East Gippsland Water

# ANNUAL WATER OUTLOOK SUMMARY

30 November 2025

# CONTENTS

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Climate Outlook Summary:

The region of East Gippsland is expected to experience typical conditions with the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting a 60-75% chance of exceeding median rainfall for the November to January period, with 100mm-300mm to fall across parts of the catchments. Days are likely to be warmer than normal with a 65-80% chance of exceeding maximum temperatures.

The main climate drivers, El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), are predicted to favour rainfall in East Gippsland. ENSO is currently neutral, b
ut some models suggest a possible shift to La Nina later in spring. So far, the atmosphere hasn't responded to this shift. A negative IOD is underway, which usually brings more spring rain to the region.

### Water Restrictions Outlook:

Water restrictions are unlikely across East Gippsland Water's drinking water supply systems. However, there is a possibility for the Mitchell and Omeo systems over the next 12 months due to limited forecasting ability (3-6months). This is due to source water reliability. If drought conditions become evident over summer then an update will be provided.

Despite the unlikely probability of water restrictions, extreme events such as bushfires in our catchments, or emergencies like major loss of power supply or water contamination could require the implementation of restrictions to manage water demands.

A water security audit, including asset condition is typically undertaken every 12 months. However, leading into and preparing for drought more frequent checks will be undertaken based on catchment conditions. Other site specific initiatives are also reviewed or completed in line with the Drought Preparedness and Response Plan (DPP & DRP).

### Rainfall Conditions:

September rainfall was below the 5-year monthly average for all catchments. Throughout the reporting period, rainfall fluctuated around the long term monthly average with significant rainfall events across different catchments in February, April, June and July.

### Streamflow conditions:

As of September, streamflow was below the 5-year monthly average for all waterways. Throughout the reporting period, streamflow generally remained below the long term monthly average, except for Omeo, Bemm River and Mallacoota. East Gippsland experience some significant streamflow events in April, June and July.

### Water demand and usage:

Total water demand for East Gippsland drinking water supply systems has generally increased or remained constant over the past 12 months, except for Swifts Creek, Orbost and Bemm River which decreased. The changes are likely due to the influence of non-revenue water

Non-revenue water is within the target range of 10-20% except for Dinner Plain, Buchan, and Cann River.

Average daily water use per person remains within the target of less than 200 litres per person per day, except for Dinner Plain, Bemm River and Mallacoota. This is likely due to the influence of tourism.

**Storage Outlook:**
Water storages are expected to remain relatively full and within normal operating ranges.

## 2. AWO SUMMARY EXPLANATION

The Annual Water Outlook (AWO) is a key water security monitoring tool that supports East Gippsland Water's Urban Water Strategy (UWS) and Drought Preparedness Plan (DPP). It provides a 12-month outlook for each water supply system under median, dry, and worst-on-record climate scenarios, and assesses the likelihood of water restrictions based on DPP restriction curves and available response measures.

This AWO aligns with strategic planning documents and reflects current system vulnerabilities, demand trends, and climate forecasts. It ensures transparency and preparedness in managing urban water security risks and informs customers and stakeholders of expected service levels and contingency actions.

## 3. SYSTEM VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

The following systems are projected to meet minimum, lower, current, and higher levels of service objectives under all climate scenarios and demand projections:

- Swifts Creek
- Buchan
- Orbost
- Bemm River
- Cann River
- Mallacoota

These drinking water supply systems show very low frequency of water restrictions, ranging from 1 in 45 to74 year probabilities. They have adequate infrastructure capacity and entitlements. So, any renewals will be based on asset condition and vulnerabilities to extreme events like flood, bushfire and landslide.

Drinking water supply systems that require action are:

- Dinner Plain: Daily bore extraction limit of 0.4ML/d (daily limit) is insufficient to meet peak winter demand by 2040. The annual groundwater licence of 120ML/yr is adequate but the daily limit is the constraint.
- Omeo: Peak year demand may be exceeded during drought. And there is limited raw water storage options.
- Mitchell System: Minimum level of service not met by 2040. Low flow events below 30ML/d are a 1 in 7 year probably with 34% streamflow reductions by 2040.

Table 3.1: Likelihood of water restrictions rated according to DELWP (2017) guidance. **Likelihood of water restrictions range:** very rare <1%; rare 1-4%; unlikely 5-19%; possible 20-49%; likely 50-79%; almost certain 80-100%.

| Water Supply System | Townships supplied | Water source | Likelihood of water restrictions over 2025/26 summer | Timeframe | Contingency plans/comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dinner Plain | Dinner Plain | Groundwater bores (2) | "Rare" | 12 months | Not expected under worst on record scenario<br><br>Refer to EGW Urban Water Strategy- Drought Response Plan and section 6.1.1- Demand profile |
| Omeo | Omeo | Butchers Creek | "Unlikely" | 6 months | Likely under very dry year scenario<br><br>Refer to EGW Urban Water Strategy- Drought Response Plan and section 6.1.2- Demand profile |
| Swifts Creek | Swifts Creek | Tambo River | "Unlikely" | 6 months | Possible under very dry year scenario<br><br>Refer to EGW Urban Water Strategy- Drought Response Plan and section 6.2.3- Demand profile |

| Water Supply System | Townships supplied | Water source | Likelihood of water restrictions over 2025/26 summer | Timeframe | Contingency plans/comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mitchell River | Bairnsdale (including Wy Yung and Lucknow), Lindenow, Paynesville, Raymond Island, Metung, Tambo Bluff, Lakes Entrance (including Lake Tyers, Lake Tyers Beach and Kalimna), Nowa Nowa, Nicholson, Johnsonville, Swan Reach, Bruthen and Sarsfield | Mitchell River + 5 groundwater bores (take and use plus Aquifer Storage and Recovery) | "Unlikely" | 6 months | Possible under very dry year scenario<br><br>Refer to EGW Urban Water Strategy- Drought Response Plan and section 6.2.3- Demand profile<br>Mitchell River should only reach the restricted pumping trigger in 2024/25. |
| Buchan | Buchan | Buchan River | "Unlikely" | 6 months | Possible under very dry year scenario<br><br>Refer to EGW Urban Water Strategy- Drought Response Plan and section 6.3.5- Demand profile |
| Orbost | Orbost, Marlo, Newmerella | Brodribb River | "Unlikely" | 12 months | Not expected under worst on record scenario<br><br>Refer to EGW Urban Water Strategy- Drought Response Plan and section 6.3.6- Demand profile |

| Water Supply System | Townships supplied | Water source | Likelihood of water restrictions over 2025/26 summer | Timeframe | Contingency plans/comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bemm River | Bemm River | Bemm River | "Rare" | 12 months | Not expected under worst on record scenario. Instead bushfire or contamination<br><br>Refer to EGW Urban Water Strategy- Drought Response Plan and section 6.3.7- Demand profile |
| Cann River | Cann River | Cann River | "Unlikely" | 6 months | Possible under very dry year scenario<br><br>Refer to EGW Urban Water Strategy- Drought Response Plan and section 6.4.8- Demand profile |
| Mallacoota | Mallacoota | Betka River and 4 groundwater bores | "Rare" | 12 months | Not expected under worst on record scenario<br><br>Refer to EGW Urban Water Strategy- Drought Response Plan and section 6.4.9- Demand profile |

# 4. WATER OUTLOOK SUMMARY INCLUDING CLIMATE

East Gippsland Water (EGW) operates nine separate potable water supply systems that are not connected to the Victoria Water grid. The systems are a combination of:

- Surface water (rivers, streams and creeks) supplied with off-stream storages (Bemm River, Buchan, Cann River, Orbost, Omeo and Swifts Creek supply systems);
- Mixture of surface water and groundwater supplied with off-stream storages (Mitchell River and Mallacoota systems); and
- Groundwater supplied with storage (Dinner Plain).

The townships provided with water services are shown in **Figure 4.1 below.** The Mitchell River Water Supply System is the largest within the East Gippsland Water region, it provides potable water via 21,556 service connections to a population of approximately 30,000 within major towns such as Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Metung and Paynesville.

The climate outlook in the region is likely to experience typical conditions. El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral with some models indicating a transition to La Nina during Spring. However, there is currently no coupling with atmospheric conditions. A negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is currently underway and expected to persist through spring, which is historically associated with enhanced spring rainfall for East Gippsland.

There is a 60-75% chance of exceeding median rainfall, as seen in figure 2.1, with 100-300mm of rainfall forecast between November and January.

The maximum median temperatures are a 65-80% chance of exceeding median maximum temperatures as seen in figure 2.2. However, it is not anticipated to be unusually warm or cold.

Under these conditions, it is unlikely that water restrictions will be required in any of East Gippsland Water's drinking water supply systems. Despite the unlikely probability of water restrictions, extreme events such as bushfires in our catchments, or emergencies like major loss of power supply or water contamination could require the implementation of restrictions to manage water demands.

Victorian climate and streamflow in the longer-term context Victoria's climate and streamflow is highly variable, but within this variability we have experienced a warming and drying trend over recent decades.

Over recent decades we have experienced trends toward:
- higher temperatures and more hot days;
- reductions in rainfall during the cooler months;
- increases in extreme, short-duration rainfall events; and
- in some catchments, particularly in western Victoria, a shift in the streamflow response to rainfall with typically less streamflow generated for a given amount of rain.

Some of the rainfall declines in the cooler months can be attributed to increases in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. During the cooler months, we have been getting less rainfall from low-pressure and frontal systems.

Over future decades we can expect:
- the rainfall reductions during the cooler months to persist;
- increases in extreme rainfall events;
- increases in potential evapotranspiration due to higher temperature and lower relative humidity;
- reductions in streamflow because of less rainfall and higher potential evapotranspiration; and
- the streamflow response to rainfall to no longer remain the same, and generally decline.

Victoria's climate will continue to be variable with wet years and dry years, against a background drying trend. With a warmer future and projections of declining water availability, we can expect more frequent and severe droughts in coming decades and increases in extreme rainfall events. The Victorian Government is investing in further research to better understand how Victoria's climate is changing and the water resource implications, through the Victorian Water and Climate Initiative. More information on the observed changes and longer-term future climate and water projections can be found at: https://www.water.vic.gov.au/water-and-climate

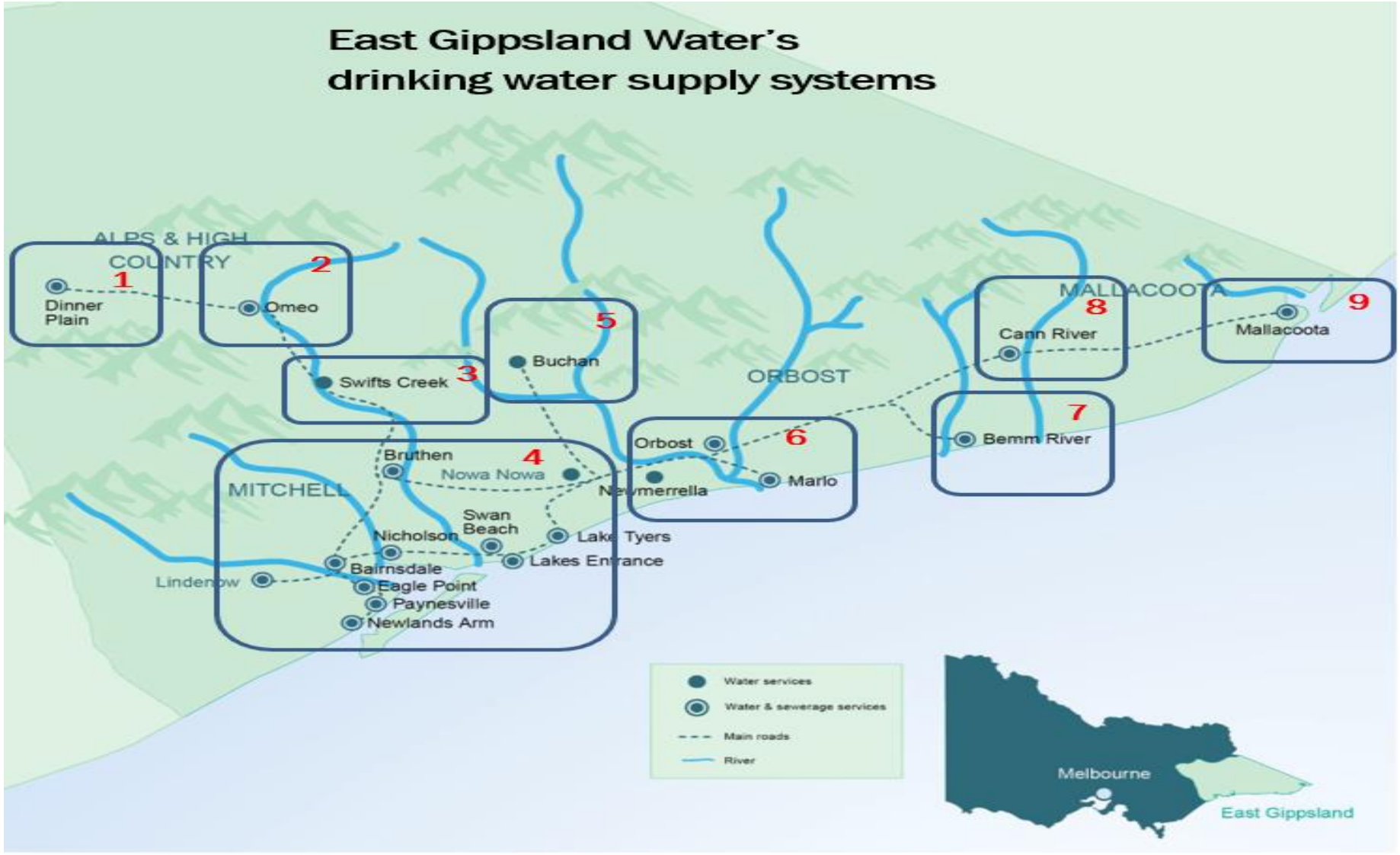



Figure 4.1: Towns supplied with East Gippsland Water's, water and sewerage services

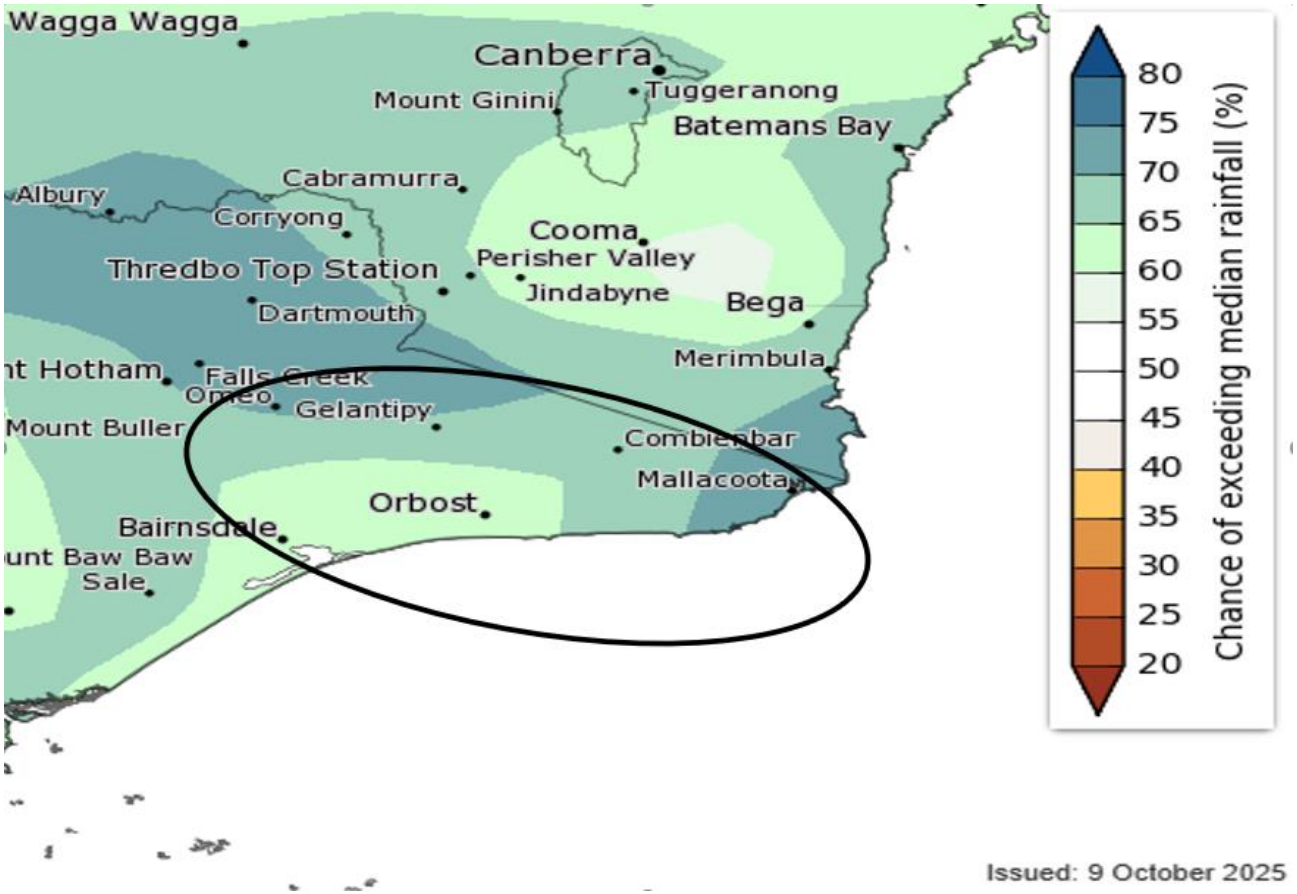



Figure 4.2: Chance of above median rainfall for November to January (The Bureau of Meteorology- Climate Outlooks)

