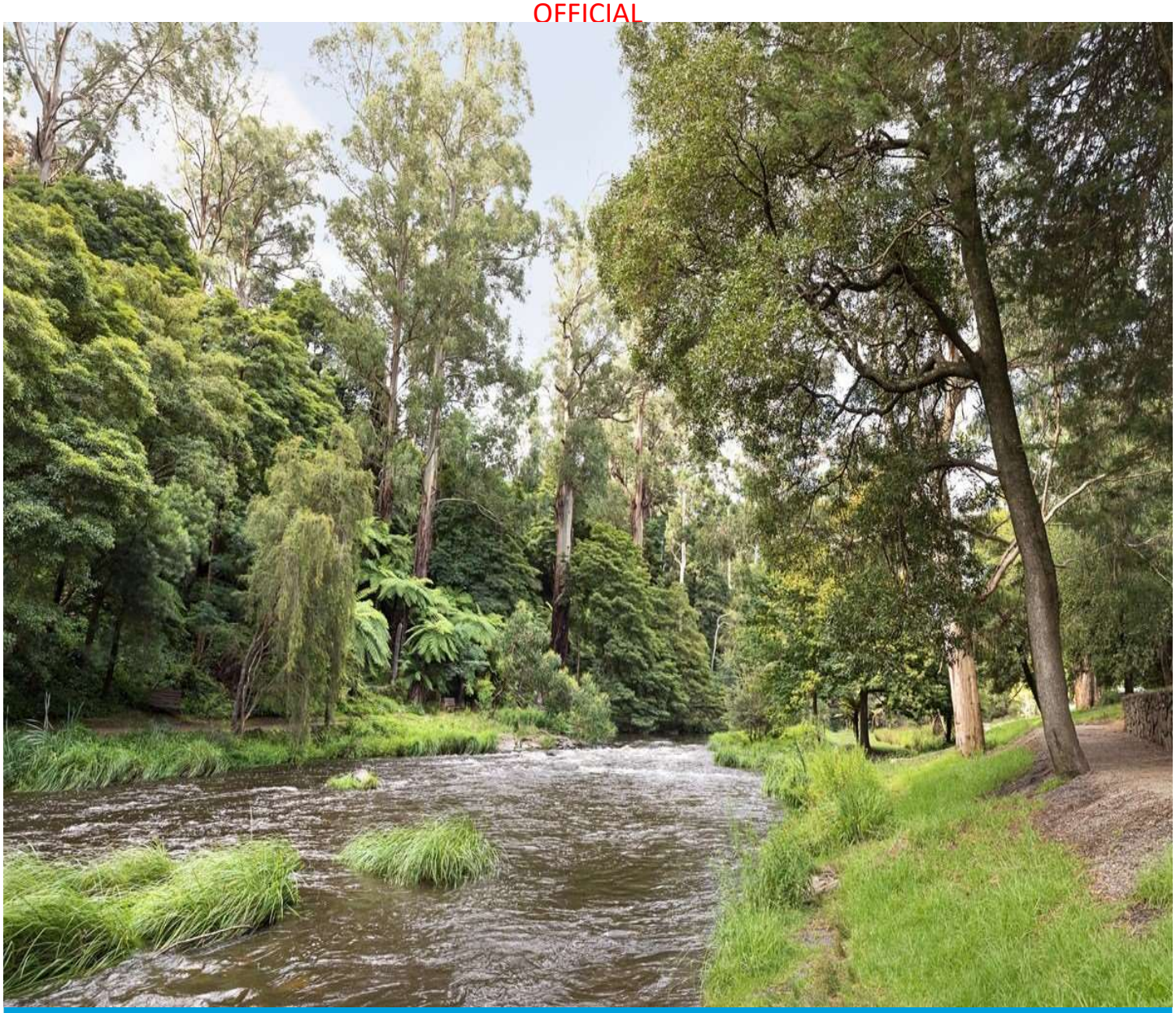


Unregulated Diversions Water Outlook for Melbourne

Image: Yarra River at Warburton

December 2024

VICTORIA State Government

Melbourne Water is owned by the Victorian Government. We manage Melbourne's water supply catchments, remove and treat most of Melbourne's sewage, and manage rivers and creeks and major drainage systems throughout the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

Melbourne Water
Enhancing Life and Liveability

Table of contents

1. Executive Summary

As the El Nino Index remains neutral with models saying it is likely to remain that way until February 2025, rainfall is likely (60 to 80% chance) to be above average for much of southern and eastern Australia. Above average maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) across most of Australia with an increased chance of unusually high maximum and minimum temperatures for most of Australia. The seasons rainfall and temperature outlook, (www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary), suggest Melbourne Water's unregulated stream customers can expect some bans and/or restrictions for the coming irrigation period.

In 2024, Victoria had its driest winter since 2006, 30.2% below the 1961-1990 average. Streamflow's in almost half of monitored sites were low in September across the country particularly in the south east. For October to December, low streamflow is likely to continue in the south east of the country. (www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/).

Due to several years of extremely wet weather, soil conditions in most of the catchments maintain a high level of saturation which has led to continued runoff into catchment dams. With most catchment dams full, irrigators using this resource are in a strong position for the season with most off stream dams full. If significant, extended warm and dry periods are experienced, there will be increased stress on this resource.

2. Introduction

The Minister for Water has delegated Melbourne Water with the responsibility for managing surface water licensing within the waterways and major drainage systems of the Yarra River, the lower Maribyrnong River, Stony, Kororoit, Laverton and Skeleton Creek catchments.

Within these catchments we currently manage approximately 1300 licenses from waterways and administer approximately 500 farm dam registrations and licences relating to catchment dams. The total allocation issued under these licences is approximately 44,000 Megalitres (ML). Water use is primarily for agricultural, industrial, commercial, sporting grounds and domestic and stock purposes. We also manage stormwater harvesting licences for the whole of the Port Phillip and Western Port catchments associated with Melbourne Water drainage assets. We manage licensed surface water diversions in accordance with the Act, State Government policy and state-wide diversions management practices, on behalf of the Minister for Water.

Farming property in Wandin Yallock Creek catchment

3. Background

The *Water Act 1989* requires Melbourne Water, as the Minister's delegate, to protect the environment and consider the needs of water users. This is achieved through a number of different mechanisms that include a Drought Response Plan (DRP), Stream Flow Management Plans (SFMPs) and Local Management Rules/Plans (LMRs/LMPs).

During drought or low flow conditions, licenced diverters' access to water may be restricted or banned to protect the environment. Our Drought Response Plan is active at all times, and specifies how water is shared when there is not enough to meet all users' needs. It states river flow levels which trigger restrictions or bans, and how these are applied to different licence types. These trigger points have been developed together with stream flow management plans or local management rules/plans.

