricted and Banned status as their levels fluctuate.

It is a condition of licences that you stay up to date with your waterway and check if it has any bans or restrictions before taking water. Details of waterway status and flows can be found on the [Restrictions and Bans](https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-and-environment/water-management/waterway-diversions/restriction-and-ban-status) page, <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-and-environment/water-management/waterway-diversions/restriction-and-ban-status>.

Alternatively, Melbourne Water provides a service to customers to receive automated text message alerts when waterways go on or off bans and restrictions. If you would like to go on this system, please email us at diversions@melbournewater.com.au and let us know which number(s) you would like added.

Diversions Management Advisory Committee

Melbourne Water convenes a Customer Advisory Committee for Diversions customers to provide feedback to Melbourne Water on a range of issues relating to diversions management.

The committee also assists Melbourne Water in the development and review of policies and procedures regarding diversions management likely to impact on the interests of diverters, the environment and the broader community.

It is expected that no more than 3 meetings per year, generally convened within normal business hours, would be required.

If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact the Diversions Team at diversions@melbournewater.com.au.



Keep up to date with what's happening

For more information about the information in this newsletter or our other activities please call the Diversions Team on 131 722 or visit Melbourne Water's Waterway Diversions www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/waterway-diversions



For an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 13 14 50