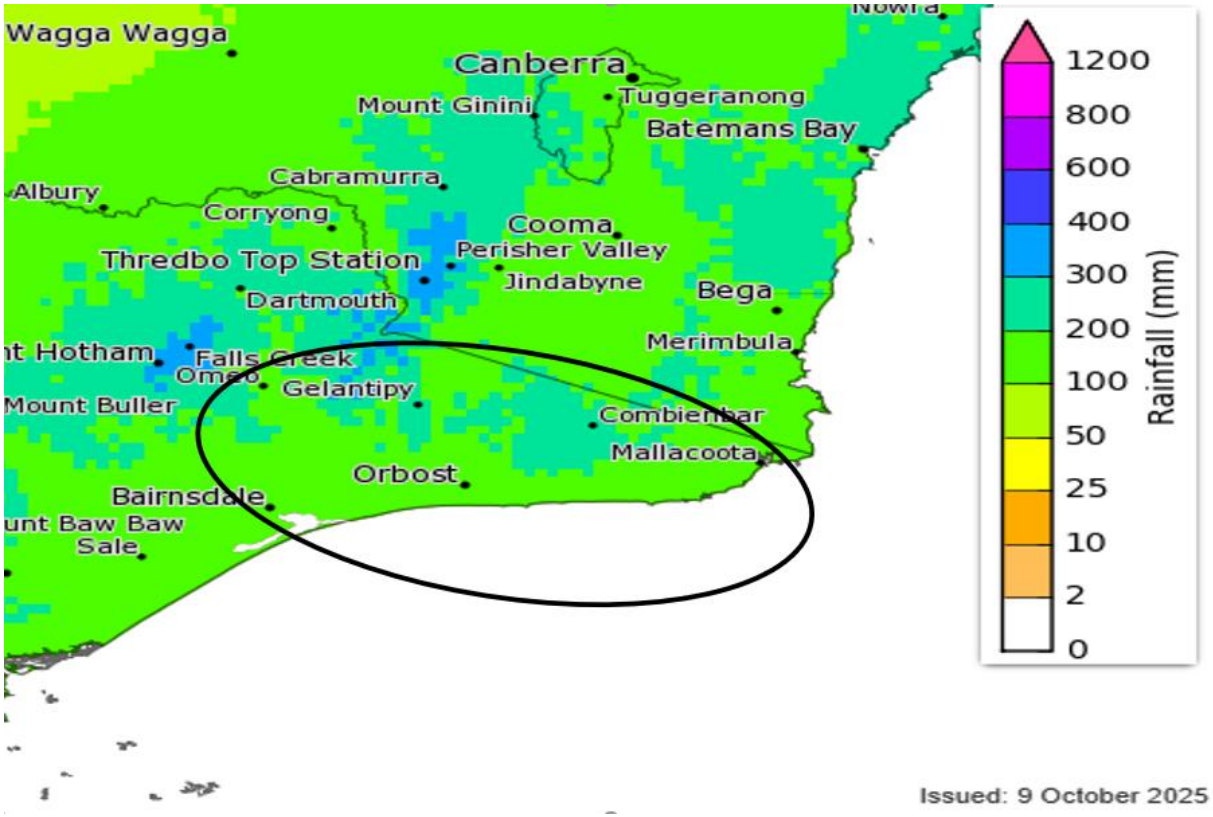



Figure 4.3: Rainfall- Totals that have a 75% chance of occurring for  November to January (The Bureau of Meteorology- Climate Outlooks)

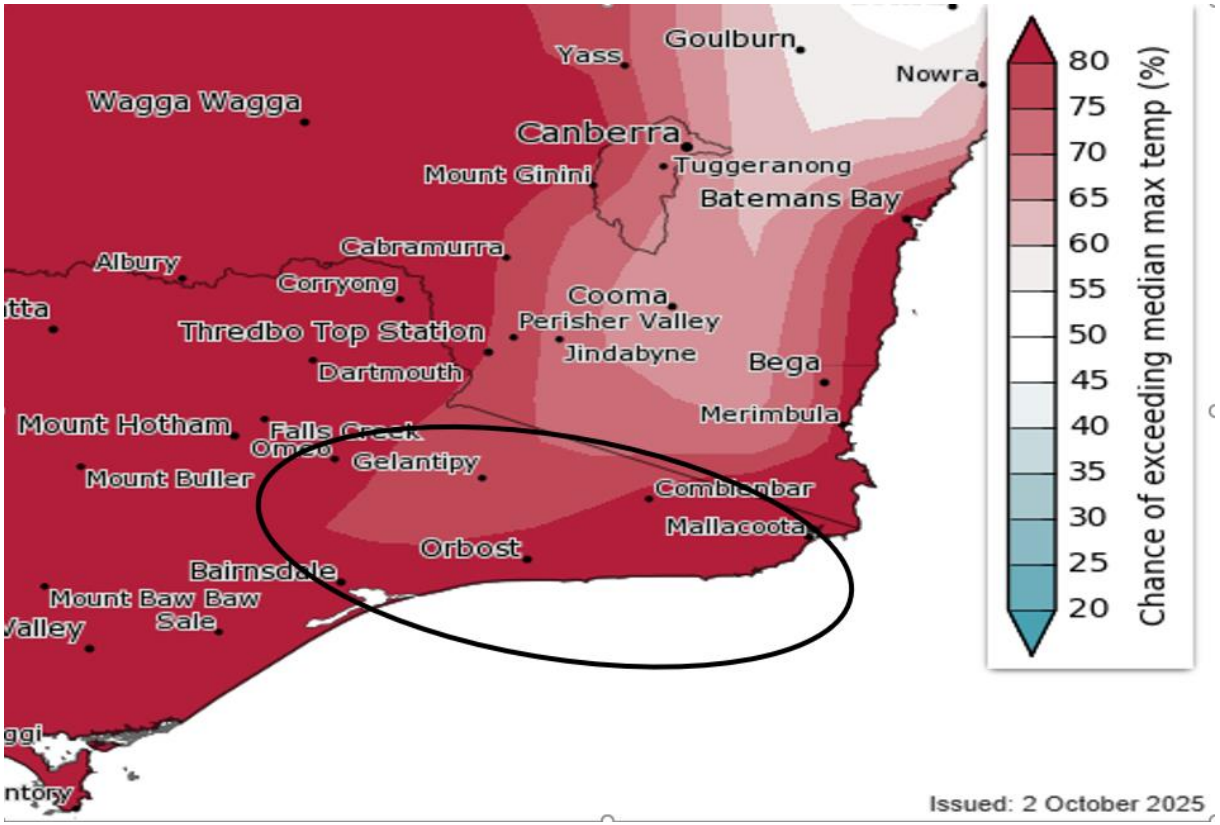



Figure 4.4: Chance of above median maximum temperatures for November to January
(The Bureau of Meteorology- Climate Outlooks)

## 5. RAINFALL COMPARISON

Rainfall comparisons are summarised for the catchments of each specific drinking water supply in section 6. The 2025 average rainfall for each month and 5-year average rainfall for each month are compared against the very dry year of 2019 and the very wet year of 2022.

The general rainfall pattern for 2025 has been typical of seasonal trends with a drier winter and start to spring. And therefore, East Gippsland will be reliant on good spring and early summer rainfall.

It has been a year of extremes with notably dry periods within the 5th percentile as well as highest on record rainfall events for the month. However, most drinking water catchments received above average monthly rainfall for the 2025 period, with only Omeo and Swifts Creek having 5 months of below average monthly rainfall so far this year. This was due to a few major rainfall events in February, April, June and July.

Parts of East Gippsland experienced the 'highest on record' monthly rainfall totals in 2025, including Mitchell and Orbost in February.

As well as lowest on record monthly rainfall for Orbost, 5th percentile for Omeo, Buchan, Cann River and Mallacoota, and 10th percentile for Mitchell.

Dargo forms part of the Mitchell river catchment and received above average rainfall this year as seen in figure 3.1. It also highlights that we have already received more rainfall than the very dry years of either 2017 or 2019.

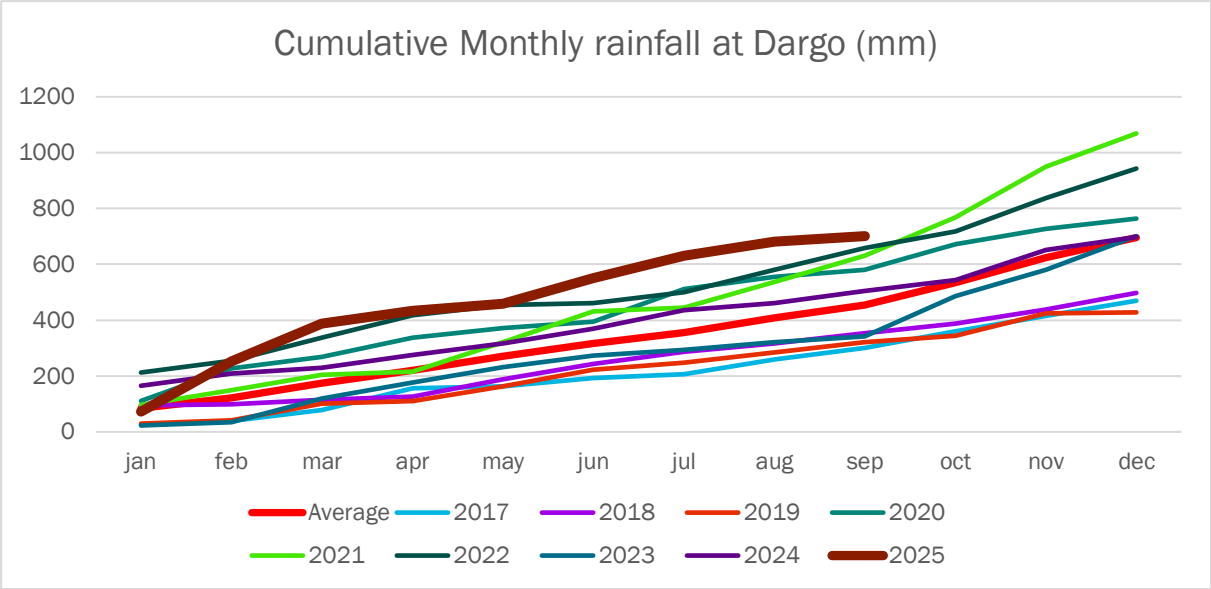



Figure 5.1: Cumulative Monthly Rainfall at Dargo

## 6. STREAMFLOW COMPARISONS

Streamflow comparisons are summarised for each specific drinking water supply systems source water in section 6. The 2025 average streamflow for each month and 5-year average streamflow for each month are compared against the very dry year of 2019 and the very wet year of 2022.

All of the relevant waterways are currently below the 5-year average streamflow, other than Butchers Creek in Omeo. This is because there has been several wet years that have influenced the average. Also, over the last twelve months there have been periods of minimal rainfall and a particularly dry start to spring, with only a few significant rainfall events.

Eastern waterways had two significant rainfall events in April and July. All other waterways had a single event in July following decent rainfall in June and July.

The waterways of East Gippsland are responsive to rainfall, and the usually decent Spring rainfall will return the waterways to average/above average flow rates. This is evident with a number of high streamflow events that are very noticeable over the reporting period.

Water from the Mitchell River is diverted at Glenaladale to supply the Mitchell drinking water supply system. The Mitchell River's current trendline is average and has already had more water available than the very dry years of 2017 and 2019 even after a dry September, as seen in figure 4.1.

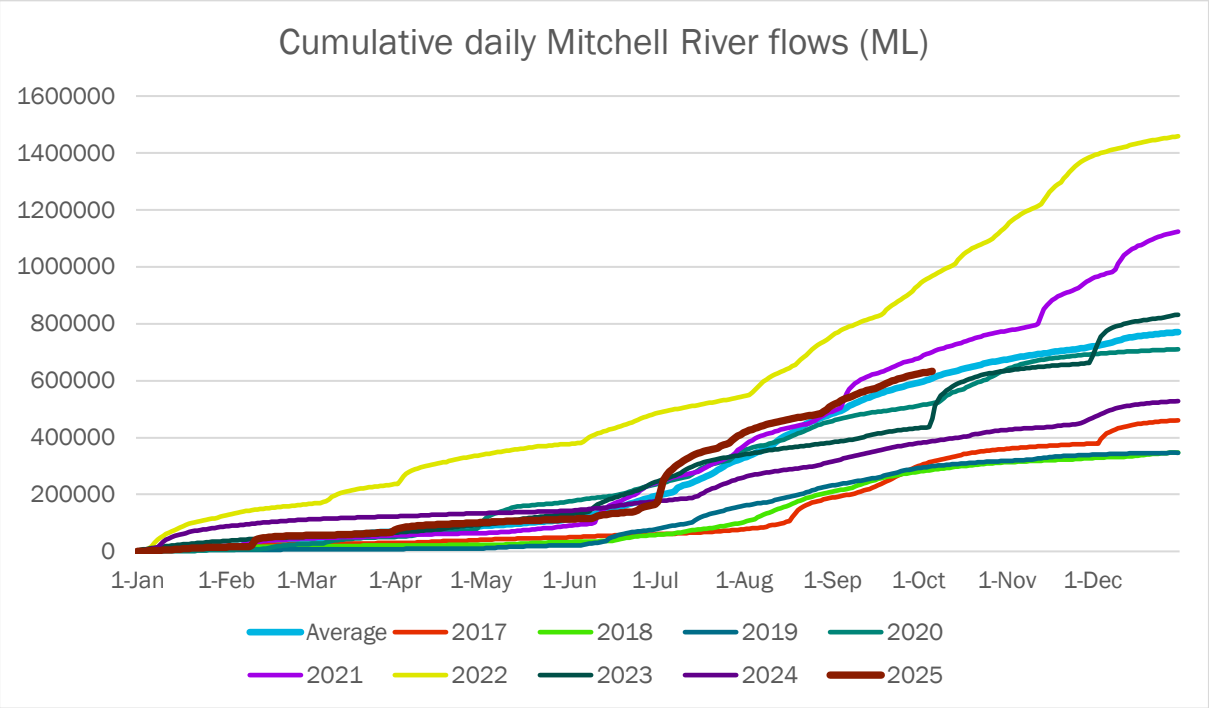



Figure 6.1: Cumulative Daily Mitchell River Flow

## 7. DEMAND COMPARISONS

The total water demand includes residential and non-residential water consumption, as well as non-revenue water, which is water loss in the network from leakage, flushing and unauthorised usage. Detailed information of each system can be found in section 6.

Two main factors influencing water demand for East Gippsland Water's drinking water supply systems is the loss of water (non-revenue water) within the distribution network and natural climate variability from ENSO and IOD. Water loss can also occur during the commissioning of new assets like tanks and water mains, as well as in response to drinking water quality events or service failures, and even unauthorised use.

Permanent water-saving rules in place across the state every day of the year.
The rules are:

- Always water your garden using a leak-free hose with a trigger nozzle.
- Sprinklers and drippers can only be used before 10am and after 6pm.
- Don't hose concrete, paths or driveways - use a broom instead.
- Fountains and water features must recirculate water.

Head to East Gippsland Water's website for a refresher on the full range of rules

We encourage a domestic water use target of less than 200 litres per person per day. We can all make every drop count with simple and easy behaviour changes, such as shortening our showers and running the dishwasher and washing machine only when full.

The nine drinking water supply system's water use has been relatively stable over the last decade, with East Gippsland Water sourcing between 4500 ML and 6000 ML of water per year as seen in figure 5.1. The Mitchell system's actual water demand of 4688ML/yr is on track against the Urban Water Strategy projected demand of 4854ML/yr for the 2025-26 reporting period. The expected demand growth is in the order of 1% per annum.

It is predicted that all storages will remain relatively full and within normal operating range over the next 12 months. East Gippsland Water's largest drinking water supply system, the Mitchell, is expected to remain relatively full unless a very dry scenario develops. This is unlikely over the next 12 months due to the current climate outlook. This is shown in figure 5.3.

During the reporting period there was an increase in total water demand for each drinking water supply system, except for Swifts Creek, Orbost and Bemm River. Changes with network leakage (non-revenue water) seems to be the main cause, as well as minor changes to conditions within the specific catchments.

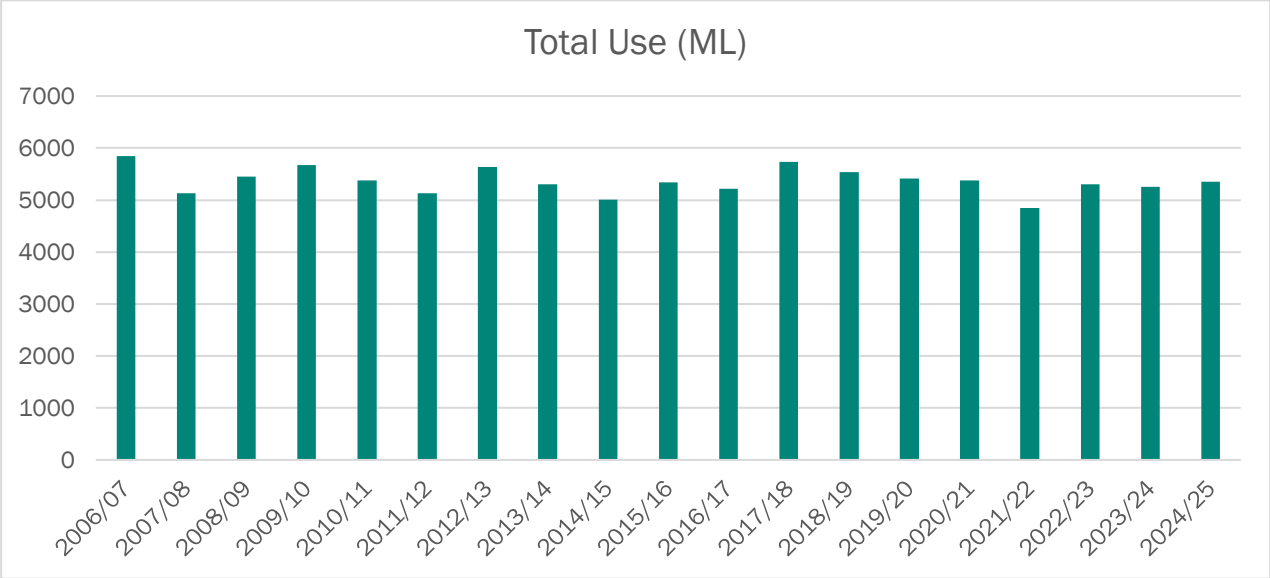



Figure 7.1: Total water use for East Gippsland Water's drinking water supply systems.