The status of restrictions and bans for individual catchments is posted daily on Melbourne Water's website at www.melbournewater.com.au/diverters and be available by calling Melbourne Water on 131 722 at any time or via an automated SMS services to subscribed customers. In addition the website provides catchment specific stream-flow data including daily and 7-day average stream flow.

Stream Flow Management Plans, Local Management Rules, Drought Response Plan and the Diversion's Customer Charter have been developed by Melbourne Water in consultation with customers and other stakeholders. These plans and rules define the amount of water available within a catchment, the conditions under which it can be taken and the level of service that will be achieved. Our compliance and enforcement approach is centred on adherence to these plans and licence conditions.

Below is a map of Melbourne Water's diversion catchments and related management plans is shown in Figure below.

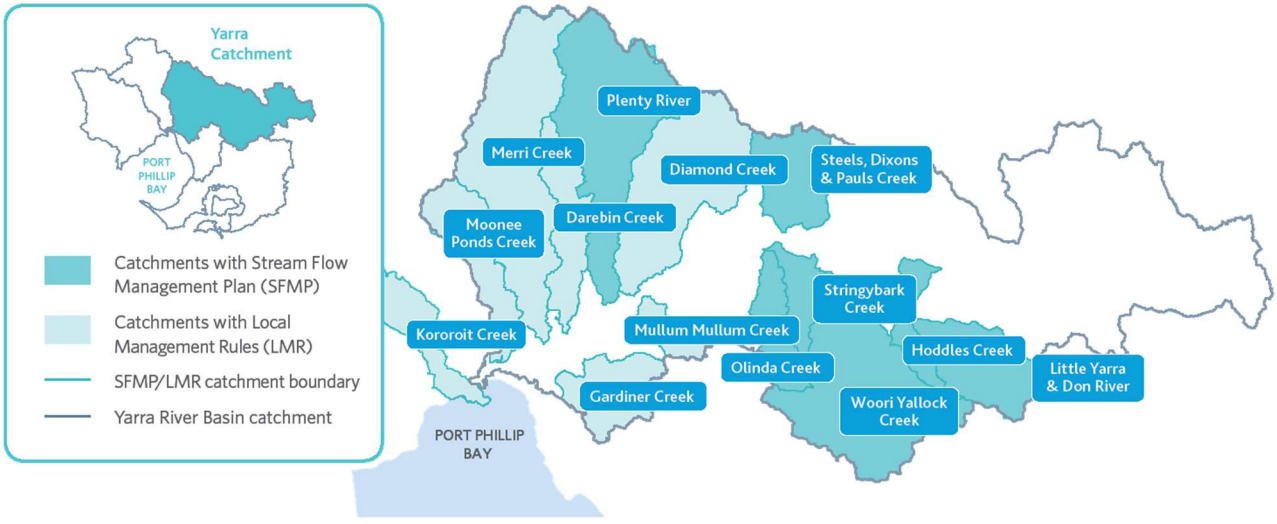


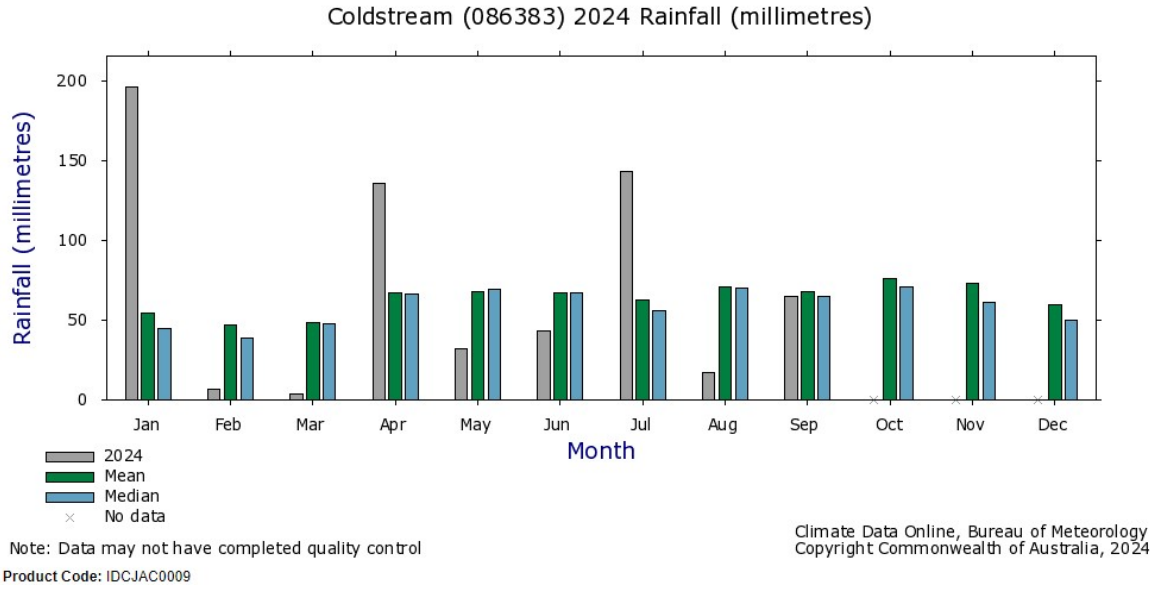
Figure 1. Catchments with Stream Flow Management Plans and Local Management Rules

For more information about Melbourne Water and its services are available on the Melbourne Water website: https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/waterway-diversions

4. Season to Date

Across Victoria, averaged rainfall for winter was 30% lower than average and the lowest since 2006. Mean maximum temperatures for winter were very much above average with many sites in August reaching their highest winter temperature on record.

Rainfall across the Yarra Valley, where the majority of Melbourne Water licensed users are located, experienced a very start to the year followed by very dry end of summer and early autumn. Winter rainfall was variable but tended to be below average (Figure 2). Rainfall across the metropolitan Melbourne and Yarra Valley region from January to September 2024 was average to below average (Figure 3). Annual rainfall to the end of September 2024 has been 642.1 mm at Coldstream against a yearly mean of 707.3 mm (Table 1).