Table 7.2: UWS projected growth for each drinking water supply system.

| WATER SYSTEM | 2021 (baseline year) | 2026 | 2031 | 2036 | 2041 | 2046 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mitchell | - | 1.67% | 1.34% | 1.20% | 1.14% | 0.95% |
| Bemm River | - | 0.42% | 0.25% | 0.16% | 0.18% | 0.00% |
| Buchan | - | 0.67% | 0.39% | 0.11% | -0.13% | -0.25% |
| Cann River | - | 0.66% | 0.41% | 0.26% | 0.30% | 0.27% |
| Dinner Plain | - | 1.31% | 1.10% | 0.90% | 0.64% | 0.52% |
| Mallacoota | - | 0.67% | 0.39% | 0.11% | -0.13% | -0.25% |
| Orbost | - | 0.67% | 0.39% | 0.11% | -0.13% | -0.25% |
| Omeo | - | 1.76% | 1.21% | 1.13% | 0.90% | 0.70% |
| Swifts Creek | - | 1.41% | 0.80% | 0.69% | 0.62% | 0.60% |

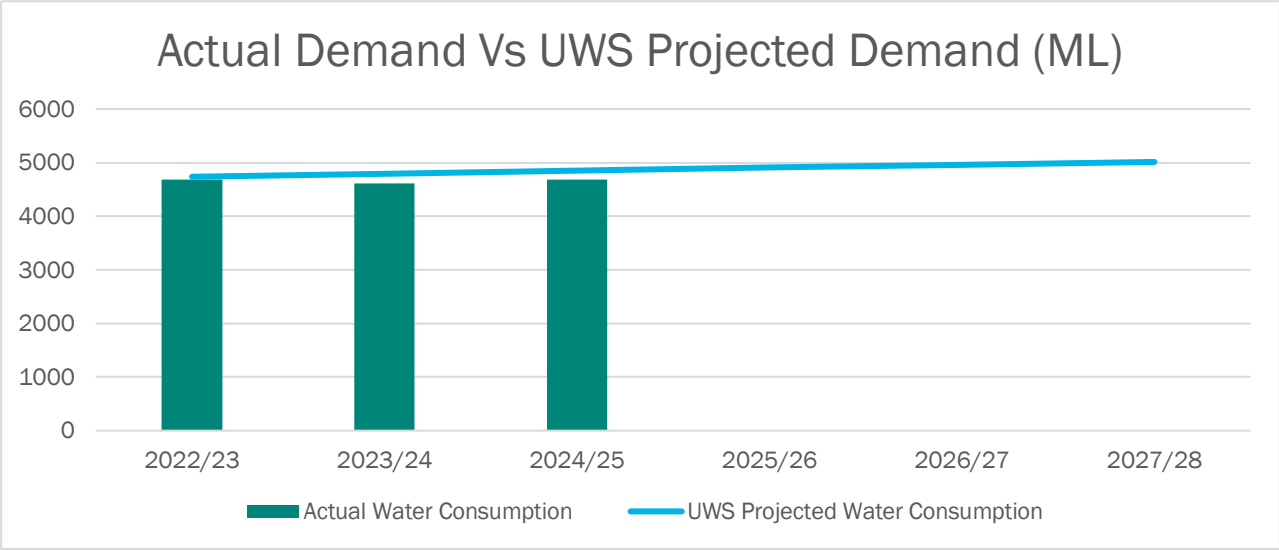
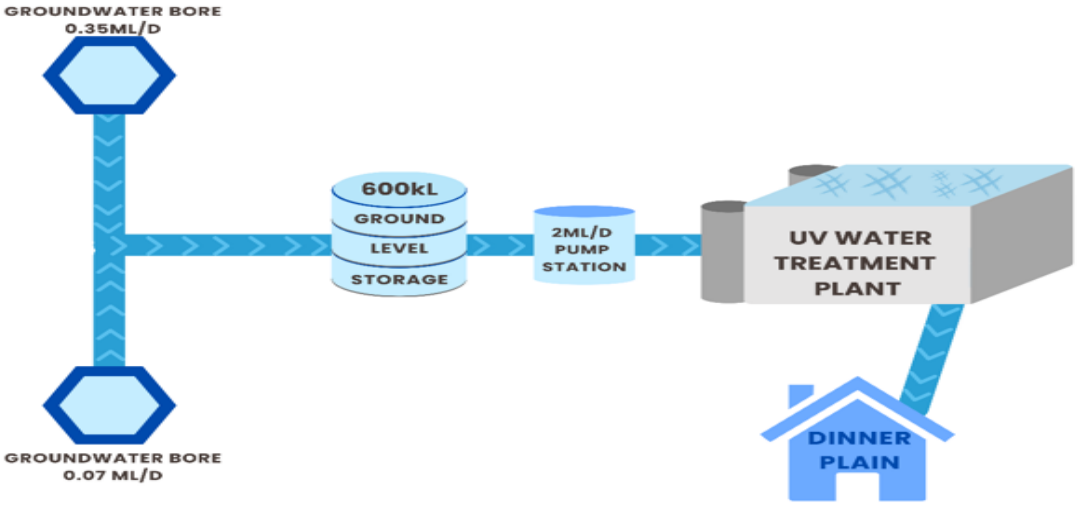



Figure 7.3: Mitchell System actual demand against UWS 'medium' projected growth scenario

# 8. WATER OUTLOOK SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2026

## 8.1. SYSTEM 1 UPPER MURRAY

### System 1.1- Dinner Plain




Likelihood of Restrictions
Rare

Population
230

Connections
410

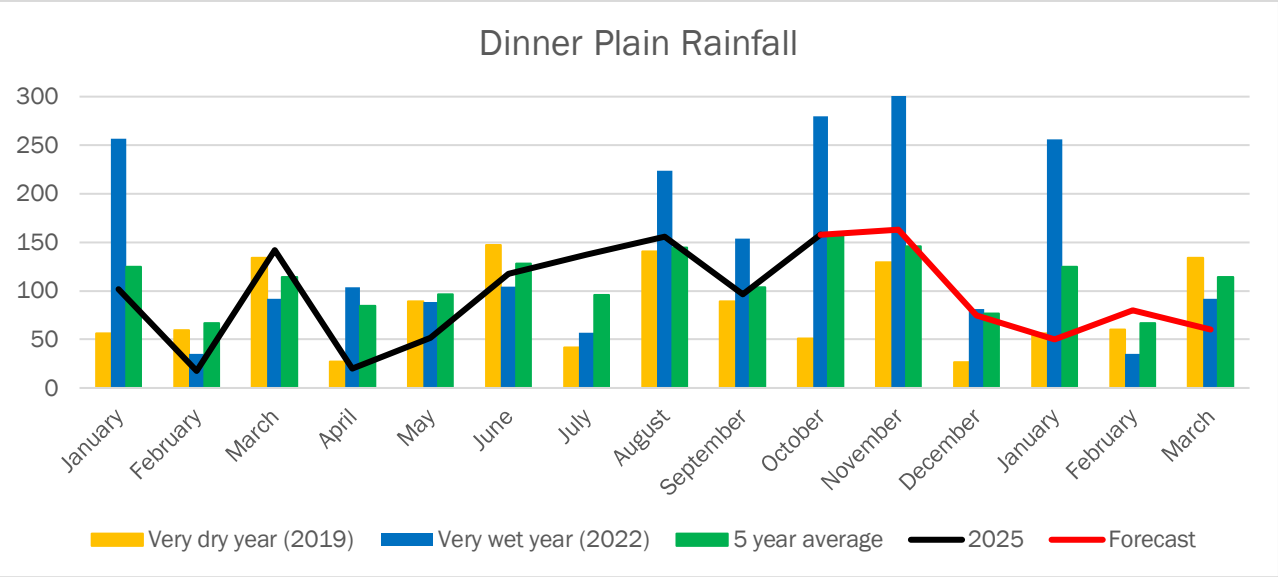
The Dinner Plain drinking water supply system is currently supplied by two groundwater bores, located approximately 50m apart. The bores pump to a 600kL storage tank before being pumped to a UV treatment plant and the reticulation network.

**System Reliability (Risk of Water Restrictions):**

- System peak demand period is winter due to snow making and it is a high rainfall area and therefore has not previously been impacted by drought
- All levels of service (minimum to higher) projected to not be met by 2040. Daily bore extraction limit (0.4 ML/d) is insufficient to meet peak winter demands (not drought related), especially during ski season

| | |
|---|---|
| • Bulk Entitlement (BE) risk with daily limit demand may be exceeded<br><br>**Source water availability:**<br><br>• One bore is reliable and the second bore has low production rate<br><br>**Mitigation/Preparation:**<br><br>• Construct third bore or larger Clear Water Storage<br>• Integrate water network model into masterplan, accounting for seasonal tourism and snowmaking<br>• Separate source water for council snowmaking<br>• Test maximum pump capacity and bore production rate beyond general asset condition program<br><br>**Contingency/Response:**<br><br>• Water carting from Omeo or Mt Hotham.<br>• Active leak detection program to reduce non-revenue water<br><br>**Drought response trigger:**<br><br>• Stage 2- demand is higher than bore yield<br>• Stage 4- when water carting is required<br><br>**Key Risks:**<br><br>The key risks are groundwater contamination due to an unconfined aquifer that poses a greater risk to surface impurities and pathogens. There is also a need for a new clear water storage to replace the current water storage due to the age of the current tank. | |
| Water Resource Position | Storage levels (21-10-2025) |

- Current volume of water in storage is normal as operating levels typically operate between 80-100%.




- Trending towards below average rainfall for 2025
- Significant rainfall events in March and August 2025
- Actual monthly rainfall fell below 5-year average in January, February, April, May and September 2025

Partially treated water storage
0.7ML (96%)

Total water in storage
0.7ML (96%)

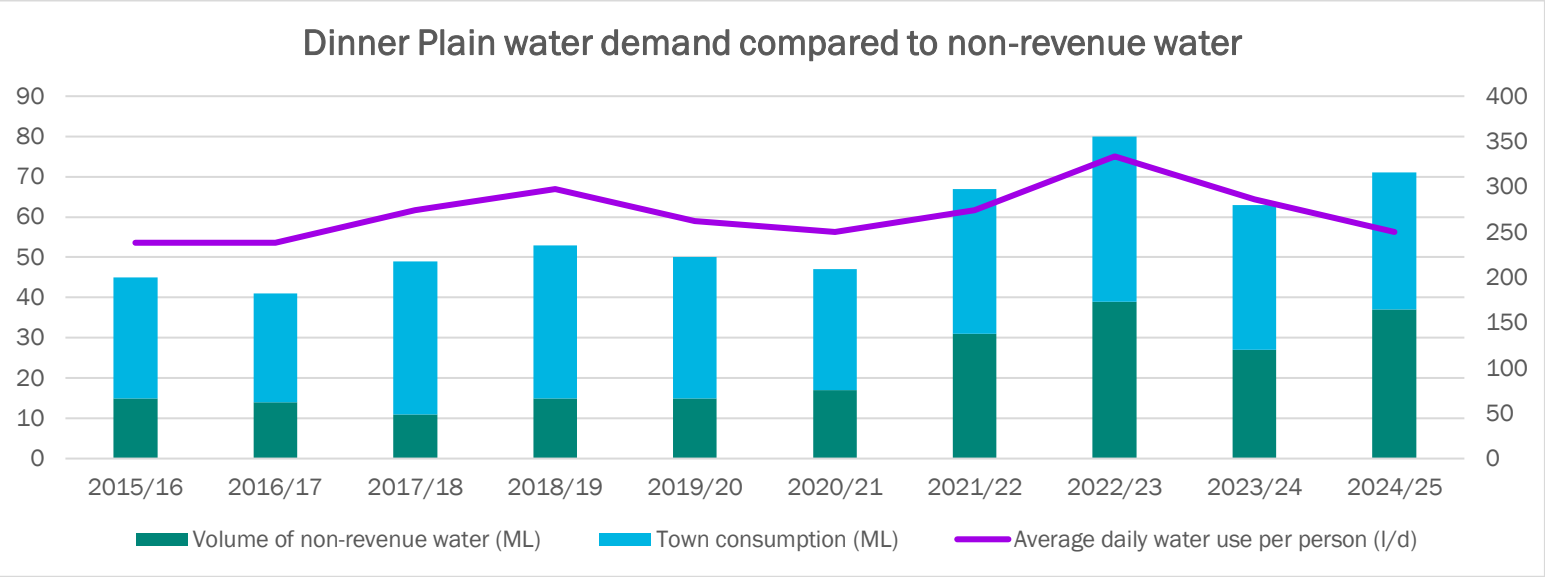
Annual Rainfall (as of Oct 2025)
840mm

5 Year Average Rainfall
1340mm

Current Groundwater
Sustainable

Annual Diversion Entitlement
120ML

Daily Diversion Entitlement
0.80ML




- Total water demand has increased over the last 12 months compared to the 2023/24 period due to non-revenue water
- Non-revenue water contributes to a significant portion of water use since 2021 (refer to action plan)
- The average daily water use per person is above the target of less than 200 litres/person/day. This is likely due to tourism increasing the populations water use average

**Total Use 2024-25**
71ML

**Expected Use 2025-26**
30ML

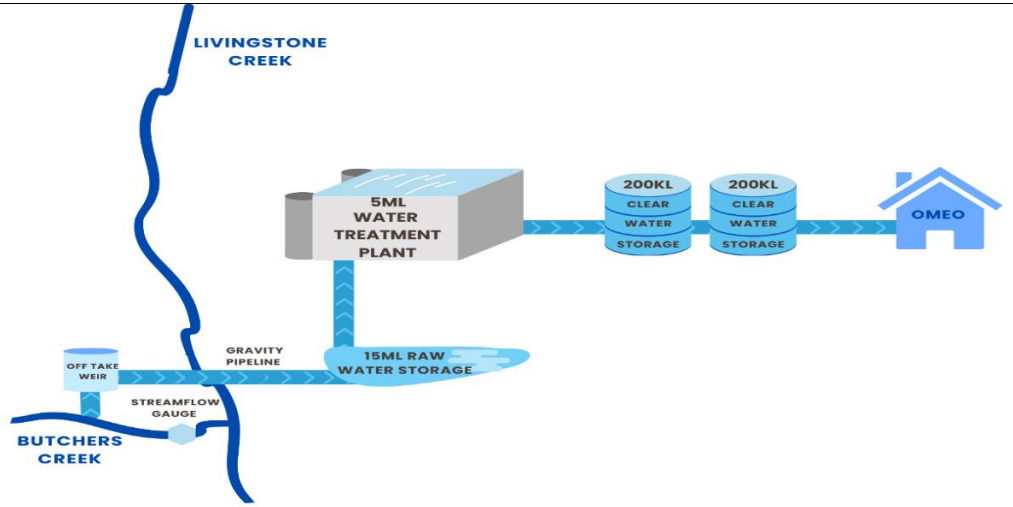
**Non-Revenue Water**
37ML (52%)

**Average Daily Use Per Person**
250 l/d

| Action | Timing | Status | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Investigate high non-revenue water | 2026 | A risk assessment and optioneering has been completed. Active leak detection works will commence and expected to be completed by end of 2026 | Active leak detection works were previously completed in 2024. However, since then the minimum night time flows have increased again and therefore so has the network leakage |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Increase Clear Water Storage | 5-20 years | Demand modelling completed | The need to progress to detailed design and construction is being reviewed. Findings to support master planning |
| Investigate options for alternative source water supply and potential groundwater expansion | 2022-27 | Feasibility assessment of a third bore or a larger clear water storage is expected to be completed by 2027 | |
| Investigate emergency supply options | 2026-27 | Preliminary investigations completed | A more detail assessment is planned for 2026 |

## System 1.2- Omeo Water Supply System




The Omeo drinking water supply system is sourced from Butchers Creek, a tributary of Livingstone Creek. Raw water is piped to two storages: a 5ML lined and covered storage, and a 10ML covered storage. Raw water is treated at the Omeo Water Treatment Plant and then transferred to two 200kL clear water storages, prior to distribution to the Omeo township

Likelihood of Restrictions
Unlikely

Population
400

Connections
267

**System reliability (risk of water restrictions)**

- It is expected, with the current rainfall outlook, that diversion of water will be possible this summer, and there will still be 76 days of storage. So, the issue of supplying water to customers will be the water treatment plant's capacity to deliver.
- If a low streamflow event occurs, then there will 20 days before water diversion is impacted
- Current level of service (LoS) is 1 in 32 years
- Reliability declines under high climate change and higher demand scenarios
- Projected to not meet current LoS by 2040 or minimum and lower levels by 2070
- Bulk Entitlement risk with peak year demand may be exceeded

**Source water availability:**

- Low streamflows during summer and autumn
- Limited off-stream storage options
- Reliability declines under high climate change and higher demand scenarios
- Cease flowing 22-32 days
- 50% passing flow requirement at streamflows <1.3ML/d

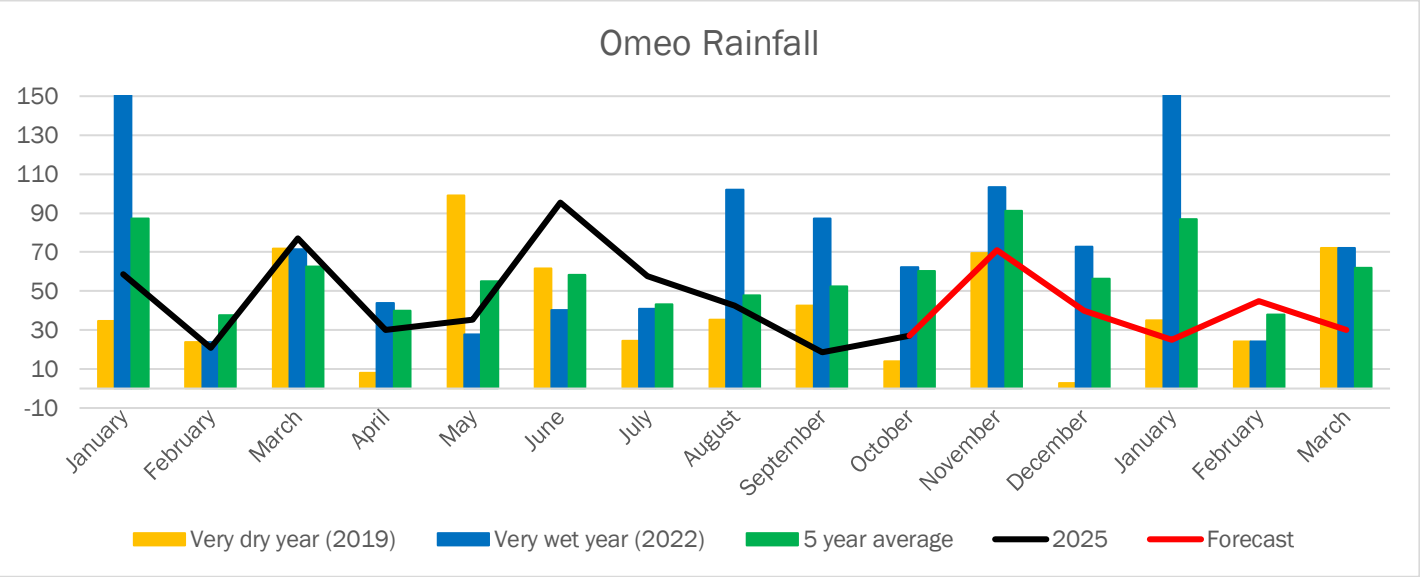
**Mitigation/preparedness:**

- Improve streamflow and diversion monitoring
- Improve diversion controls
- Develop a climate-dependant demand model
- Review the feasibility of utilising the assessed alternate source water options
- Confirm contingency supply plans
- Construct larger CWS
- Complete any water storage maintenance
- Review algae management plan

**Contingency/response:**

- Water carting from Mitta Mitta river at Hinnomunjie Bridge

| | |
|---|---|
| • Implement active leak detection program<br>• Cease any water storage maintenance and flushing programs<br><br>**Drought response trigger:**<br>• Stage 2- 8ML in raw water storage<br>• Stage 4- 5ML in raw water storage<br>**Key Risks:**<br>The key risks are the reliability of Butchers Creek as a source of water, the potential for landslide at offtake, the length of the raw water transfer pipeline required to supply the Water Treatment Plant, and minimal clear water storage to meet peak day demand. | |
| Water Resource Position<br><br>• 76 days of water storage (without restrictions)<br>•<br>• Current volume of water in storages is normal as operating levels typically operate between 80-100%. | Storage levels (21-10-2025)<br><br>Raw water storages<br>13.2ML (88%)<br><br>Clear water storages<br>0.3ML (78%)<br><br>Total water in storage<br>13.5ML (88%)<br><br>Annual Rainfall (as of Oct 2025)<br>436mm<br><br>5 Year Average Rainfall |