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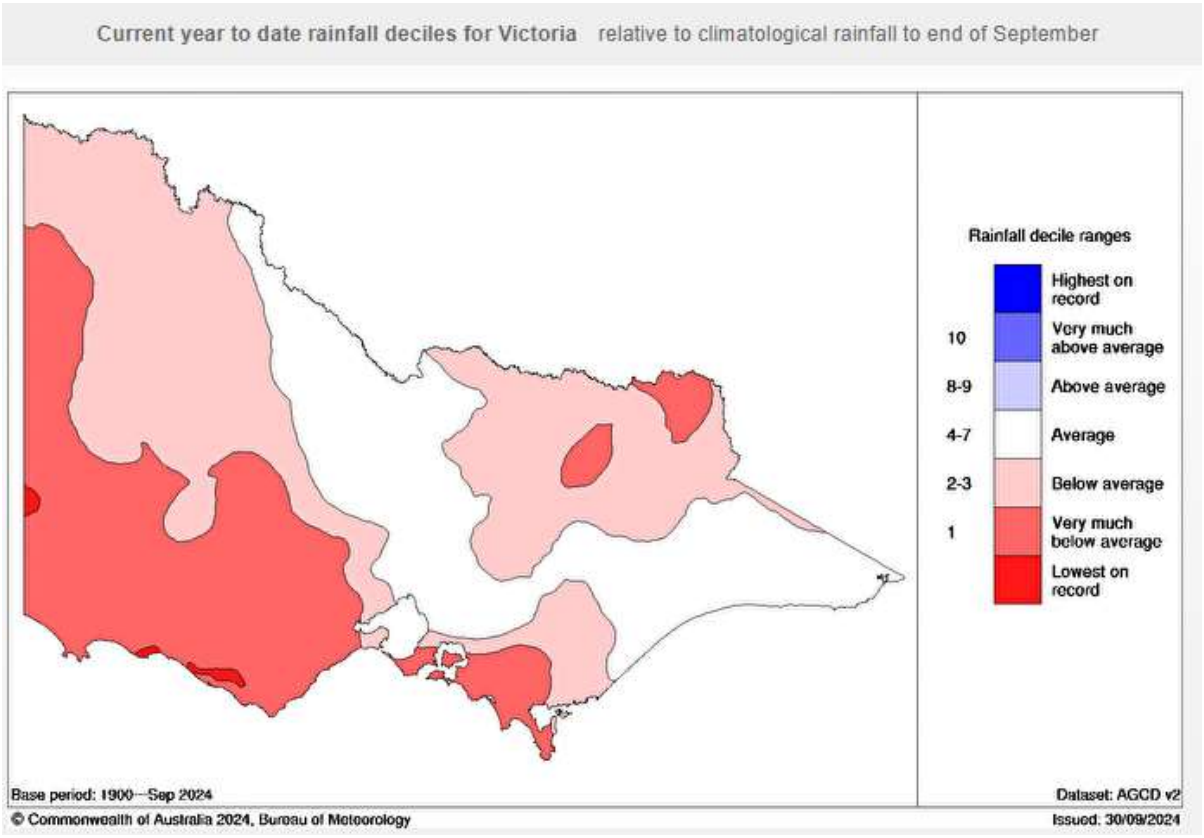


Figure 3: Decile rainfalls for Victoria for 2024 Source: www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall

Table 1: Mean (1994-2024) and average monthly (2024) rainfall (mm) at Coldstream (site no. 086383)

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Mean rainfall (mm) for years 1994 to 2024	54.2	47.3	48.1	67.1	67.6	67.3	62.5	70.9	68.1	76.0	73.1	59.3	707.3
Statistics	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Annual**
Total Rainfall (mm) for year 2024	195.8	6.4	4.0	136.0	32.32	43.0	143.2	16.8	64.6	-	-	-	642.1

January 2024 was exceptionally wet, almost 4 times the mean, leading to moderate-major flooding across catchments in the Yarra River catchment. February and March were very dry recording almost no rain. This sharp reduction in rainfall let to a quick drying of the catchment leading to some waterways being on restrictions and bans. A below average end of Autumn and start to winter meant that ephemeral systems such as the Steels Creek and Dixons Creek catchments around Yarra Glen started the winter fill period on bans often for extended periods. Only late July rain meant they recovered to all extraction to occur. These areas which rely on off stream dams for irrigation water are in a good situation with most dams full as it has been an extended wet period for the last few years. Despite some very dry months in the year, 2024 rainfall is tracking to be at or above average.

Nursery in the Yarra Valley

5. Summary of Current Streamflow

Streamflow conditions across all major catchments for October 2023 and October 2024 are summarised in Table 2. Off the back of a wet end to winter and average start to spring period, the majority of the systems have remained available during this time which was similar to last year.

Table 2: Instantaneous streamflow (ML) and restrictions/ban status on 15 October 2023 and 15 October 2024, by Melbourne Water catchments.

Catchment	Instantaneous Flow 15th October 2023(ML)	Status	Instantaneous Flow 15th October 2024(ML)	Status
Arundel Creek	7.2	Available	7.8	Available
Cockatoo and Shepherd	105.9	Available	65.4	Available
Darebin Creek	8.8	Available	3.1	Banned
Diamond Creek	25	Available	3.7	Banned
Dixons Creek	3.9	Banned	0.0	Banned
Don River	58.4	Available	10.3	Available
Gardiners Creek	6.7	Available	6.7	Available
Hoddles Creek	18.2	Available	15.5	Available
Kororoit Creek	12.1	Available	8.2	Available
Little Yarra River	178.8	Available	110.5	Available
Maribyrnong River (all year)	55.4	Available	23.4	Available
Maribyrnong River (winter-fill)	55.4	Available	23.4	Banned
McCrae Creek	38.1	Available	18.7	Available
Merri Creek	18.4	Available	9.3	Available
Moonee Ponds Creek	7.2	Available	7.8	Available
Mullum Mullum Creek	341.1	Available	2.3	Available
Olinda Creek (Lower)	55.5	Available	24.3	Available
Olinda Creek (Upper)	22	Available	14.5	Available
Pauls Creek	6.5	Available	0	Banned
Plenty River	24.1	Available	3.1	Available
Steels Creek	6.8	Available	0.4	Banned
Stringybark Creek (Lower)	10.9	Banned	0.8	Banned
Stringybark Creek (Upper)	13.4	Available	3.2	Banned
Wandin Yallock Creek	30.6	Available	9.6	Available
Watsons Creek	6.2	Available	1.9	Available
Watts River	251.8	Available	82.2	Available

Catchment	Instantaneous Flow 15th October 2023(ML)	Status	Instantaneous Flow 15th October 2024(ML)	Status
Woori Yallock Creek	270.3	Available	164.7	Available
Yarra River Lower	3821.0	Available	809.7	Available
Yarra River Upper	2750.6	Available	804.3	Available

Please note the data in the table is as at 15th October 2024, for daily restrictions and bans please see: www.melbournewater.com.au/diverters

Flow gauge on waterway

6. Water availability for rest of 2024/25

6.1 Wetter than average forecast for the remainder of 2024

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal climate outlook for the remainder of 2024 shows that for November to January, above average maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely (greater than 60%) for almost all of Australia. In the same period, rainfall across most of Australia is likely to be above average (60% to 80%). For most of Australia, maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to have an increased chance of being unusually high.

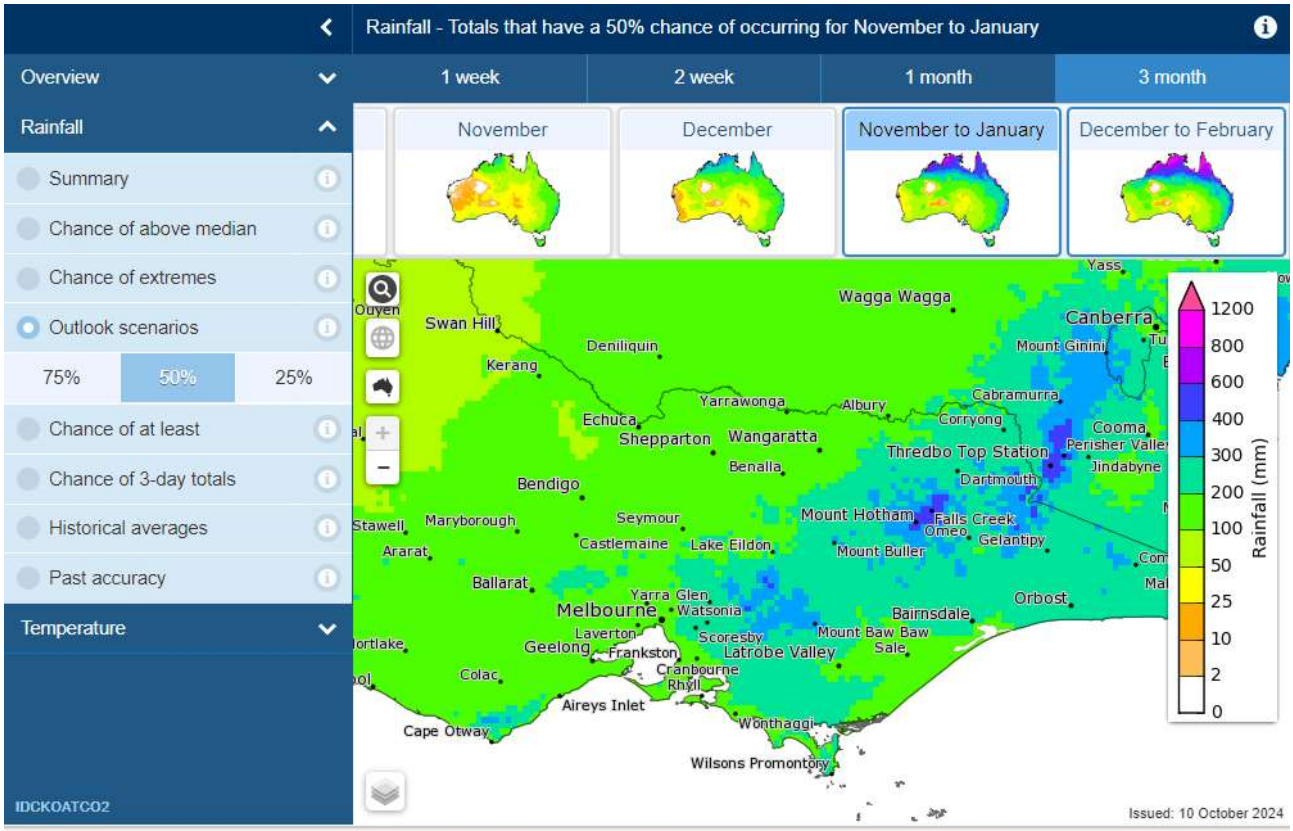
For more information on the Bureau's ENSO Outlook please see their website:
http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/outlook/

Temperature and rainfall influence water use, especially during summer periods. Melbourne Water continually monitors flow conditions and the Bureau's seasonal climate outlooks which are updated monthly.

6.1.1. Rainfall outlook

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology outlook for rainfall (issued on 15 October 2024) for the period from November 2024 to January 2025 indicates rainfall is likely (60% to 80% chance) to be above average for most of south eastern Australia, see Figure 4 below:

Figure 4: Australian Bureau of Meteorology three month totals that have a 50% chance of occurring for November 2024 to January 2025, Victoria, Australia (Source: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks).



6.1.2. Temperature outlook

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology outlook for temperature (issued on 10 October 2024) for the period from November 2024 to January 2025 indicates that:

- Above average maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80%) across most of Australia.
- There is an increased chance of unusually high maximum temperatures for most of Australia
- There is an increased chance of unusually high minimum temperatures across Australia

The chance of above median maximum and minimum temperature for November 2024 to January 2025 for Australia and Victoria is shown in Figure 5 and 6, respectively.

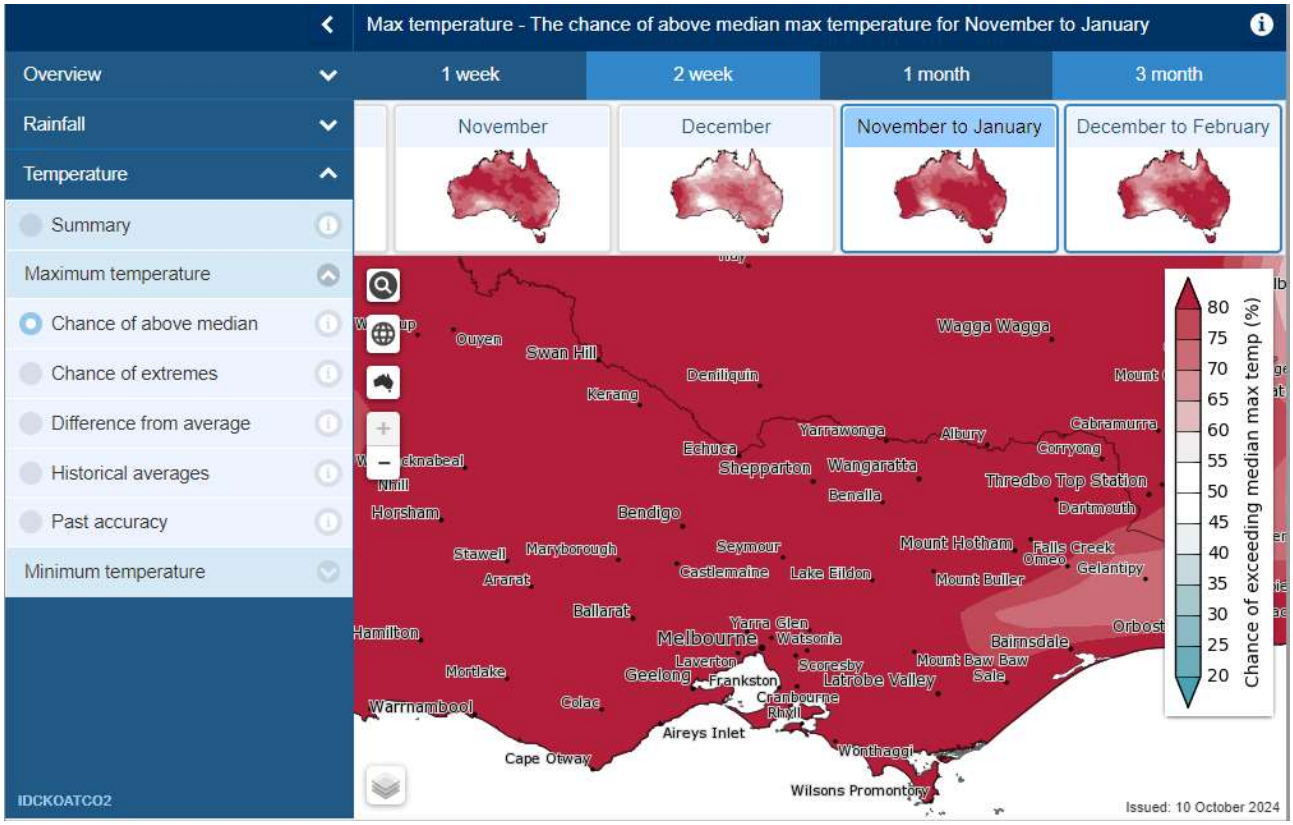


Figure 5: Australian Bureau of Meteorology three month (November 2024– January 2025) chance of exceeding median maximum temperature (%) outlook for Australia (Source: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks).