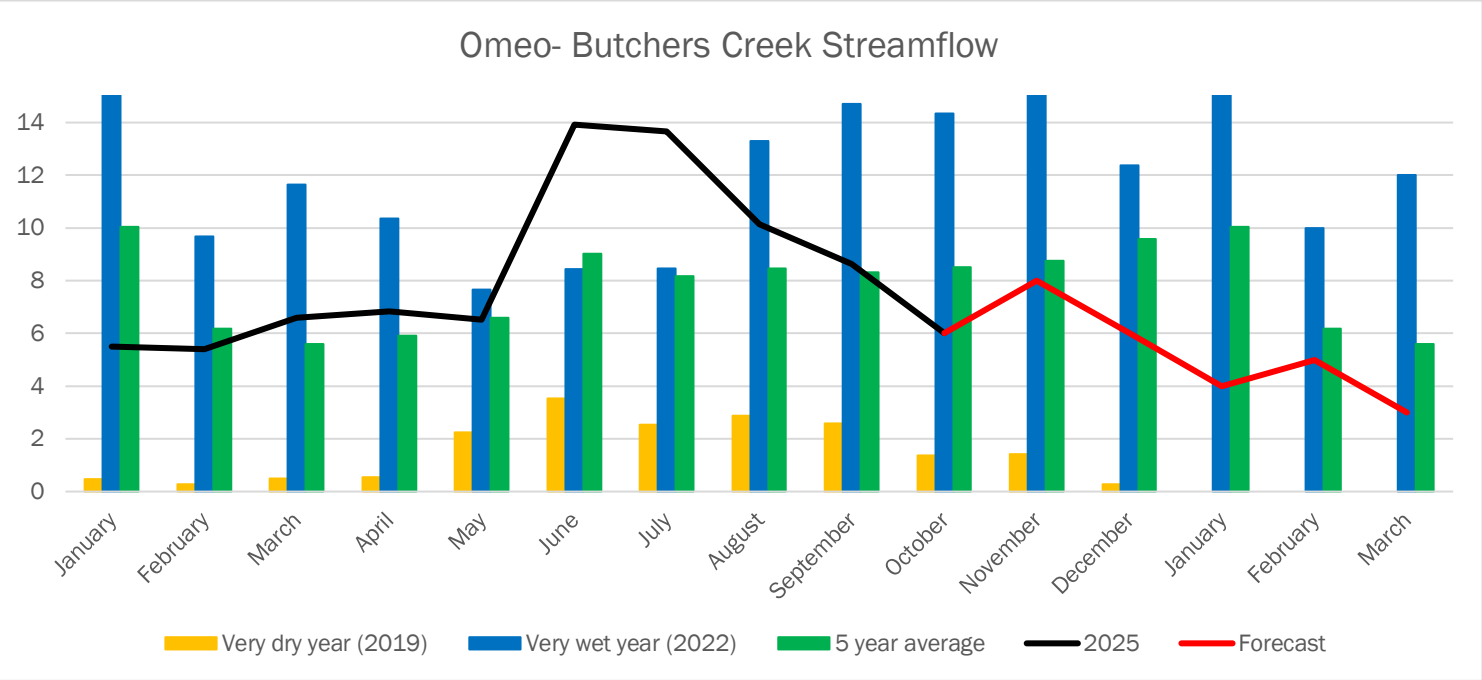

- Trending towards average rainfall for 2025
- Significant rainfall events in March, June and July 2025
- Actual monthly rainfall fell below 5-year average in January, February, April, May and September 2025

692mm

Current Streamflow
6ML/day

2025 Average Streamflow
9ML/day

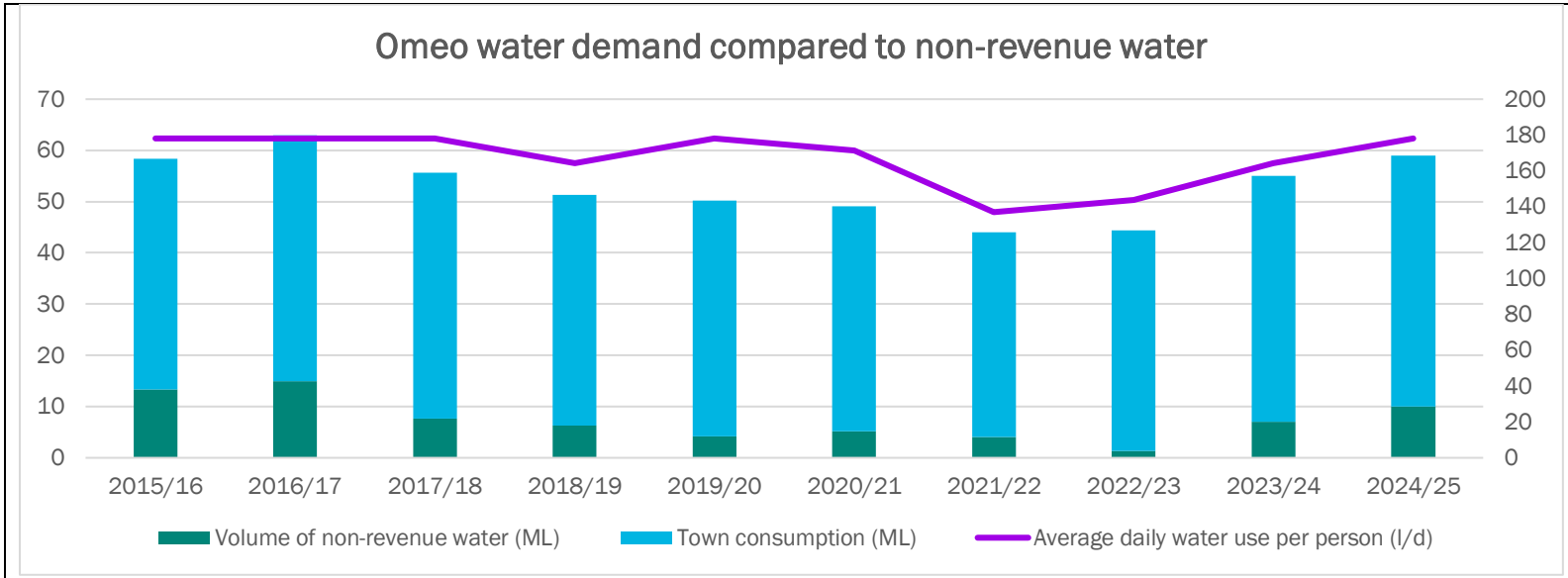
5 year-Average Streamflow
8ML/day




- Trending towards average streamflow for 2025
- Significant streamflow events in June and July 2025
- Average monthly streamflow has been below the 5-year average for January and February

Annual Diversion Entitlement
77ML

Daily Diversion Entitlement
0.66ML




- Total water demand has increased over the last 12 months and is similar to the dry year of 2017.
- Non-revenue water is within the 10-20% target.

Total Use 2024-25
60ML

Expected Use 2024/25
55ML

Non-Revenue Water
10ML (17%)

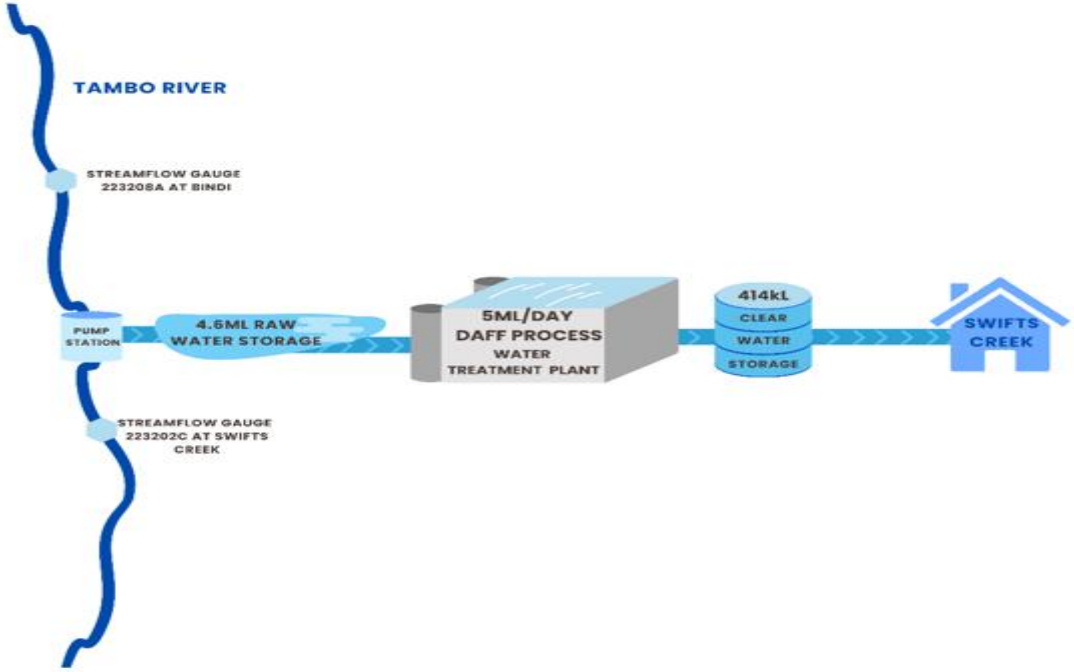
Average Daily Use Per Person
178 l/d

| Action | Timing | Status | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hydraulic modelling of reticulation | 2025-26 | Modelling complete | Future town growth is being assessed and the findings to support master planning |
| Develop masterplan including assessment of Water Treatment Plant | 2027 | A multicriteria assessment to be completed in 2026-27 | Findings to support master planning |
| Improve streamflow monitoring | 2026-27 | Some site-specific issues with terrain mean there are limited options | Budgeted for FY2025-26 |
| Implement actions to increase resilience of the Omeo water supply system | 2026-27 | Will progress in 2028 once the masterplan has been developed in 2026-27 | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Investigate options for alternative source water supply | 2025 | Completed | Initial options have been identified and include surface water at Livingstone Creek and Mitta Mitta River, two groundwater bore sites, as well as potential to increase Bulk Entitlement annual extraction volume allowed |
| Investigate options to increase storage | 2025 | Completed | Findings to support master planning |
| Options assessment for use of recycled water | 2027 | Capacity study completed | Findings to support master planning |
| Investigate emergency supply options | 2026-27 | Preliminary investigations completed | A more detail assessment is planned for 2026 |

## 8.2. SYSTEM 2 TAMBO

### System 2.3- Swifts Creek




The Swifts Creek drinking water supply system is sourced from the Tambo River and pumped to a 4.6ML raw water storage basin. The raw water is treated at the Swifts Creek Water Treatment Plant before being stored in a 270kL clear water storage tank. This treated water is then supplied to the township of Swifts Creek.

**System reliability (risk of water restrictions):**

- It is expected, with the current rainfall outlook, that diversion of water will be possible this summer, and there will still be 52 days of storage
- If a low streamflow event occurs, then there will 10 days before water diversion is impacted
- Level of service is 1 in 74 years
- Adequate capacity for infrastructure and entitlements

Likelihood of Restrictions
Unlikely

Population
280

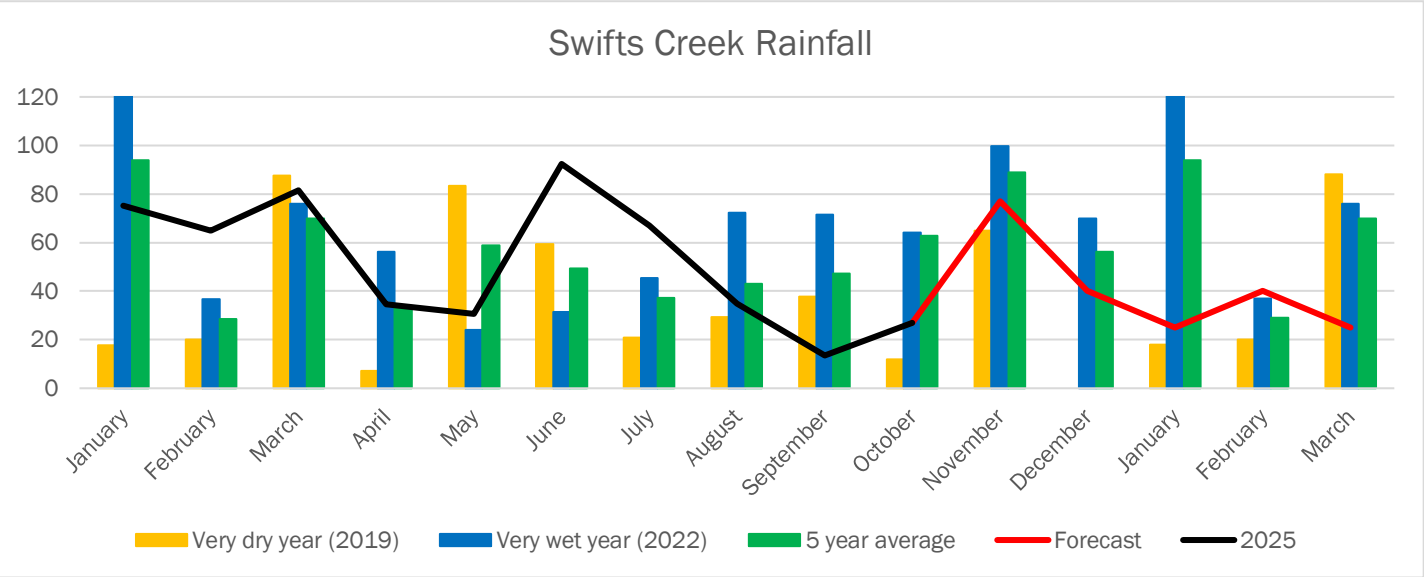
Connections
129

| | |
|---|---|
| • Resilience even under high climate change and bushfire impact scenarios<br><br>**Source water availability:**<br>• Historic low flow events have lasted for 24-26 days<br>• No passing flow restrictions exist<br><br>**Mitigation/preparedness:**<br>• Improve streamflow modelling<br>• Complete any water storage maintenance and flushing programs<br>• Begin filling the 4.6ML Raw Water Storage (RWS) to TWL, as typical operating range has been reduced to manage algae<br>• Review algae management plan<br>• Test operating WTP with direct source water<br><br>**Contingency/response:**<br>• Water carting from drinking water from Omeo or Bruthen (Mitchell System) or raw water from Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie Bridge<br>• Successfully implemented water carting operations to maintain the town drinking water supply during a 5-day Water Treatment Plant (WTP) outage<br>• Cease DWQ flushing programs<br>• Inspect offtake for desilting works<br><br>**Drought response trigger:**<br>• Stage 2- 3.5ML in raw water storage<br>• Stage 4- 2ML in raw water storage<br><br>**Key Risks:** | |

The key risks are managing algae in the raw water basin and the reliability of the Tambo River.

## Water Resource Position

- Current volume of water in storage is normal as operating levels are typically between 60-80% for raw water storage and 80-100% for clear water storage.
- Raw water storage level operating range is reduced to manage algae. However, if a drought was pending then we would fill the raw water storage basin to Top Water Level (TWL).




- Trending towards average rainfall for 2025
- Significant rainfall events in June 2025
- Actual monthly rainfall fell below 5-year average in May, August and September 2025

Storage levels (21-10-2025)

Raw water storages
2ML (45%)

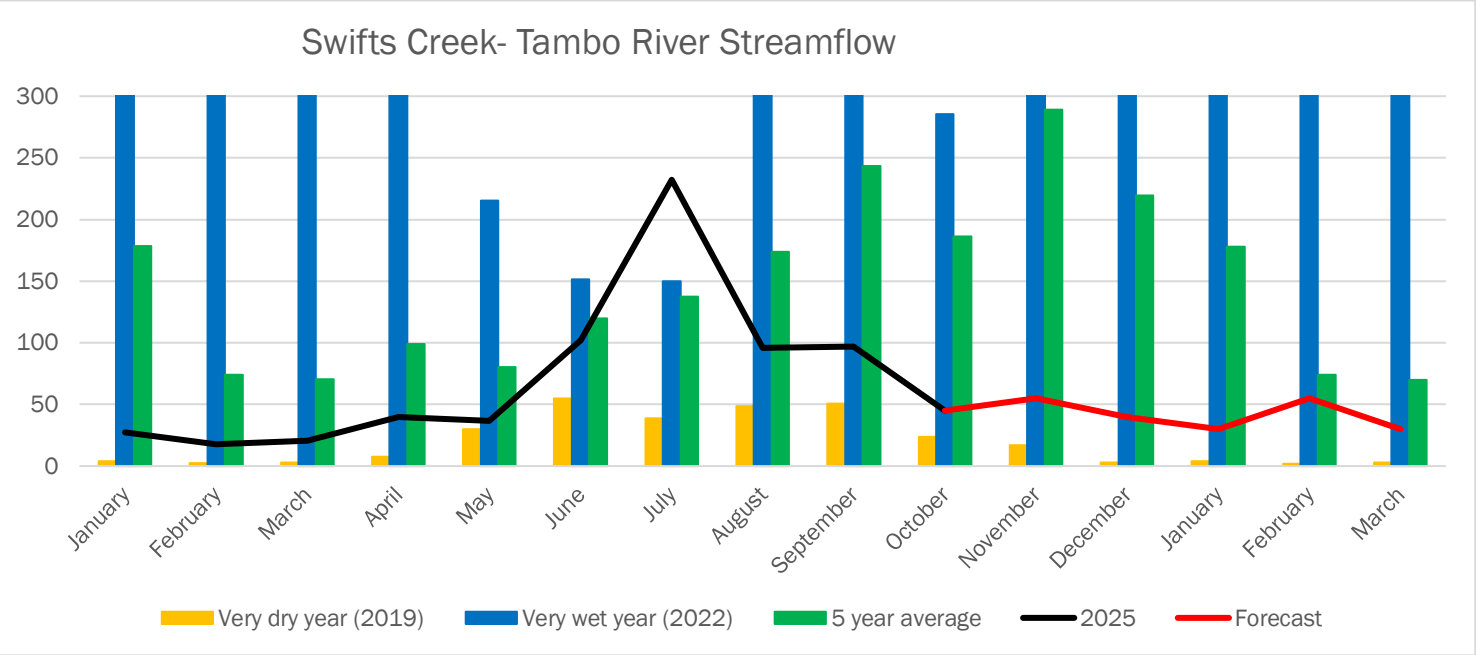
Clear water storages
0.4ML (90%)

Total water in storage
2.5ML (49%)

Annual Rainfall
494mm

5 Year Average Rainfall
670mm

Current Streamflow
31ML/day




- Trending towards below average streamflow for 2025
- Significant streamflow events in July 2025
- Average monthly streamflow has been below the 5-year average for 7 out of 9 months.