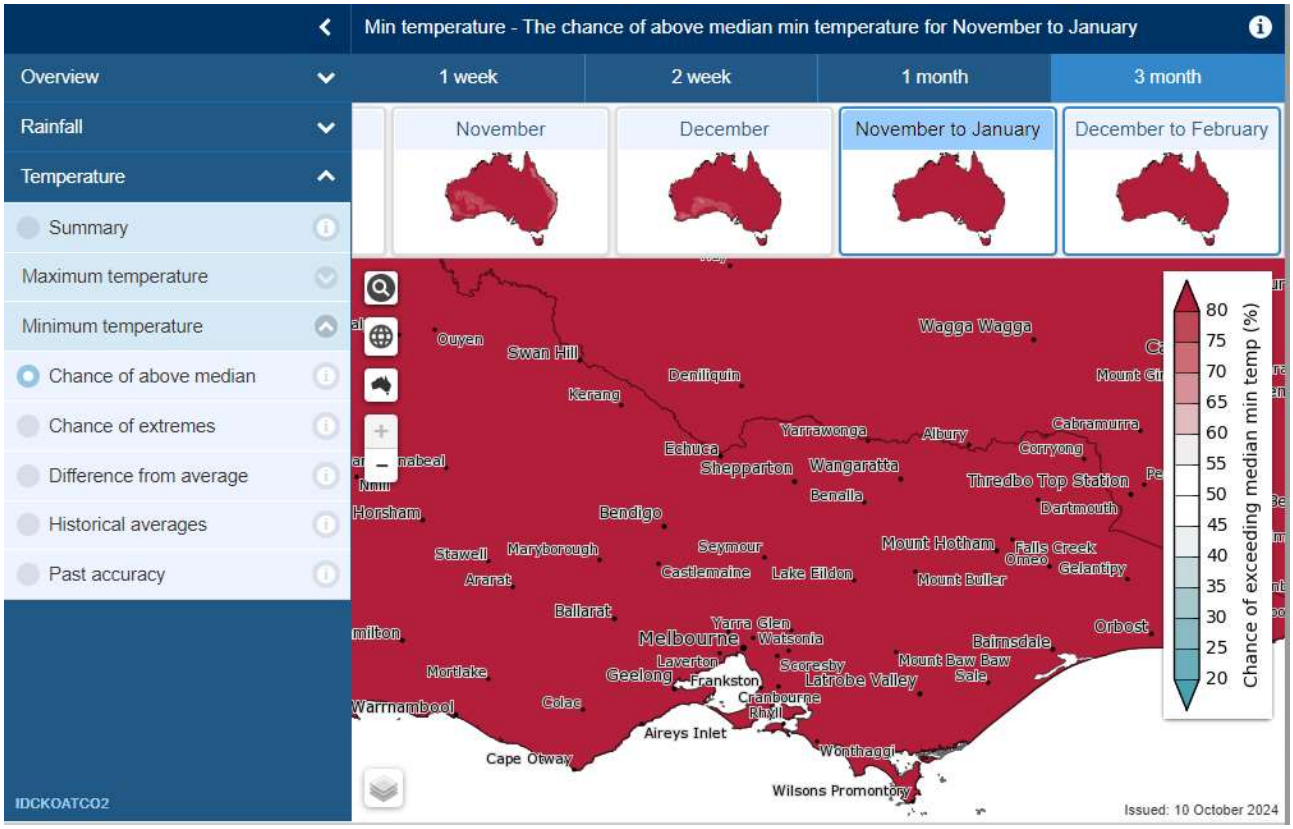


Figure 6: Australian Bureau of Meteorology three month (November 2024 – January 2025) chance of exceeding median maximum temperature (%) outlook for Victoria, Australia (Source: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks).

6.2 Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts October to December 2024

Predicting Melbourne's future streamflow levels is complex and uncertain.

This is primarily because it is not possible to accurately forecast the timing and extent of rainfall events and consequently the catchments' runoff response to them up to one year ahead. Nevertheless the Bureau of Meteorology produces seasonal streamflow forecasts based on its climate data and flow conditions at 180 monitoring sites across Australia.

This information is available at: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/index.shtml

The Bureau of Meteorology's broad forecast summary for the October to December period is:

- Low streamflow is likely in the south part of Australia, covering Melbourne Water's operating area.
- Flows were low at 44% of sites in September, mainly in the south-east
- Flows were near median at 28% of sites in September
- Flows were high at 28% of sites in September
- Rainfall is likely to be within typical seasons range across Victoria. Warmer than average days and nights are very likely and there is an elevated chance of unusually warm days and nights for most of the country.

Within Melbourne Water's Yarra River basin, between October and December 2024, showed a reduction in inflows compared to the same time last year. Inflow into Graceburn Creek is very likely to be below streamflow volumes up to 1.0 GL, where all volumes are below the historical average (Figure 7).