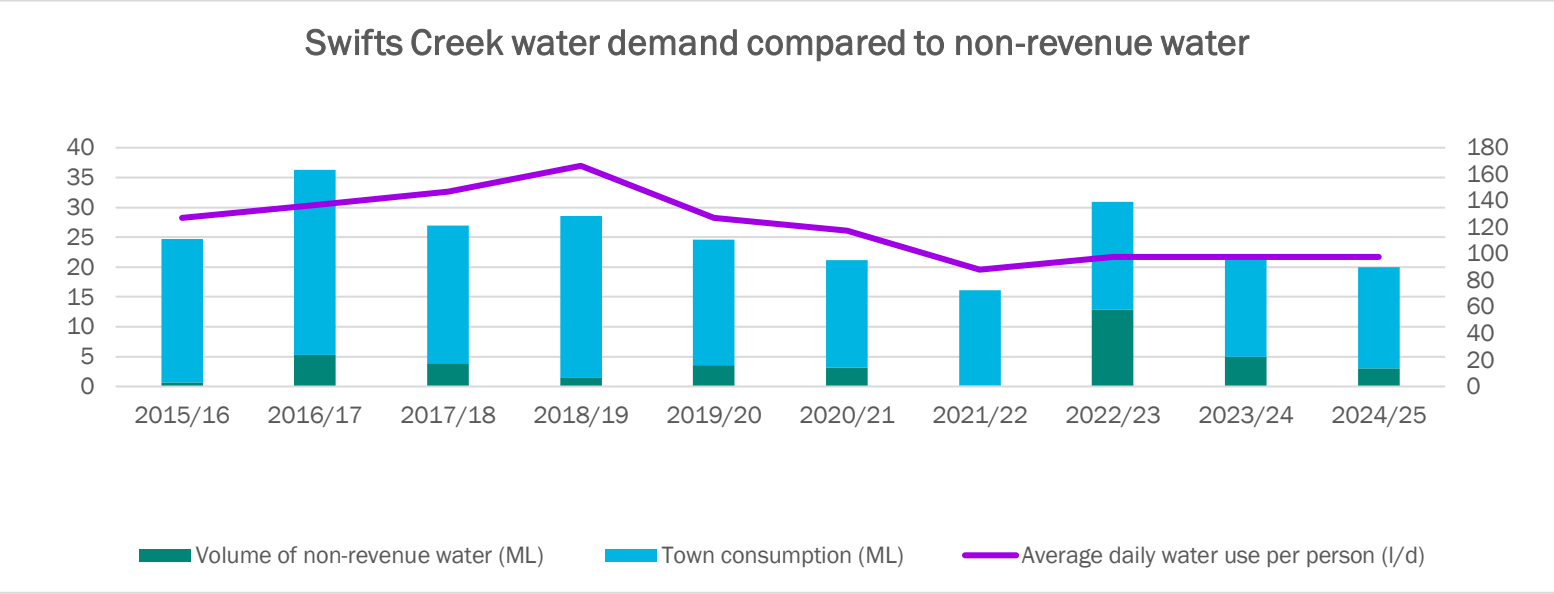
2025 Average Streamflow
74ML/day

5 Year Average Streamflow
156ML/day

Annual Diversion Entitlement
224ML

Daily Diversion Entitlement
1.10ML

Total Use 2024-25
19ML




Expected Use 2024/25
20ML

Non-Revenue Water
3ML (16%)

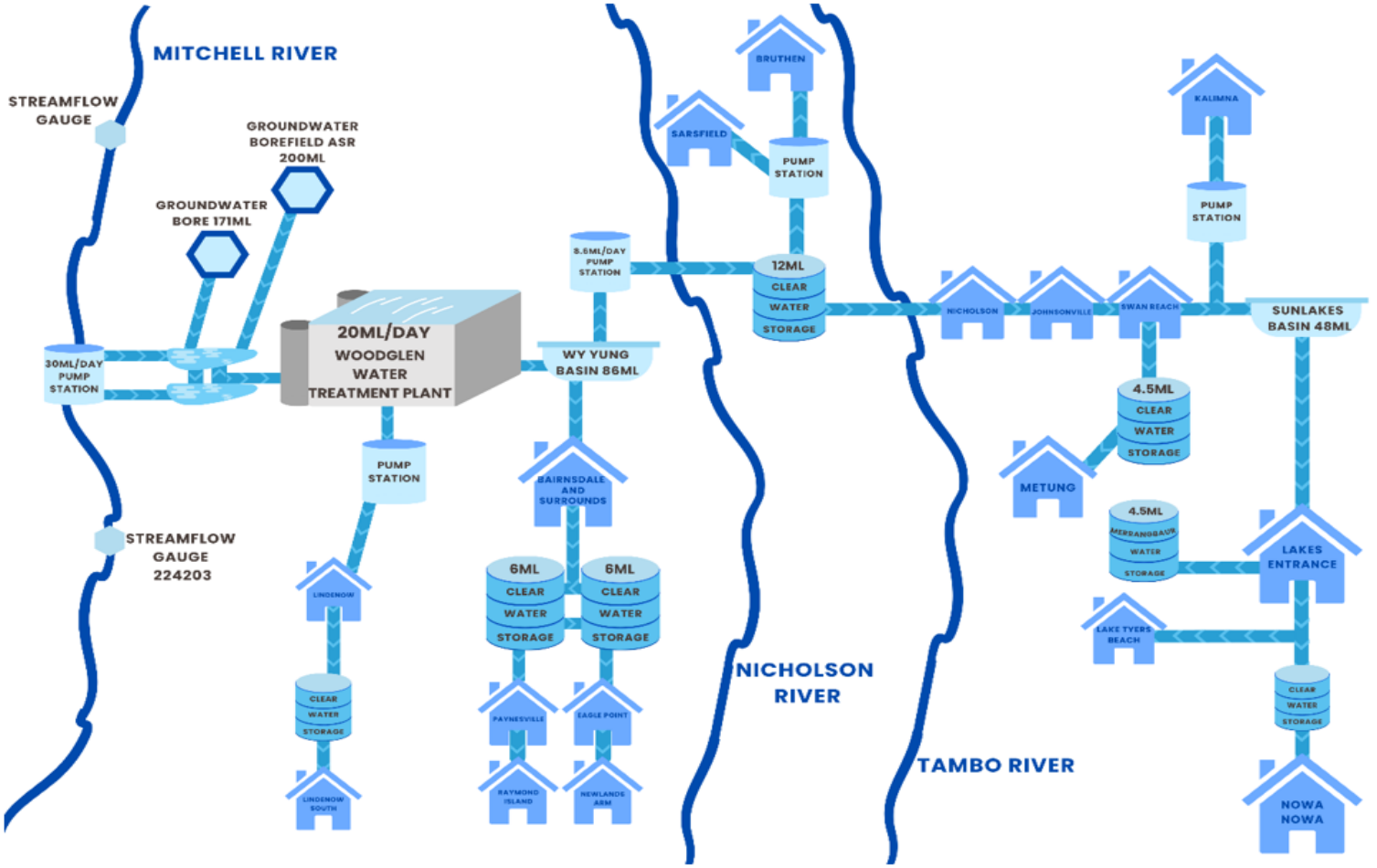
Average Daily Use Per Person
98 l/d

- Total water demand has decreased over the last 12 months compared to 2023/24. This is primarily attributed to a decrease in non-revenue water
- Non-revenue water remains within the target range of 10-20%
- Average daily water use per person is within the target of less than 200 litres per person per day.

| Action | Timing | Status | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Review population data & effects of tourism | 2025-26 | Expected to be completed by 2026 | |
| Review Drought Response Plan review points | 2025-26 | Expected to be completed by 2026 | |
| Improve historical streamflow data | 2025-26 | Expected to be completed by 2026 | Findings to support master planning |

## 8.3. SYSTEM 3 MITCHELL

### System 3.4- Mitchell (Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Sarsfield, Metung, Lakes Entrance, Bruthen, Lindenow)




Likelihood of Restrictions
Unlikely

Population
30,000

Connections
21,556

The Mitchell water supply system is predominantly supplied from the Mitchell River and transferred from the Glenaladale water pump station into two off-stream storages at Woodglen. There is also an alternative source with a 'take and use' groundwater licence from the Latrobe Valley Group Aquifer, which is used when required as part of an aquifer storage and recovery scheme.

From the raw water storages and aquifer storage and recovery scheme (if in use), water is transferred to the Woodglen Water Treatment Plant, and treated water is distributed through the Mitchell system via kilometres of water mains, covered storages, tanks, water pump stations and disinfection stations to ensure high-quality drinking water is provided to all customers

**System reliability (risk of water restrictions):**

- It is expected, with the current rainfall outlook, that diversion of water will be possible this summer, and there will still be 71 days of storage
- If a low streamflow event occurs, then there will 30 days before water diversion is impacted
- Level of service (risk of water restrictions) is 1 in 41 years currently, and 1 in 6 years by 2040
- 71 days in water storages
- Projected 34% reduction in streamflow and 27% increase in demand by 2040

**Source water availability:**

- Streamflow of 821 GL/yr
- Cease flow duration of 67 days
- Restricted pumping from a streamflow of 265ML/d and cease pumping at 30ML/d

**Mitigation/preparedness:**

- Construction of Woodglen 3 raw water storage
- Establish district metered areas
- Improve SCADA diversion controls
- Periodically testing Bottom Water Level (BWL) pump
- Review algae management plan
- Complete any water storage maintenance and flushing programs

| | |
|---|---|
| • Ensure Woodglen storages are above 90% by November each year<br><br>**Contingency/response:**<br>• Active leak detection in specific district metered areas<br>• Manually operate the 5 groundwater bores<br>• Systematically review demand and hydraulic management within network<br><br>**Drought response trigger:**<br>• Stage 2- Mitchell River streamflow <30ML/d<br>• Stage 4- Woodglen raw water storages <750ML<br><br>**Key risks:**<br><br>The key risks are the Mitchell River pumping restrictions which is a significant risk that directly impacts water availability for supply and draw down of storages. Also, the WTP is under capacity with complex and limited hydraulic management in the network that presents operational and maintenance challenges due to its extensive infrastructure. | |
| Water Resource Position<br><br>• Current volume of water in storage is normal as operating levels typically operate between 80-100% for clear water storage.<br>• The Wy Yung 88ML clear water storage refurbishment last year combined with the complementary 36ML tank continue as strong storages critical Wy Yung water transfer hub. | Storage levels (21-10-2025)<br><br>Raw water storages<br>1,330ML (98%)<br><br>Clear water storages<br>189ML (88%)<br><br>Total water in storage<br>1,519ML (87%) |

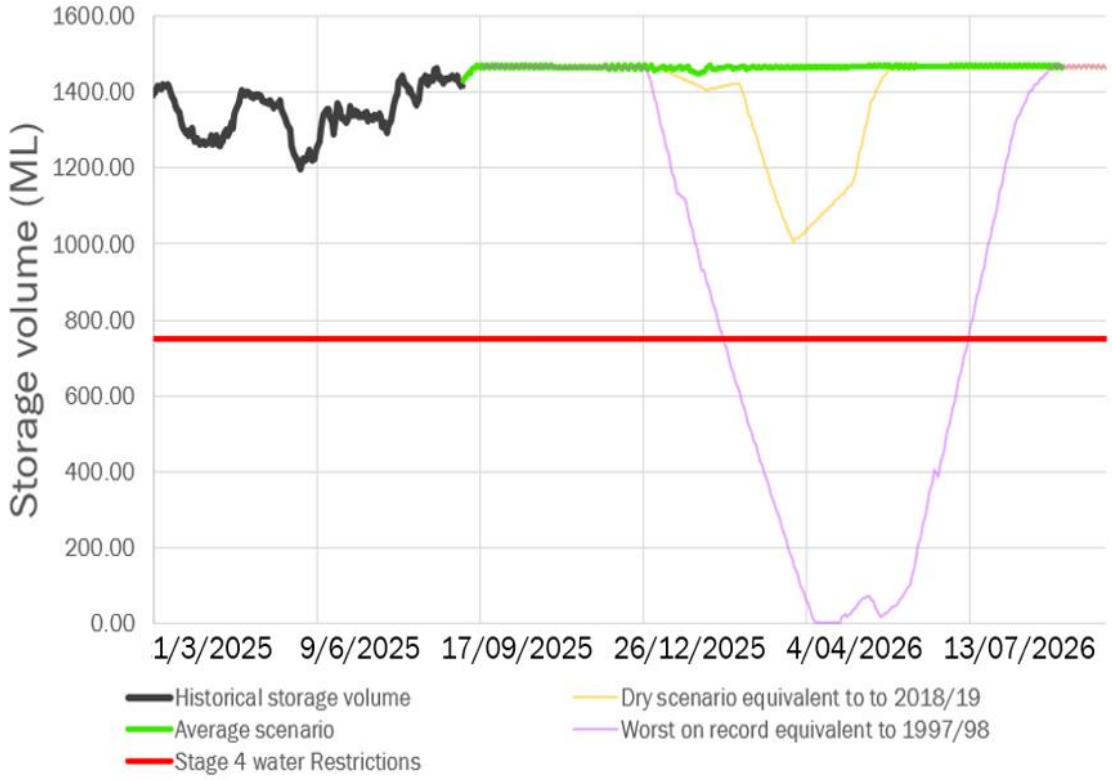
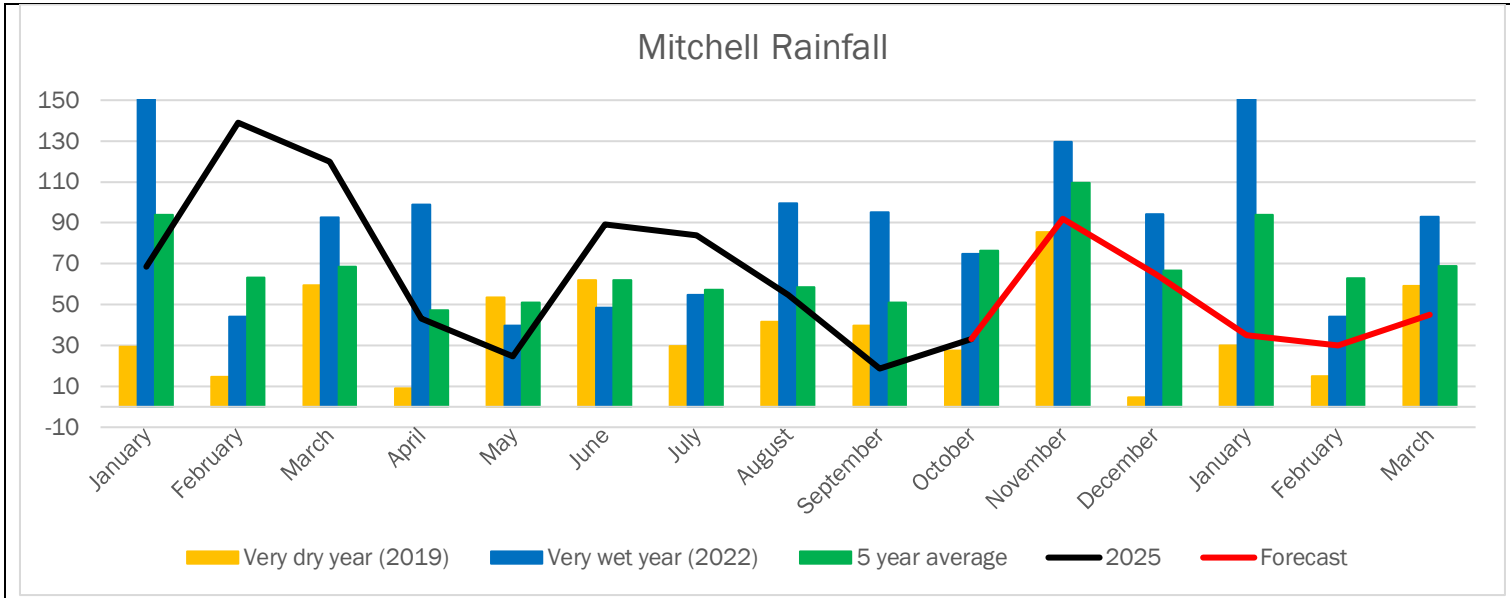



Figure 8.4: Rainfall scenario's for Storage levels of the Mitchell Drinking Water Supply System

Annual Rainfall (as of Oct 2025)
642mm

5 Year Average Rainfall
805mm

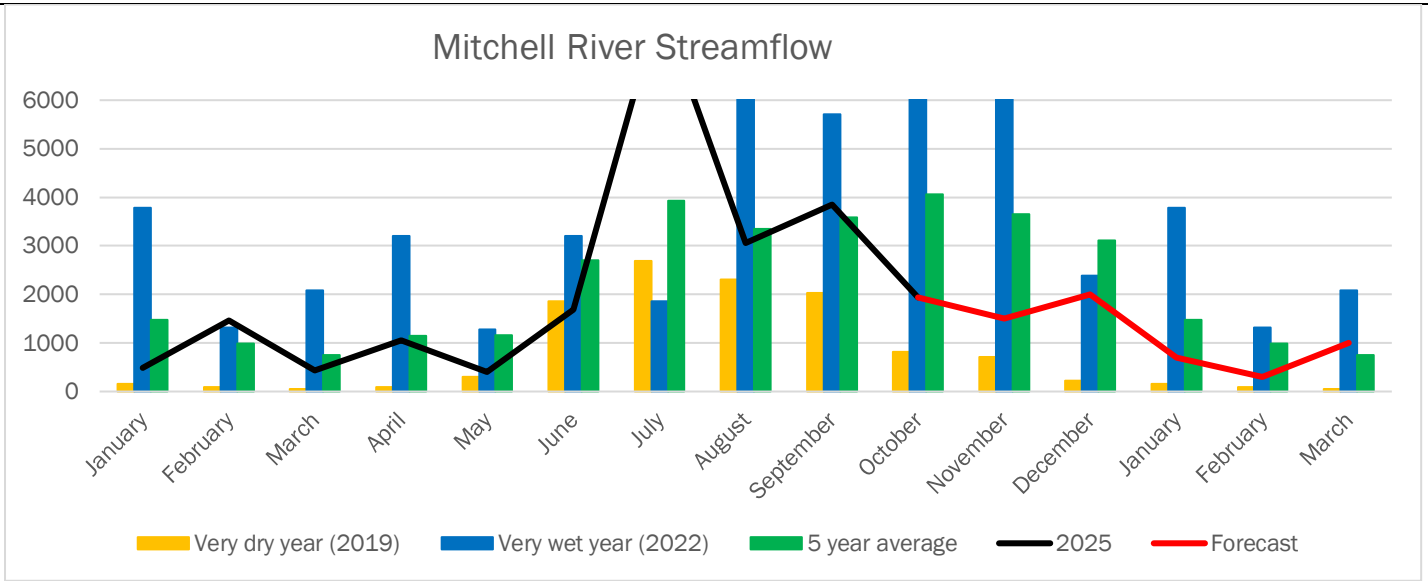



- Trending towards average rainfall for 2025
- Significant rainfall events in February, March, June and July 2025
- Actual monthly rainfall fell below 5-year average in May and September 2025

Current Streamflow
956ML/day

2025 Average Streamflow
2,234ML/day

5 year-Average Streamflow
2,493ML/day



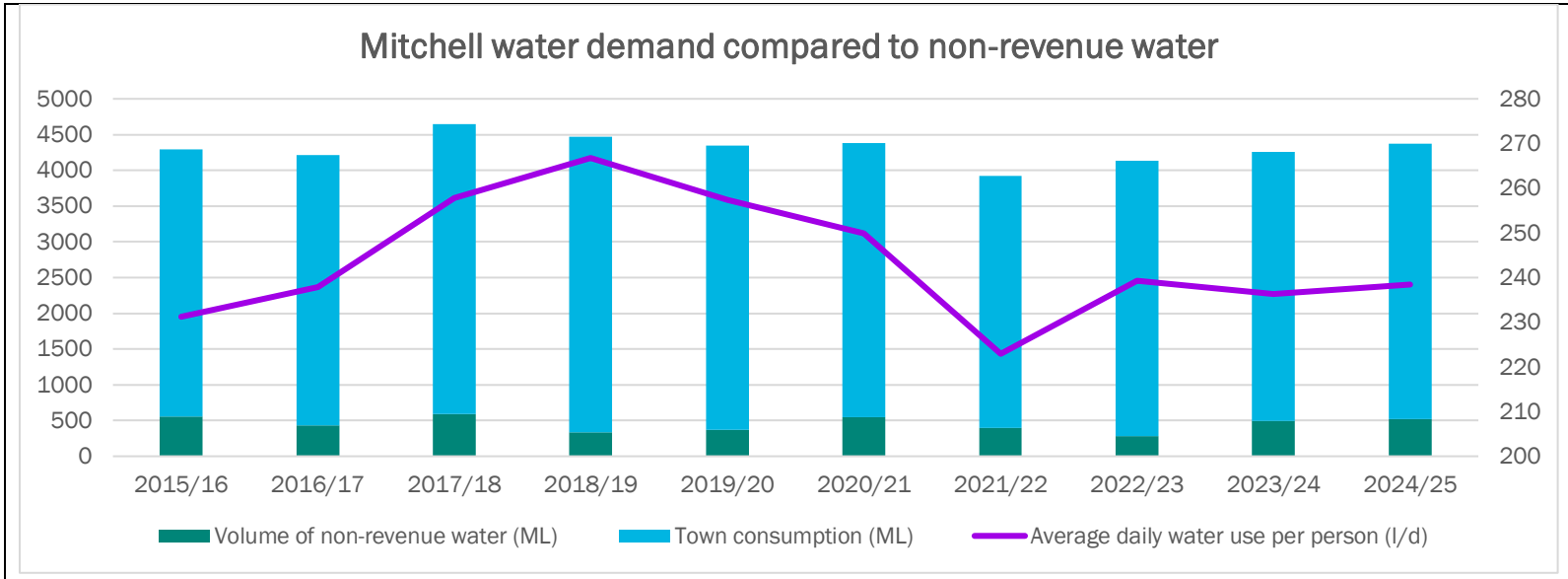

- Trending towards average streamflow for 2025
- Significant streamflow events in July 2025
- Average monthly streamflow has been below the 5-year average for 4 out of 9 months

Current Groundwater
Emergency supply only

Annual Diversion Entitlement
9,208ML

Daily Diversion Entitlement
60-35ML

Total Use 2024-25
4368ML




- Total water demand has remained relatively constant.
- Climatic influences have the greatest impact on total water demand for the Mitchell drinking water supply system, however we remain vigilant to the impacts of non-revenue water.
- Average daily water use per person is just above the target of less than 200 litres per person per day.

Expected Use 2024/25
4500ML

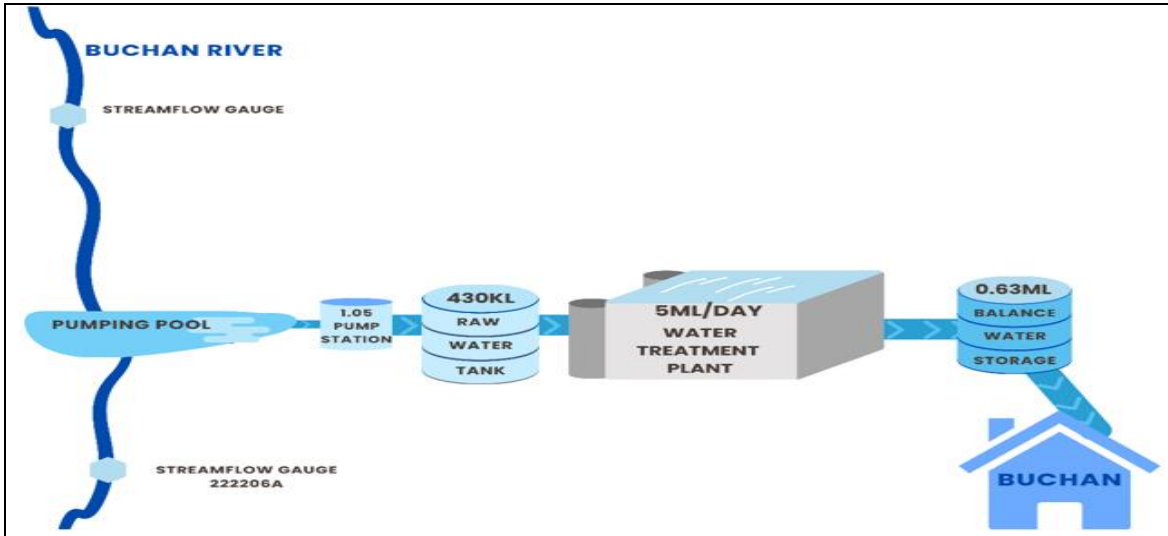
Non-Revenue Water
524ML (12%)

Average Daily Use Per Person
238 l/d

| Action | Timing | Status | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Groundwater investigations | 2025-27 | Hydrological assessment completed and progressing with options assessment | Findings to support master planning |
| Maximise supply/storage- Woodglen 3 (new raw water basin) & Toorloo Arm | 2027 | Progressing with Woodglen 3 detailed design. Expected to commence construction Woodglen 3 in 2028 | |
| Review need for additional Bulk Entitlement | 2040 | Options assessment will commence if Bulk Entitlement risk increases | Currently a low to moderate risk |

## 8.4. SYSTEM 4 SNOWY

### System 4.5- Buchan




The Buchan drinking water supply system is sourced from the Buchan River, a tributary of the Murrindal River. Raw water is pumped from the Buchan River to the Buchan water treatment plant, and stored in interconnected balancing tanks before being supplied to the town's reticulation network via gravity.

**System reliability (risk of water restrictions):**

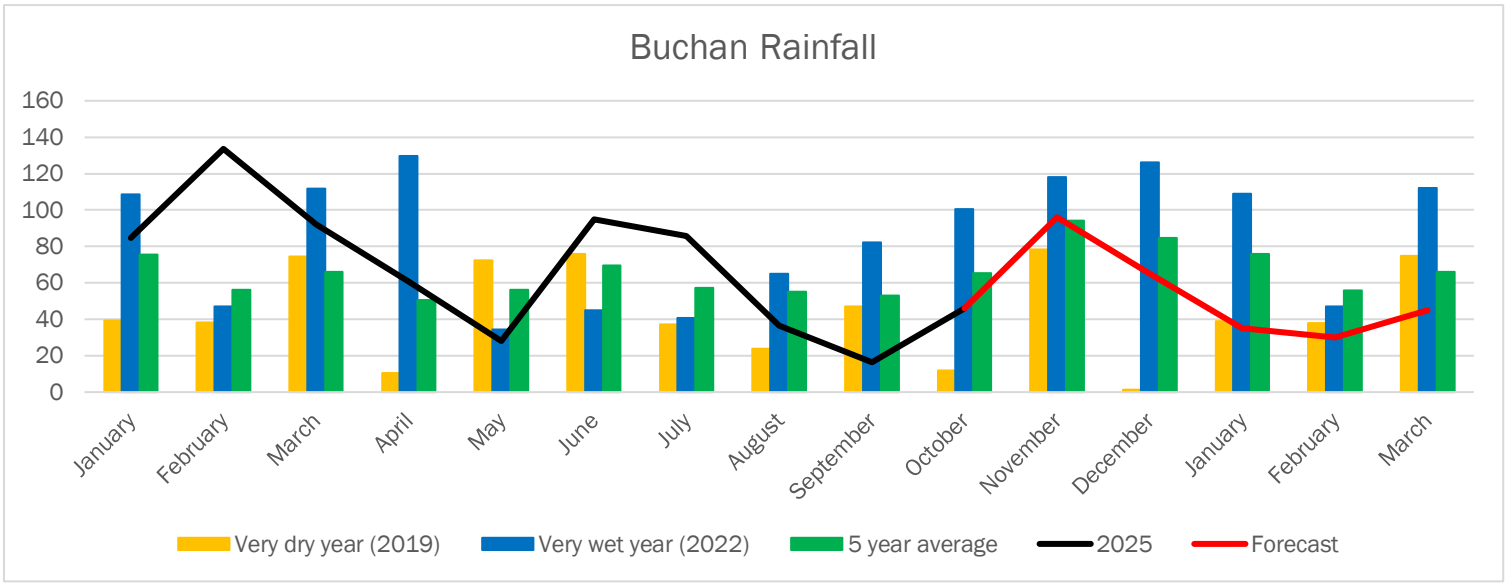
- It is expected, with the current rainfall outlook, that diversion of water will be possible this summer, and there will still be 13 days of storage
- If a low streamflow event occurs, then there will 30 days before water diversion is impacted
- Level of service (risk of water restrictions) is 1 in 73 years
- Adequate capacity for infrastructure and entitlements
- Resilience even under high climate change and bushfire impact scenarios

Likelihood of Restrictions
Unlikely

Population
240

Connections
108

| | |
|---|---|
| **Source water availability:**<br>• Average annual flow of 123GL/yr<br>• Cease flow events lasting 6-8 days<br>• No passing flow requirement<br><br>**Mitigation/preparedness:**<br>• Construct larger CWS<br>• Investigate alternative water supply<br>• Periodically operate siltbusters<br><br>**Contingency/response:**<br>• Review NRW and consider active leak detection<br>• Cease flushing programs or at minimum- an assessment for undertaking any DWQ flushing programs<br>• Inspect offtake for desilting works<br><br>**Drought response trigger:**<br>• Stage 2- 7 days of water carting<br>• Stage 4- 14 days of water carting<br><br>**Key risks:**<br><br>The key risks are the duration of high turbidity events in the Buchan River, and there is also a need for a new clear water storage due to the condition of the current tanks | |
| Water Resource Position<br><br>• Current volume of water in storage is normal with typically operating levels between 80-100% | Storage levels (21-10-2025) |




- Trending towards above average rainfall for 2025
- Significant rainfall events in February, March, June and July 2025
- Actual monthly rainfall fell below 5-year average in May, August and September 2025

Raw water storages
0.2ML (46%)

Clear water storages
0.5ML (90%)

Total water in storage
0.7ML (71%)

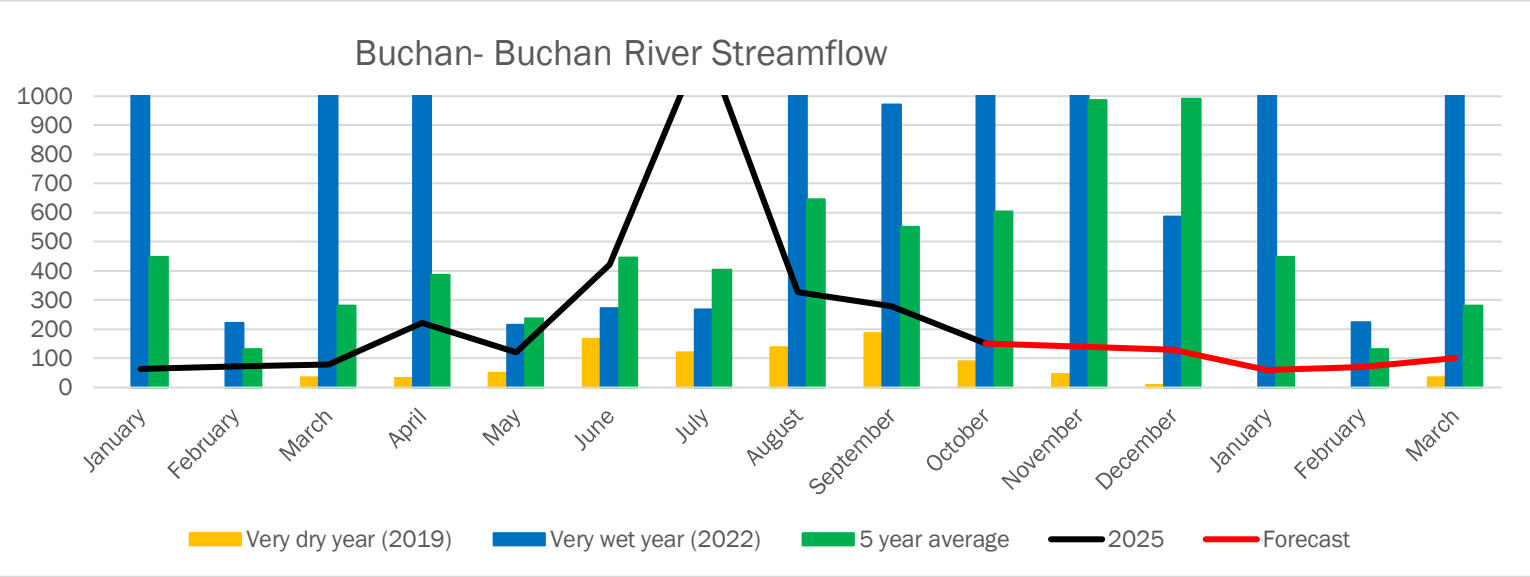
Annual Rainfall
633mm

5 Year Average Rainfall
784mm

Current Streamflow
84ML/day

2025 Average Streamflow
293ML/day

5 year-Average Streamflow
510ML/day

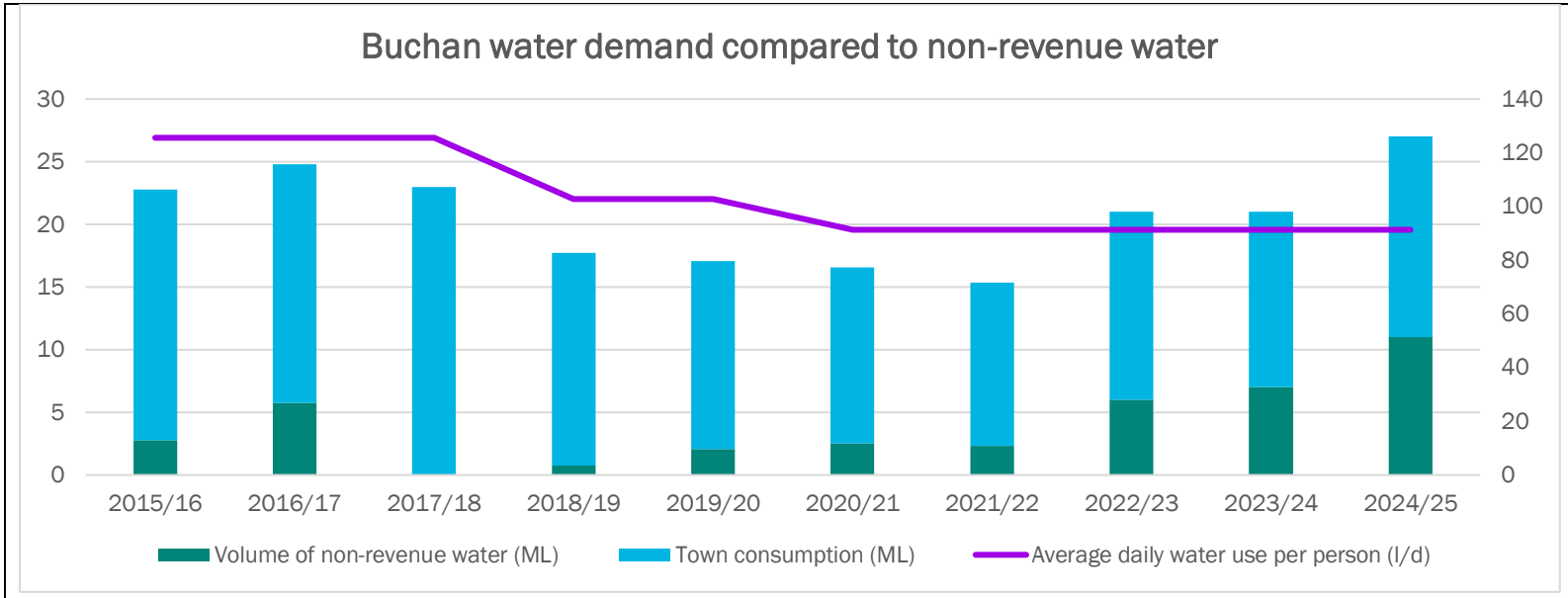



- Trending towards below average streamflow for 2025
- Significant streamflow events in June and July 2025
- Average monthly streamflow has been below the 5-year average for 7 of the 9 months

Annual Diversion Entitlement
170ML

Daily Diversion Entitlement
1.05ML

Total Use 2024-25
27ML




- Total water demand has increased over the last 12 months compared to 2023/24. This is primarily attributed to an increase in non-revenue water due to a clear water storage leak. Construction of a new tank is underway
- Non-revenue water is above the target range of 10-20%
- Average daily water use per person is within the target of less than 200 litres per person per day

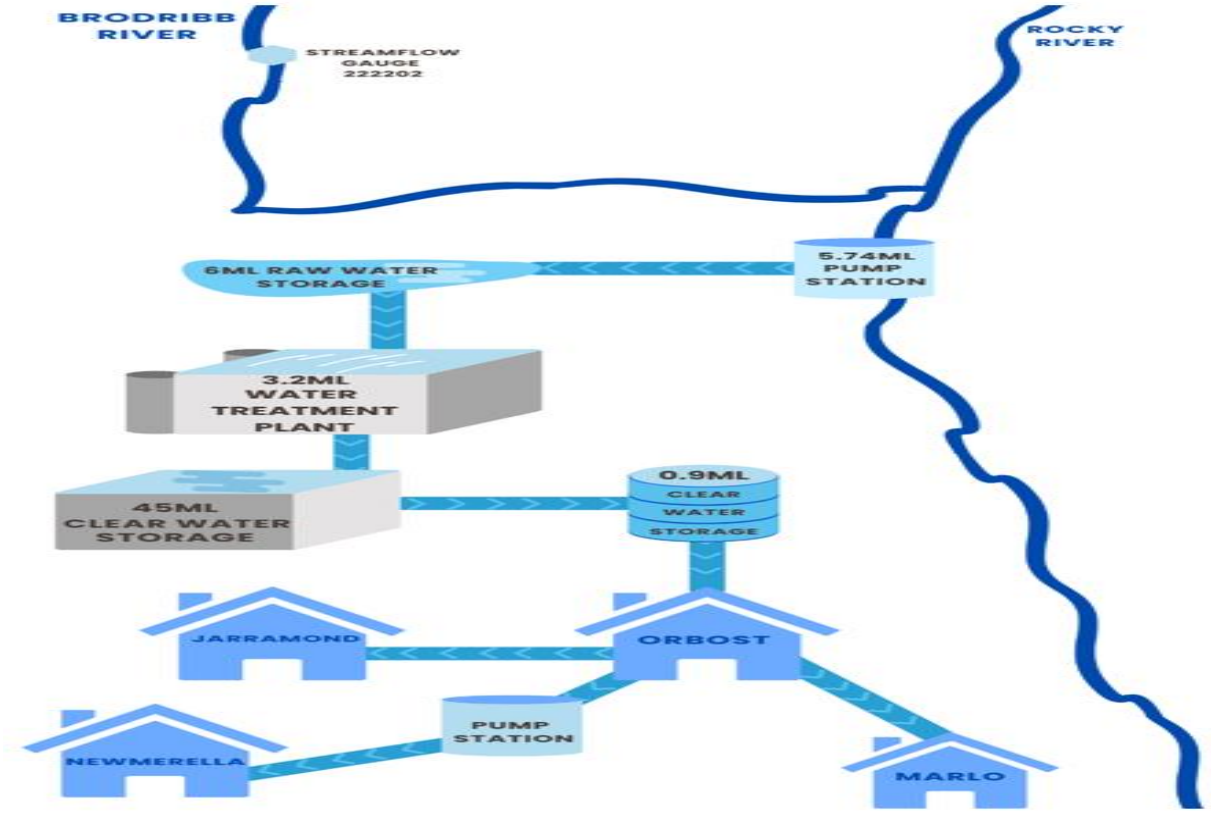
Expected Use 2024/25
20ML

Non-Revenue Water
11ML (41%)

Average Daily Use Per Person
91 l/d

| Action | Timing | Status | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Review population data & tourism | 2025-26 | Expected to be completed by 2026 | |
| Investigate and monitor non-revenue water | 2025-26 | Investigation completed and monitoring will continue until the new tank is constructed | Expected to save 6-8ML/year or 15-20% |
| Construction of a new clear water storage | 2026 | Construction has commenced and expected to be completed by 2026 | |

## System 4.6- Orbost




The Orbost water supply system sources water that is pumped from the Brodribb River diversion site via an 11km rising pipeline to the Orbost raw water basin. Water is transferred via gravity to one of two raw water storages. The water from the Orbost 6ML raw water storage is treated at the Orbost water treatment plant and then stored in a clear water storage and storage basin with a combined capacity of 53.9ML. Supply to Orbost, Marlo and Jarrahmond is via gravity; supply to Newmerella is boosted by a water pump station at Newmerella.