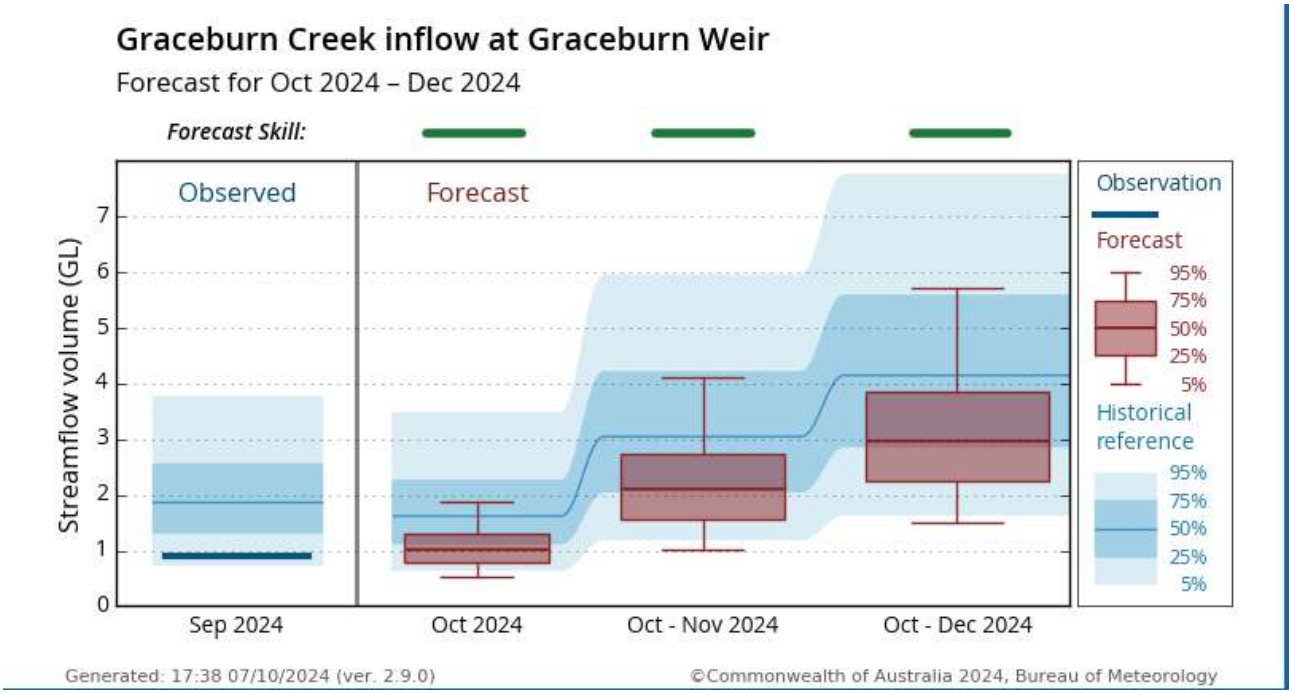


Figure 7: Australian Bureau of Meteorology 1-month (October 2024), 2-month (Oct-Nov 2024) and 3-month (Oct-Dec 2024) streamflow (GL) exceedance probability (%) outlook for Graceburn Creek at Graceburn Weir, Victoria, Australia. (Source: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=GRACEBURN_TOT).

7.Forward outlook for 2024/25 summer season

If the predicted warmer and wetter conditions begin to develop into summer, we will see a slow drying of the catchment towards the end of summer and early autumn. This may mean the early part of summer has higher reliability with catchments likely to stay available during this period.

Once warmer temperatures begin in mid-late summer, this will lead to a reduction in the availability of the resource and an increase in demand, which, when coupled, will likely lead to an increase in catchments being on ban and/or restrictions. Licence holders need to ensure they have put appropriate measures in place to ensure they have water availability during these times.

Under average conditions unregulated licence holders around Melbourne are likely to see an early introduction of bans / restrictions starting in December and likely to extend until at least March. This may continue in autumn if warmer and drier conditions occur as predicted.

In 2024, Victoria had its driest winter since 2006. Under dry conditions, restrictions and/or bans will continue and expand across systems in December and continue through until May. Under worst on record conditions customers could see restriction and/or bans starting immediately and not lifting until Autumn break, traditionally at the end of April.

Access to water in unregulated systems in 2024/25 will remain highly dependent on weather conditions. The Melbourne Water region can be broken up into western and eastern areas when considering the impact of weather on streamflow's, with the western region having a higher level of restrictions / bans in comparison to the eastern region (Table 3). This is due to significant

differences in average rainfall totals across Melbourne as well as the eastern region catchments often benefitting from strong groundwater contribution.

Table 3: The impact of weather conditions (5th, 25th and 50th percentiles) on streamflow restrictions and ban status on river basins in Melbourne Water's western and eastern regions.

Region	Worst on record weather conditions (5th percentile)	Dry weather conditions (25th percentile)	Average weather conditions (50th percentile)
Western (Maribyrnong Basin)	All streams on bans.	All streams on bans.	Minor tributaries will be on bans.
Eastern (Yarra Basin)	All minor tributaries on bans in order to protect the environment Yarra River main stem will be on restrictions and/or bans.	All minor tributaries on bans in order to protect the environment Yarra River main stem will be on restrictions.	All minor tributaries on bans in order to protect the environment. Yarra River main stem will not have restrictions

In Melbourne Water's area of operation for diversions, when river levels are low, waterway diverters around may be restricted or banned from taking water in order to protect the environment. The impact of bans on licence holders is recognised as severe, however, the implementation of cease to divert within a catchment is necessary to protect base environmental flows and maintain where possible river health and associated flora and fauna.

8. Current climate and streamflow in the longer term context

Victoria's climate has shown a warming and drying trend over recent decades, and this trend is expected to continue over the longer-term future. In the last 30 years in Port Phillip and Westernport:

- Annual rainfall has decreased slightly
- Dry years have occurred 12 times and wet years seven times
- Rainfall has decreased in the autumn and spring months
- Rainfall is moderately reliable year round
- The autumn break usually occurs by mid-April in the region's north east around Warburton, through to late May in the south west of the region.
- There have been fewer frosts
- There have been more hot days, with more consecutive days above 35 °C
- Australia's climate has warmed on average by 1.44 ± 0.24 °C since national records began in 1910, leading to an increase in the frequency of extreme heat events

Some of the rainfall decline in late autumn and winter can be attributed to global warming and changes in the weather systems that deliver rainfall to Victoria. The cause of the reduction in streamflow response to rainfall is not yet fully known and is the subject of continuing research.

Over the longer term, Australia is projected to experience:

- Continued increases in air temperatures, more heat extremes and fewer cold extremes.
- Continued warming, with more extremely hot days and fewer extremely cool days.
- A decrease in cool season rainfall across many regions of the south and east, likely leading to more time spent in drought.
- More intense short-duration heavy rainfall events throughout the country.
- Fewer east coast lows particularly during the cooler months of the year. For events that do occur, sea level rise will increase the severity of some coastal impacts.

Even if there is an increase in summer rainfall, it is unlikely to offset the streamflow impact of rainfall reductions in winter because most of the runoff in Victorian catchments occurs over winter and spring. In the warmer months, catchments are drier and more rainfall soaks into the ground, is used by vegetation or evaporates.

Although there will still be a lot of variability in Victoria's climate and streamflow, the chances of experiencing warmer conditions and less streamflow is now higher than in past decades.

More information on the observed changes and longer-term future climate and water projections can be found at https://www.water.vic.gov.au/climate-change

The Victorian Government is investing in further research to better understand how Victoria's climate is changing and the water resource implications, as part of implementing Water for Victoria.

9. Environmental Water and Streamflow Management

9.1 Water for the environment

As delegated delivery partner, Melbourne Water delivers environmental water on behalf of the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH) in accordance with their Seasonal Watering Plan 2024-25. This includes managing Environmental Water in the Yarra, Tarago/Bunyip, Werribee and Maribyrnong rivers and wetlands.