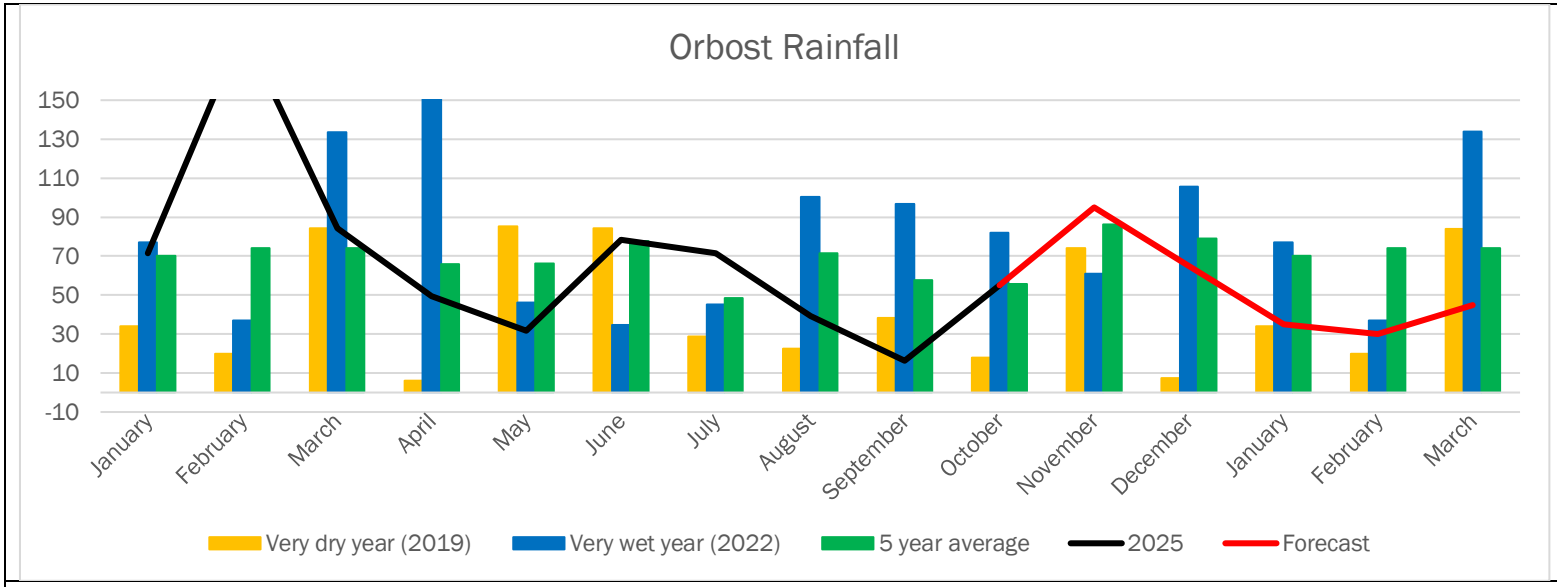
**Likelihood of Restrictions**
Unlikely

**Population**
3200

**Connections**
2081

| | |
|---|---|
| **System reliability (risk of water restrictions):**<br>• It is expected, with the current rainfall outlook, that diversion of water will be possible this summer, and there will still be 18 days of storage<br>• Although it is very unlikely, if a low streamflow event occurs, then there will 40 days before water diversion is impacted<br>• Level of service (risk of water restrictions) is 1 in 82 years<br>• Adequate capacity for infrastructure and entitlements<br>• Resilience even under high climate change and bushfire impact scenarios<br><br>**Source water availability:**<br>• Average annual streamflow of 140GL/yr<br>• Minimum historic streamflow of 16ML/d remains well above EGW diversion capacity, entitlement, and daily flow requirements<br>• No passing flow requirement at the Broddribb River site<br>• Alternative Rocky River source water<br><br>**Mitigation/preparedness:**<br>• Improve streamflow modelling to help confirm the low risk to source water availability<br>• Complete study on increasing the WTP capacity<br>• Complete feasibility study and perhaps detailed design for extending offtake structure<br>• Construct a closed town water supply<br>• Complete any water storage maintenance and flushing programs<br>• Begin filling the 53ML Partial Treated Water Storage (PTWS) to Top Water Level (TWL), as typical operating range has been reduced to manage water quality<br>• Review algae management plan<br>• Test operating WTP with direct source water<br>• Trial water carting to both raw water storage (RWS) and clear water storage (CWS) | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Contingency/response:**<br>• Water carting likely to be unnecessary due to reliable source water. However, carting town water from Bemm River is an option if there is any WTP capacity issues<br>• Cease flushing programs or at minimum- an assessment for undertaking any DWQ flushing programs<br>• Inspect offtake for desilting works<br><br>**Drought response trigger:**<br>• Stage 2- WTP capacity 33-75% of demand<br>• Stage 4- WTP capacity <33% of demand<br><br>**Key risks:**<br><br>The key risks are the town water supply is only partially closed (shade cloth) and therefore has to be re-chlorinated, and the offtake structure will need to be extended in periods of very low flow | |
| Water Resource Position<br><br>• Current volume of water in clear water storage is normal as operating levels typically operate between 80-100%.<br>• However, RWS and PTWS is periodically lowered for turbidity and algae management.<br>• Average rainfall for the reporting period.<br>• Significant rainfall events in December 2023 and June 2024.<br>• Particularly dry between February and May 2024 when actual rainfall dropped below average. | Storage levels (21-10-2025)<br><br>Raw water storages<br>4.1ML (68%)<br><br>Clear water storages<br>42.4ML (79%)<br><br>Total water in storage<br>46.51ML (78%) |




Annual Rainfall (as of Oct 2025)
629mm

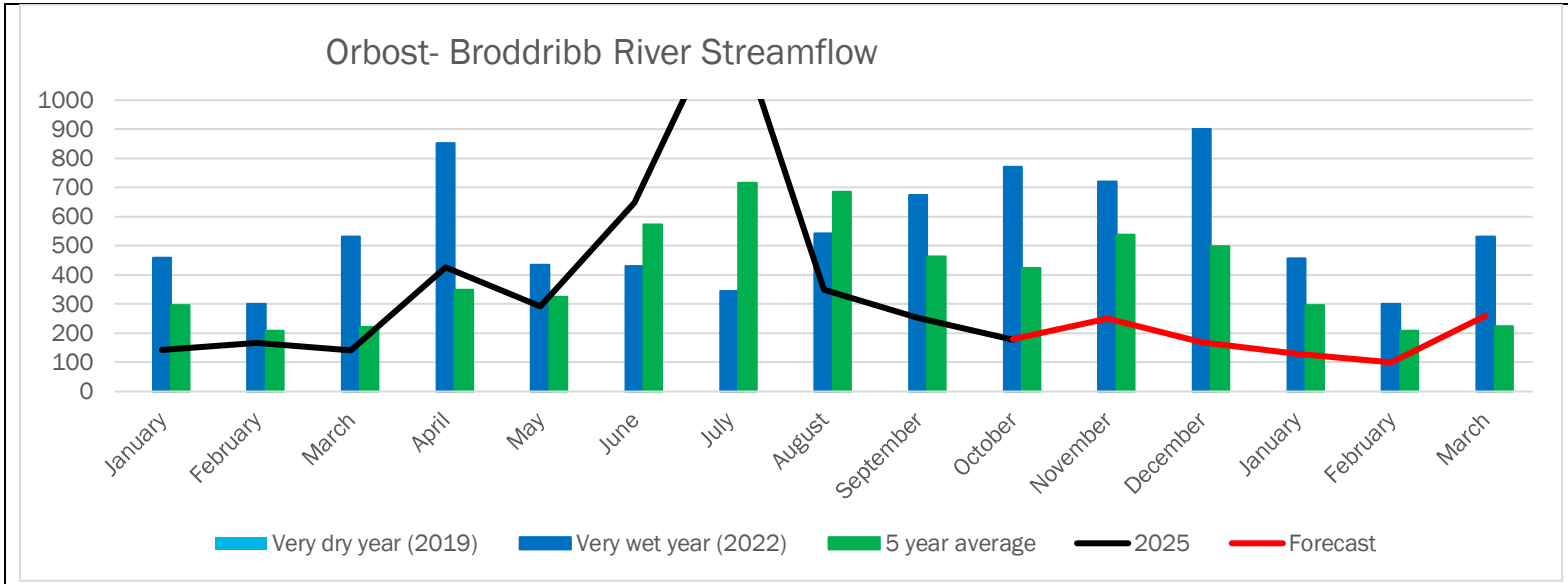
5-year Average Annual Rainfall
827mm

- Trending towards average rainfall for 2025
- Significant rainfall events in February 2025
- Actual monthly rainfall fell below 5-year average in April, May, August and September 2025

Current Streamflow
147ML/day

2025 Average Streamflow
393ML/day

5 year-Average Streamflow
442ML/day



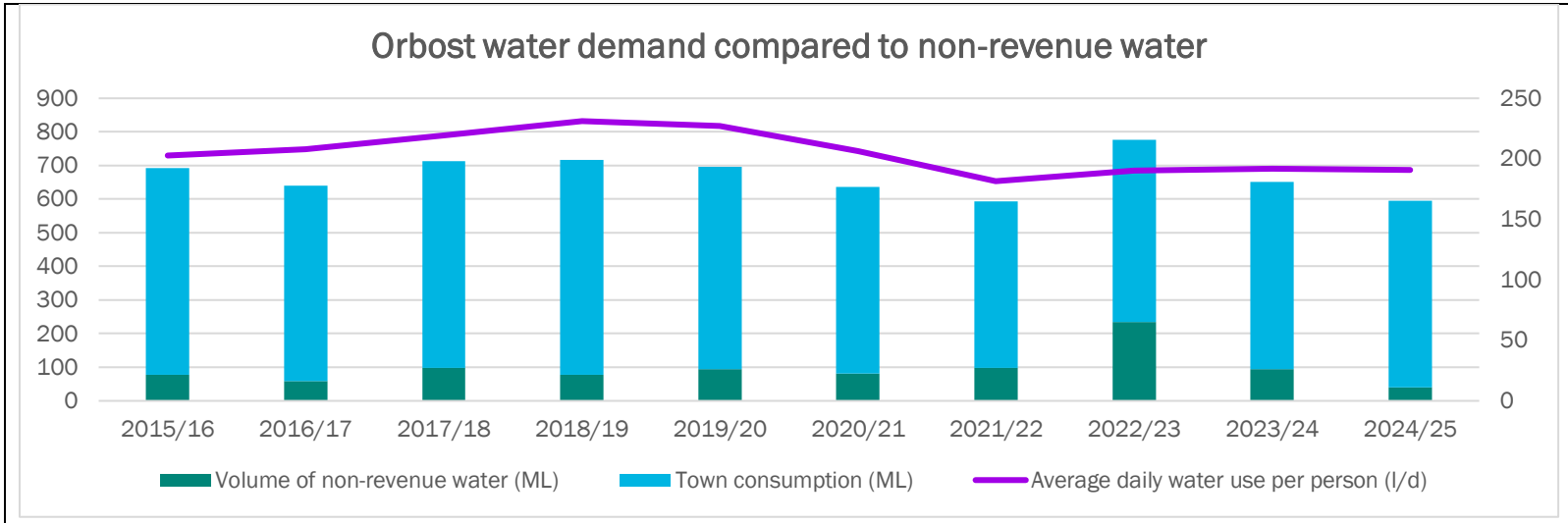

- Trending towards average streamflow for 2025
- Significant streamflow events in June and July 2025
- Average monthly streamflow has been below the 5-year average for 5 of the 9 months

Annual Diversion Entitlement
2031ML

Daily Diversion Entitlement
5.74ML

Total Use 2024-25
596ML

Expected Use 2024/25




- Total water demand has decreased over the last 12 months compared to 2023/24. This is primarily attributed to a decrease in non-revenue water
- Non-revenue water is within the target range of 10-20%
- Average daily water use per person is within the target of less than 200 litres per person per day

600ML

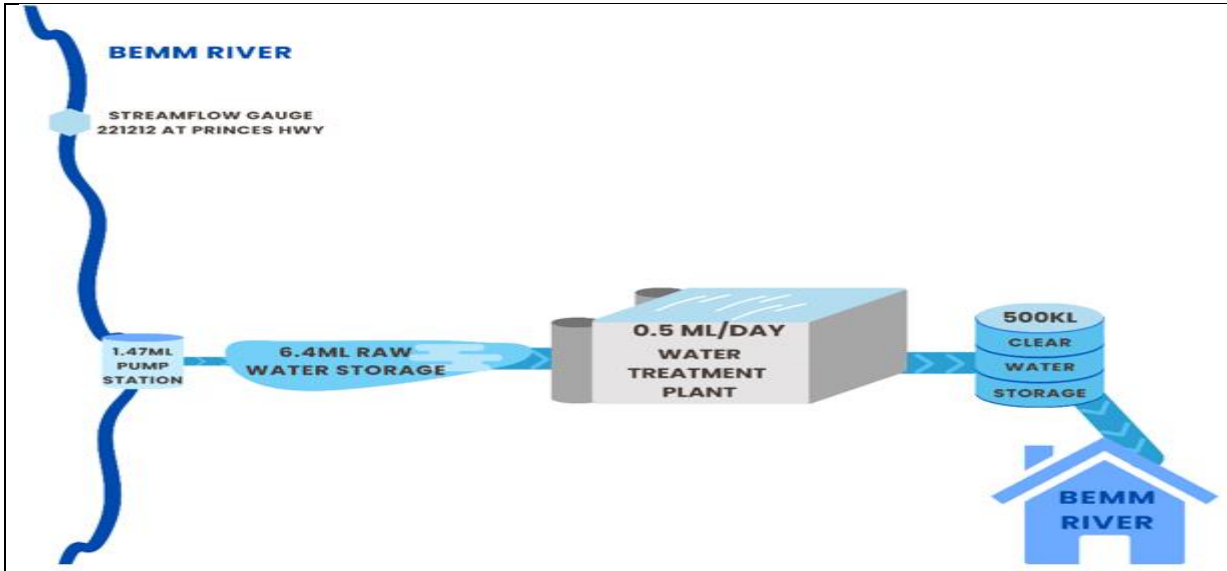
Non-Revenue Water
41ML (7%)

Average Daily Use Per Person
191 l/d

| Action | Timing | Status | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Streamflow modelling for source models | 2022-27 | Commence 2026 | |
| Investigate how to increase water treatment plant capacity | 2022-27 | Capacity study completed | Findings to support master planning |
| Construction of a new clear water storage at Marlo | 2022-27 | Options assessment currently in masterplan | |
| Options Assessment of Orbost, Marlo main supply pipeline | 2022-27 | Design complete for Marlo MSPL and prioritisation to be assessed. may be deferred till 2030 | |

## 8.5. SYSTEM 5 FAR EAST GIPPSLAND

### System 5.7- Bemm River




The Bemm River drinking water supply system is sourced from the Bemm River, and transferred to a 6.4ML raw water storage basin. Sourced water is then treated at the Bemm River water treatment plant and then stored in a 0.5ML clear water storage tank, which supplies the towns reticulation network via gravity.

**System reliability (risk of water restrictions):**

- It is expected, with the current rainfall outlook, that diversion of water will be possible this summer, and there will still be 56 days of storage
- Although it is very unlikely, if a low streamflow event occurs, then there will 60 days before water diversion is impacted
- Level of service (risk of water restrictions) is 1 in 45 years

Likelihood of Restrictions
Rare

Population
60

Connections
103

- Adequate capacity for infrastructure and entitlements
- Resilience even under high climate change and bushfire impact scenarios

**Source water availability:**

- Minimum historic streamflow of 9ML/d remains well above EGW diversion capacity, entitlement, and daily flow requirements
- No passing flow requirement

**Mitigation/preparedness:**

- Unlikely to be affected by drought
- Develop contingency plans
- Review use of silt busters

**Contingency/response:**

- Water carting likely to be unnecessary due to reliable source water. However, carting town water from Orbost or Cann River systems is an option if there is any WTP capacity issues. This was successfully completed in 2024 when the main supply pipeline failed into town.
- Assessment for undertaking any DWQ flushing programs
- Inspect offtake for desilting works

**Drought response trigger:**

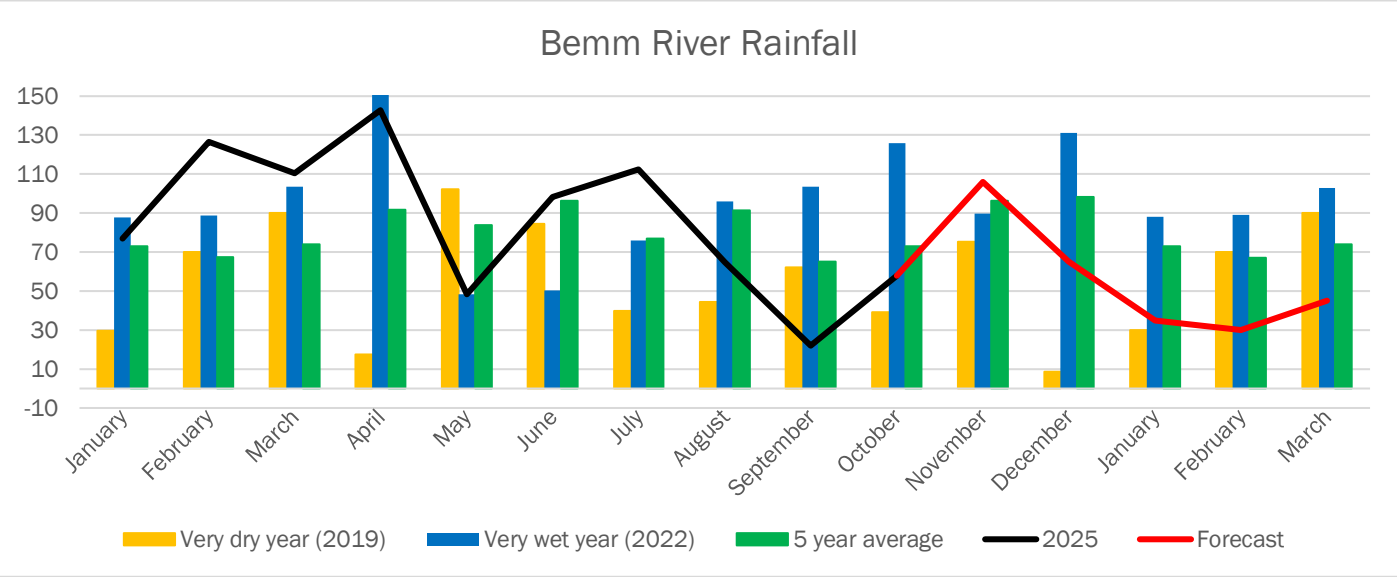
- Stage 2- WTP capacity <50%
- Stage 4- No output from WTP

**Key risks:**

Although the system is very reliable, especially in drought, the key risks are the length of the main supply pipeline to town and a river crossing.