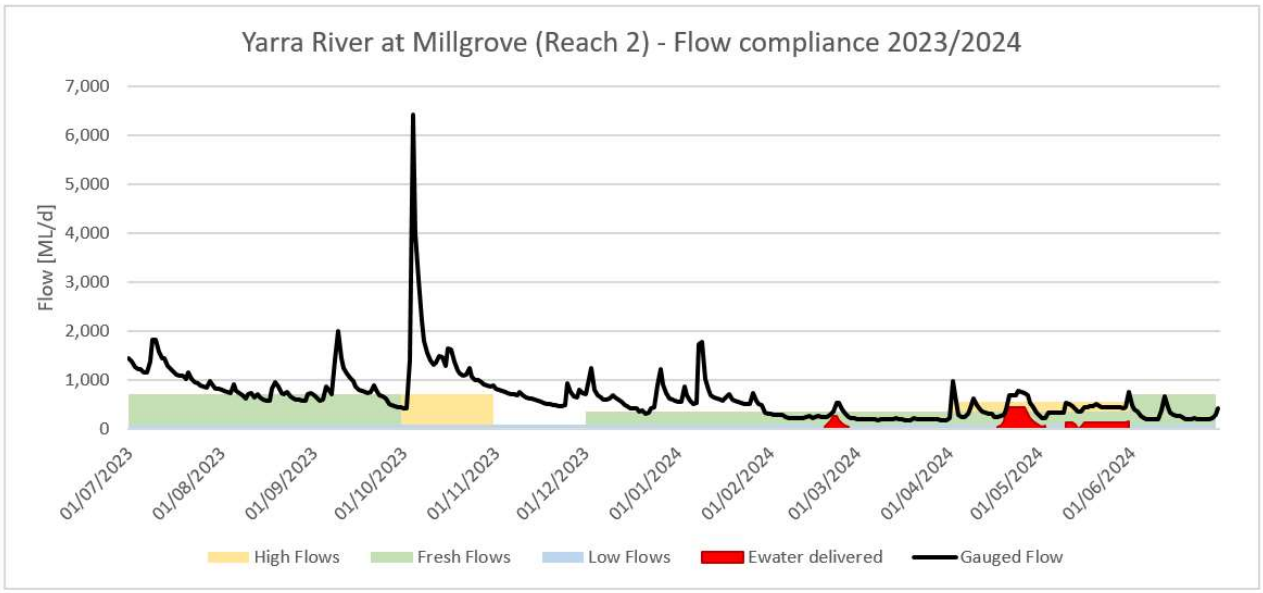
We do this because climate change and human activity have altered rivers and creeks, including their natural patterns. This affects animal habitats, breeding and migration, and can upset the balance of entire plant and animal communities. Our environmental water flow releases help to restore the balance and meet need of the environmental values to maintain a healthy river. It also provides a range of shared benefits including recreational, cultural and economic benefits.

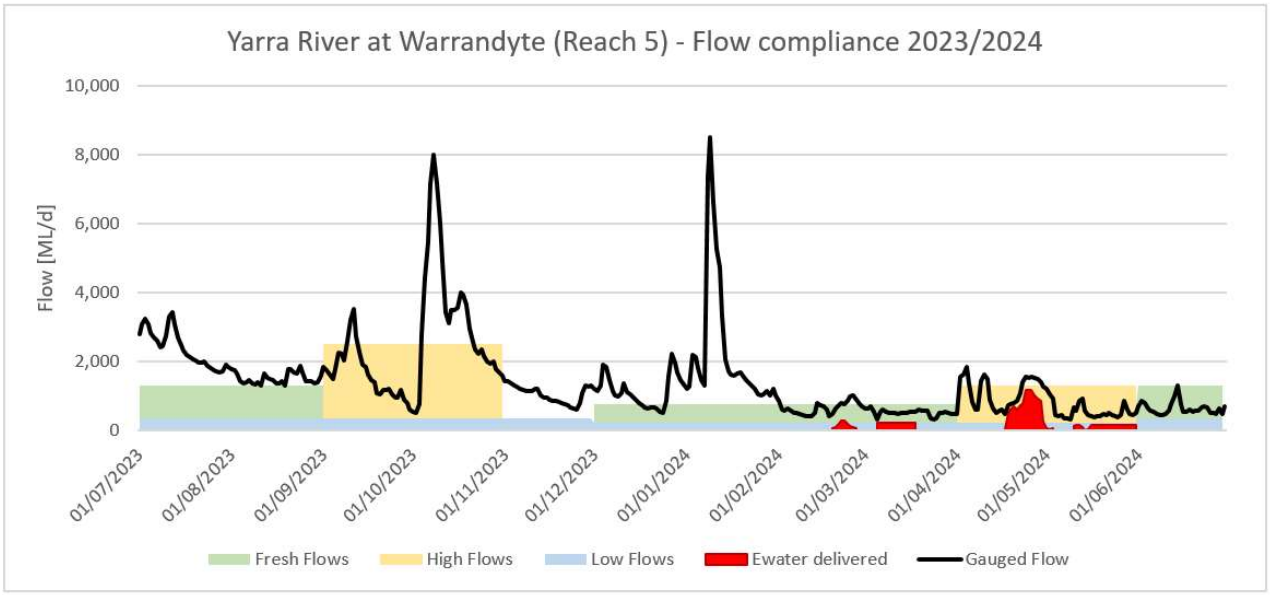
Catchment rainfall and unregulated flows helped to achieve some watering actions in 2023-24, however all catchments experienced dry and hot autumn to early winter conditions in 2023-24 which necessitated a larger number of environmental water deliveries than the preceding two years. In total 20.8GL of environmental water was delivered as shown in the table below:

Environmental water delivered for 2023-24

River	Volume delivered	Outcomes
Yarra *(Birrarung)*	19,006 ML	During 2023-24 19,006ML of water for the environment was actively delivered to the Yarra River (*Birrarung*) to achieve one summer/autumn fresh, one autumn high and supplementation of low flows in autumn. The environmental water release for summer/autumn freshes and the autumn high flow aimed to improve aquatic habitat and channel form, maintain bank vegetation and provide opportunities for fish movement. Low flow supplementation was delivered to sustain the river through periods of prolonged dry and warm conditions. Water for the environment was delivered to Yering Backswamp to improve wetland vegetation and provide habitat for frogs and birds. The site was also naturally inundated in October and December 2023. All billabongs in the lower Yarra (*Birrarung*) floodplain were engaged naturally in January 2024. Catchment rainfall and unregulated flows helped to achieve some watering actions, including one spring fresh, one spring high, and two summer/autumn freshes.
Maribyrnong *(Mirrangbamurn)*	261.9 ML	In 2023-24, 261.9 megalitres of environmental water was secured by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder through temporary trade of unused irrigation allocations. Water for the environment was actively delivered from Rosslynne reservoir to Jacksons Creek (Reach 6 Gisborne and Reach 7 Sunbury) to achieve five summer/autumn freshes targeting improved water quality and in-stream habitat connectivity. Available water volumes and operational constraints limiting the maximum release from Rosslynne Reservoir meant full achievement of all targets (other than summer/autumn freshes) was not possible. Catchment rainfall and unregulated flows helped to achieve some watering actions, including two summer/autumn freshes for Reach 7 and partial achievement of summer/autumn low flow targets.

In 2023-24, as storage operator and delivery partner, Melbourne Water delivered 24,679ML from Thomson Reservoir to the Thomson river as water for the environment. This was in partnership with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and on behalf of the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.





Yarra River at Millgrove and Warrandyte environmental flow compliance 2022/23

In 2024-25, Melbourne Water will monitor the catchment conditions in line with the Seasonal Watering Plan and manage the system to an 'average' scenario.

Potential environmental watering actions, expected watering effects and associated environmental objectives for the Yarra system (VEWH, 2024):

Potential environmental watering action	Expected watering effects	Environmental objectives
Yarra River – reach 1		
Winter/spring high flow (one high flow for three days during June-September) reach 1: 300 ML/d	• Scour sediment and biofilm from gravel in riffles • Provide prolonged wetting to favour flood-tolerant streamside native vegetation • Draw in and transport organic material to support carbon cycling	CN1, V1, G2
Yarra River – reach 2 and 5		
Winter/spring low flow (June to November) reach 2: 80-350 ML/day reach 5: 350-750 ML/day	• Physically mix pools to minimise the risk of stratification and low oxygen • Maintain access to habitats for fish, waterbugs and platypus • Wet bank vegetation to promote growth	F1, MI1, PR1, V1, WQ1
Winter/spring freshes (two freshes for three to seven days during June to September) reach 2: 700 ML/day reach 5: 1,300-2,500 ML/day	• Scour sediment and biofilm from gravel in riffles to improve spawning opportunities for Macquarie perch • Wet native streamside vegetation on the banks of the river to promote growth • Provide cues for upstream migration of juvenile migratory fish (e.g. Australian grayling and tupong) and spawning of Macquarie perch • Draw in and transport organic material to support carbon cycling	CN1, F1, G2, V1
Spring high flow (one high flow for 14 days during September to October) reach 2: 700 ML/day reach 5: 2,500 ML/day	• Scour sediment and biofilm from gravel in riffles • Provide prolonged wetting to favour flood-tolerant native vegetation in the streamside zone • Provide cues for upstream migration of juvenile migratory fish (e.g. Australian grayling and tupong) • Improve spawning opportunities of Macquarie perch • Draw in and transport organic material to support carbon cycling	CN1, G2, F1, V1
Summer/autumn low flow (December to May) reach 2: 80 ML/day reach 5: 200 ML/day reach 6: 300-450 ML/day	• Physically mix pools to minimise the risk of stratification and low oxygen • Maintain riffle and pool habitats for fish, waterbugs and platypus	F1, MI1, PR1, WQ1

Summer/autumn freshes (three freshes for two days during December to May) reach 2: 350 ML/day reach 5: 750 ML/day	• Flush pools to prevent a decline in water quality • Scour sediment and biofilm from gravel in riffles and pools to maintain habitat quality for fish and waterbugs • Provide opportunities for the localised movement of fish and platypus • Wet the banks of the river to maintain flood-tolerant vegetation on the banks	
Autumn high flow (one high flow for seven to 14 days during April to May) reach 2: 560 ML/day reach 5: 1,300 ML/ day	• Cue the migration of Australian grayling • Scour sediment and biofilm from gravel in riffles and pools to maintain habitat quality for fish and waterbugs	

Yarra Billabongs		
Bolin Bolin Billabong (fill in spring)	• Fill the wetland to full supply level to engage the inlet/ outlet channel to the Yarra River as an exit strategy for eels • Allow to draw down over summer and autumn to support the growth of threatened wetland plant species and encourage the regeneration of spreading aquatic herbs • Maintain a permanent pool to provide habitat for frogs, waterbugs and any remaining eels • Provide an exit for eels to return to the Yarra	
Yering Backswamp (fill in autumn/ winter/spring)	• Wet the deepest parts of the wetland to about 80 cm to provide habitat for frogs • Wet remaining areas of the wetland to about 40-60 cm to support the growth of threatened wetland plant species and encourage the regeneration of spreading aquatic herbs	

Environmental objectives in the Yarra system

A1 – Maintain the frog population, particularly on the mid-Yarra River floodplain

CN1 – Provide sufficient rates of carbon and nutrient production and processing to support native fish and waterbug communities

F1 – Protect and increase the native fish population, including threatened species (such as the Australian grayling, Macquarie perch and river blackfish)

G1 – Maintain the form of the river channel

G2 – Scour silt from riffles and clean cobbles

M1 – Maintain the diversity and increase the abundance of waterbugs to support aquatic food webs

PR1 – Maintain the resident platypus population

V1 – Maintain native streamside and aquatic vegetation on the riverbank and in the channels

V2 – Increase the growth of threatened wetland plant species to rehabilitate shallow marsh, deep marsh and freshwater meadows on the floodplain and billabongs

WQ1 – Improve water quality in river pools, ensuring adequate oxygen concentration in the water to support fish, crustaceans and waterbugs

9.2 Streamflow Management Plans

Melbourne Water manages seven (7) Stream Flow Management Plans (SFMP) in the Yarra catchment, through regular condition monitoring and ensuring water diverters comply with their licence conditions.

Following reviews in 2019/20, Melbourne Water is recommitting to the Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks, Hoddles Creek and Stringybark Creek SFMP unamended for a further five years. Following assessment that the Plenty River would be more adequately serviced with a non-statutory Local Management Plan (LMP), Melbourne Water, in consultation with the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, is beginning the consultation process to repeal this SFMP and replace it with an LMP.

In 2024, Melbourne Water began reviewing the Woori Yallock Creek, Little Yarra and Don River's and Olinda Creek Streamflow Management Plans.

Melbourne Water continues to review each SFMP on a cyclical basis as outlined in each plan's prescriptions to ensure that it is meeting current catchment requirements and takes in to account changing catchment conditions and the effects a climate variations.

10. Further information

While these water outlooks are produced only annually by Melbourne Water, information around rainfall and river levels is available on our website for over 200 monitoring sites across Melbourne. https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water/rainfall-and-river-levels#/

In addition our catchment ban and restriction status is updated daily on the website at 5am. https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water/waterway-diversions/restriction-and-ban-status

Monitoring of both of these sources of information can provide useful insights to likely changes in catchment conditions.

Other useful information around what the application of bans and restrictions means to your licence can be found in Melbourne Water's Drought Response Plan for Licensed Water Users: https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water/waterway-diversions/stream-flow-management