## Water Resource Position

- Current volume of water in storage is normal with operating levels typically between 80-100%.




- Trending towards average rainfall for 2025
- Significant rainfall events in February, April, and July 2025
- Actual monthly rainfall fell below 5-year average in May, August and September 2025

Storage levels (21-10-2025)

Raw water storages
5.3ML (82%)

Clear water storages
0.5ML (93%)

Total water in storage
5.8ML (83%)

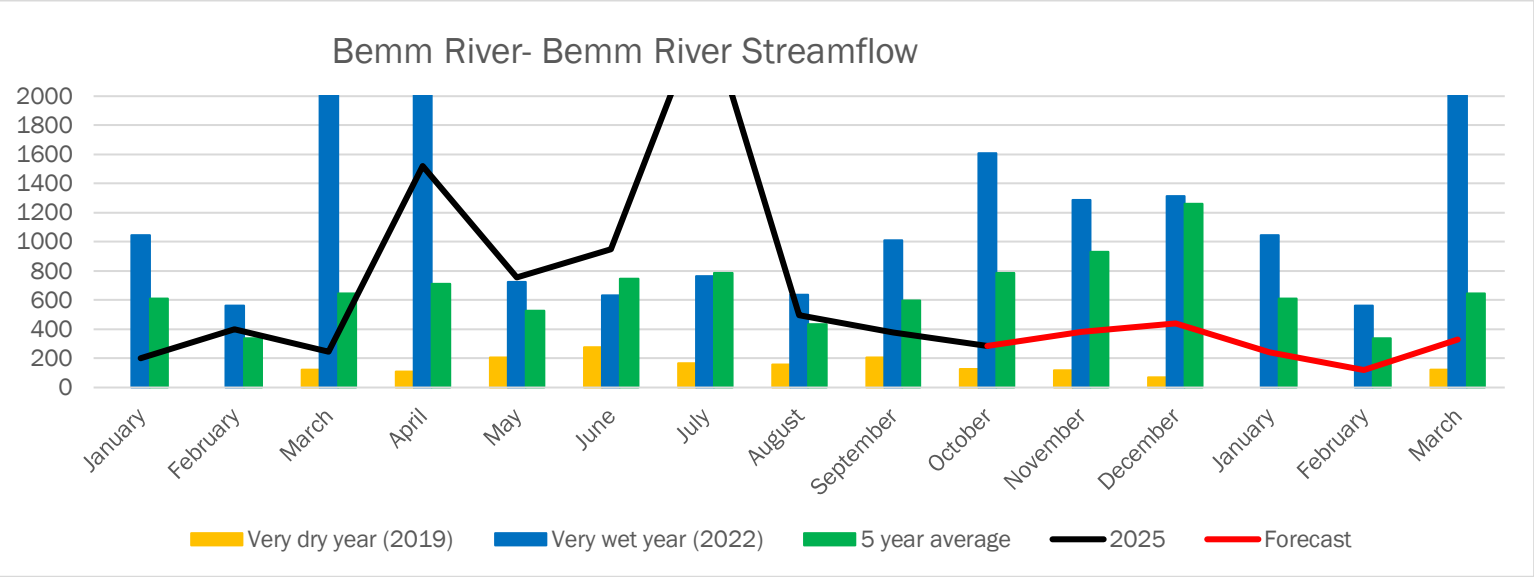
Annual Rainfall (as of Oct 2025)
803mm

5 Year Average Rainfall
988mm

Current Streamflow (21/10/2025)
246ML/day

2025 Average Streamflow
785ML/day

5-year Average Streamflow



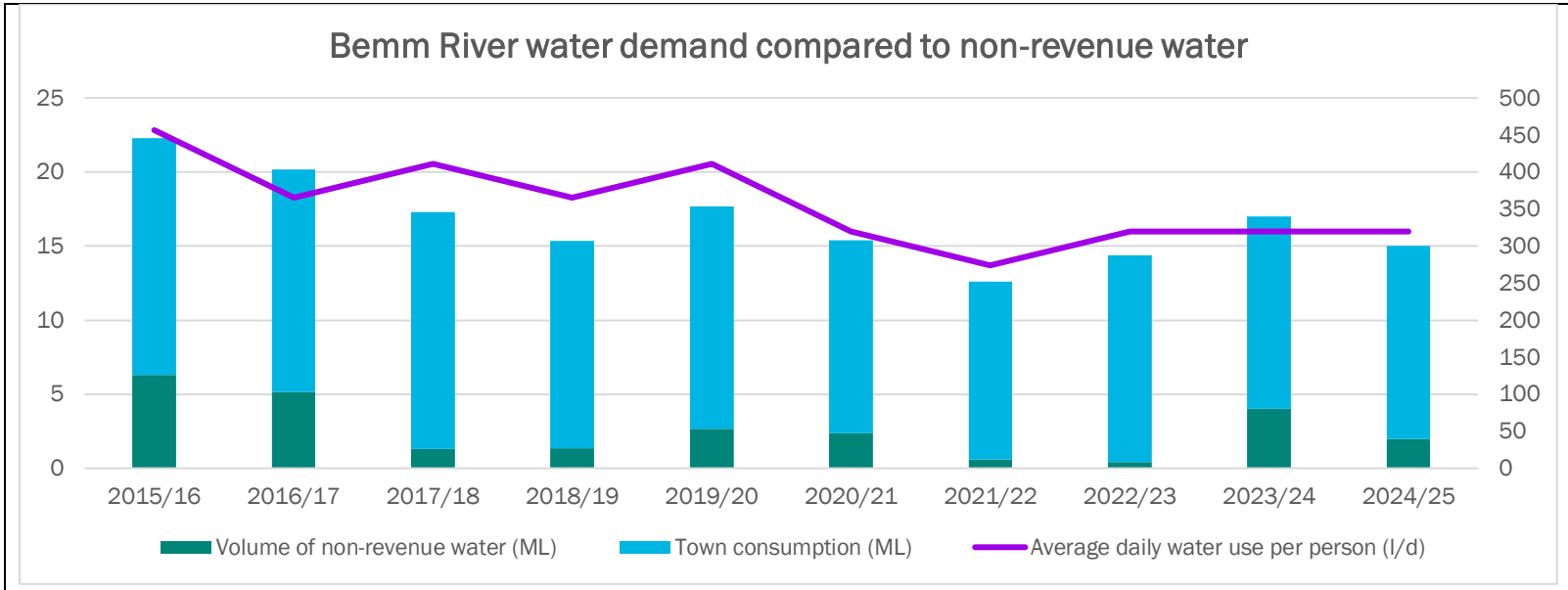

- Trending towards above average streamflow for 2025
- Significant streamflow events in April and July 2025
- Average monthly streamflow has been below the 5-year average for 3 out of 9 months

697ML/day

Annual Diversion Entitlement
100ML

Daily Diversion Entitlement
1.47ML

Total Use 2024-25
15ML




- Total water demand has decreased over the last 12 months compared to 2023/24. This is primarily attributed to a decrease in non-revenue water
- Non-revenue water is above the target range of 10-20%
- Average daily water use per person is above the target of less than 200 litres per person per day, which is likely influenced by tourism

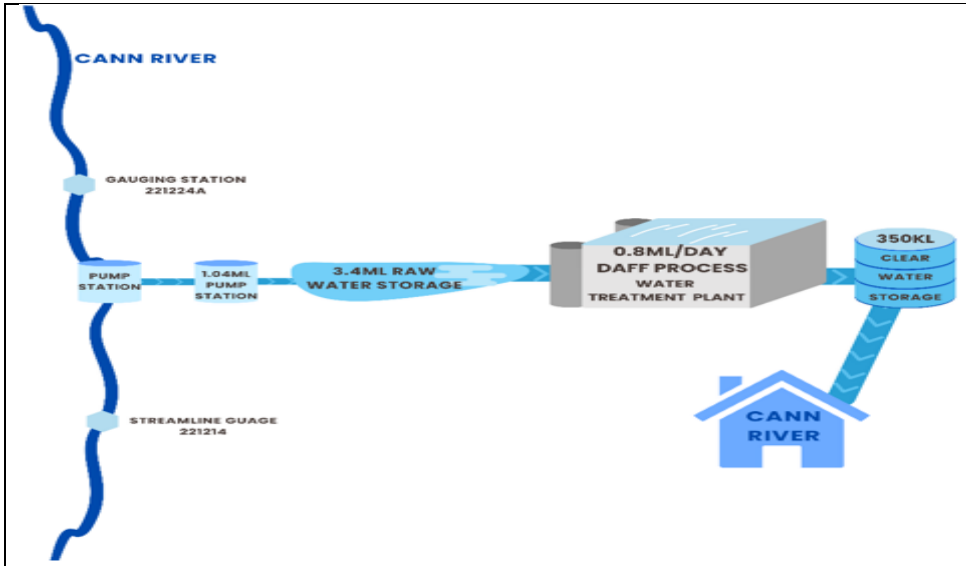
Expected Use 2025/26
15ML

Non-Revenue Water
2ML (13%)

Average Daily Use Per Person
320 l/d

| Action | Timing | Status | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Review population data & tourism | 2025-26 | Expected to be completed in 2026 | |
| Review options for upgrading the offtake structure | 2028 | Will progress in 2027 with the review of masterplan | A contingency plan has been developed that includes replacing offtake pump |

## System 5.8- Cann River




The Cann River drinking water supply system is sourced from the Cann River and pumped via a 1.2km rising pipeline to a 3.4ML raw water basin at the Cann River water treatment plant. Once this water has been treated at the water treatment plant it is transferred to a 350kl clear water storage before being delivered to customers via a gravity reticulation system.

**System reliability (risk of water restrictions):**

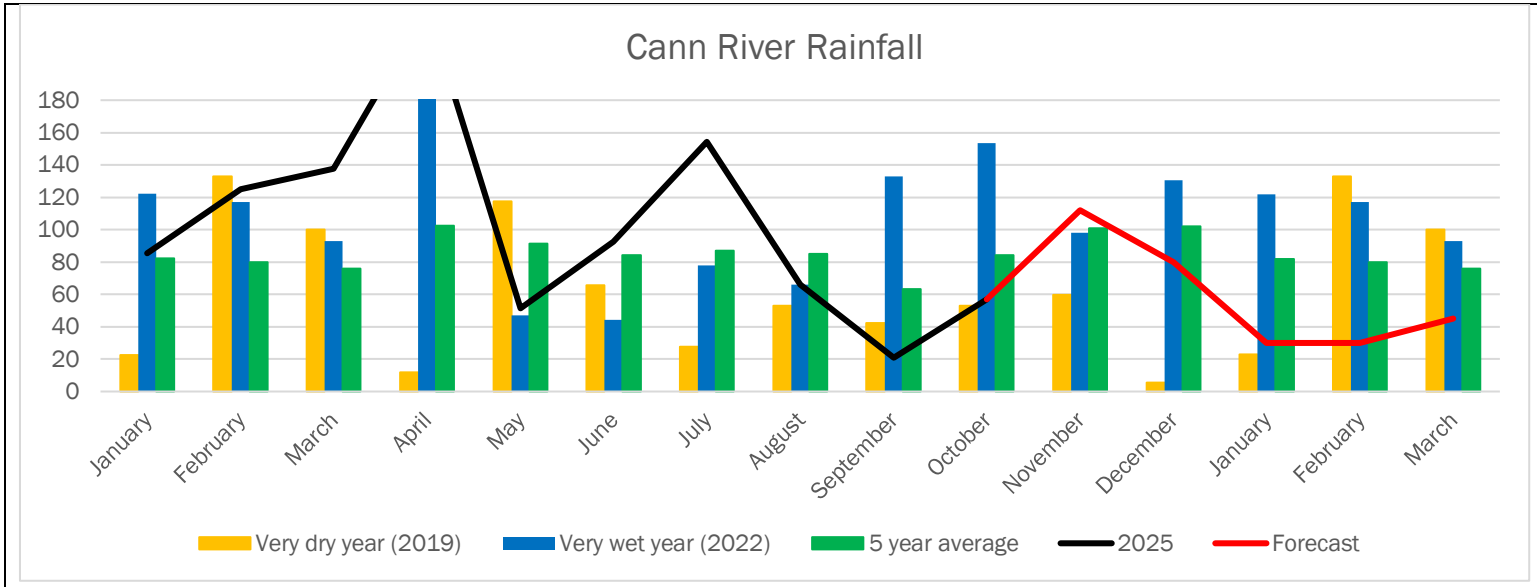
- It is expected, with the current rainfall outlook, that diversion of water will be possible this summer, and there will still be 40 days of storage
- If a low streamflow event occurs, then there will 10 days before water diversion is impacted
- Level of service (risk of water restrictions) is 1 in 45 years
- Adequate capacity for infrastructure and entitlements
- Resilience even under high climate change and bushfire impact scenarios

Likelihood of Restrictions
Unlikely

Population
200

Connections
195

| | |
|---|---|
| **Source water availability:**<br>• Average annual streamflow of 10GL/yr<br>• Cease flow events have lasted 25-27 days<br>• No passing flow requirement<br><br>**Mitigation/preparedness:**<br>• Develop contingency plans<br>• Complete any water storage maintenance<br><br>**Contingency/response:**<br>• Water carting from Orbost or Bemm River<br>• Assessment for undertaking any DWQ flushing programs<br><br>**Drought response trigger:**<br>• Stage 2- Demand is higher than river yield<br>• Stage 4- 2ML in raw water storage<br><br>**Key risks:**<br><br>Although the system is very reliable, the key risks are the size of the clear water tank to meet peak day demand. | |
| Water Resource Position<br><br>• Current volume of water in storage is normal with operating levels typically between 80-100%.<br>• Above average for the reporting period.<br>• Significant rainfall event in December 2023 and June 2024.<br>• Actual rainfall fell below average in November 2023 and May 2024 with a particularly dry autumn. | Storage levels (21-10-2025)<br><br>Raw water storages<br>3.1ML (91%)<br><br>Clear water storages<br>0.3ML (86%) |




Total water in storage
3.4ML (90%)

Annual Rainfall
1260mm

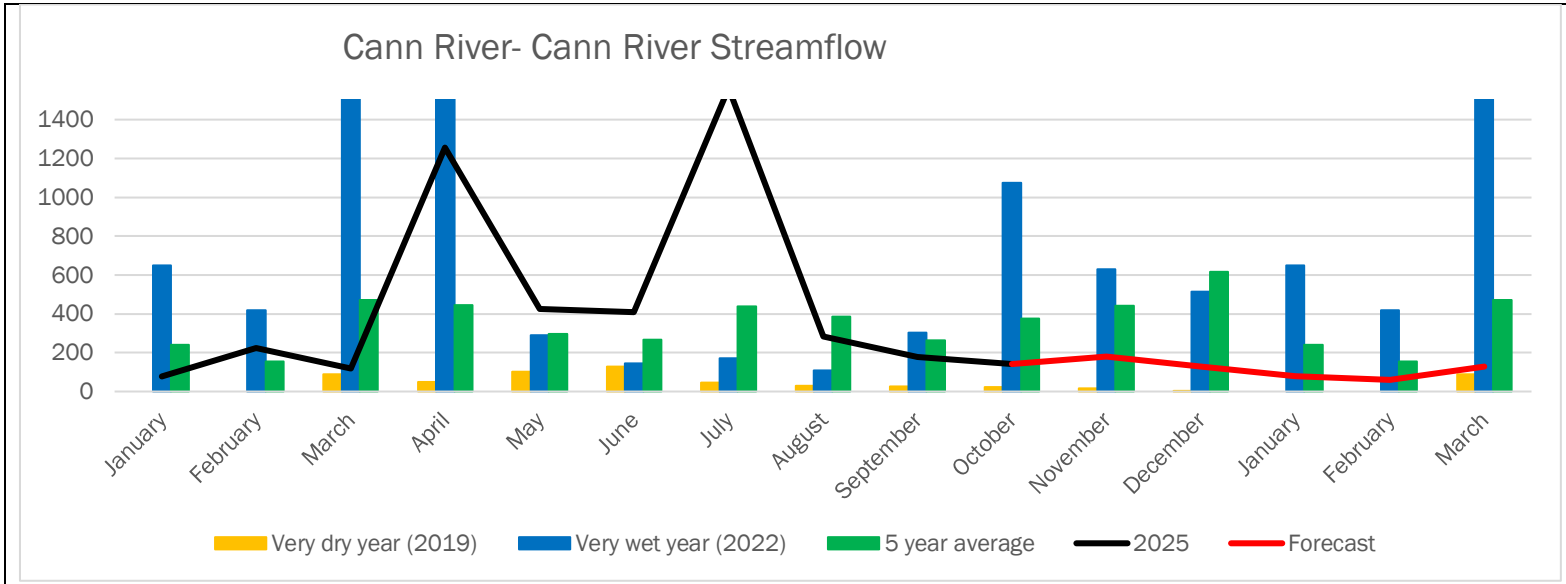
Average Annual Rainfall (5 years)
1141mm

- Above average rainfall will occur for 2025
- Significant rainfall events in February, March, April, and July 2025
- Actual monthly rainfall fell below 5-year average in May, August and September 2025

Current Streamflow
90ML/day

2025 Average Streamflow
317ML/day

5 year-Average Streamflow
351ML/day



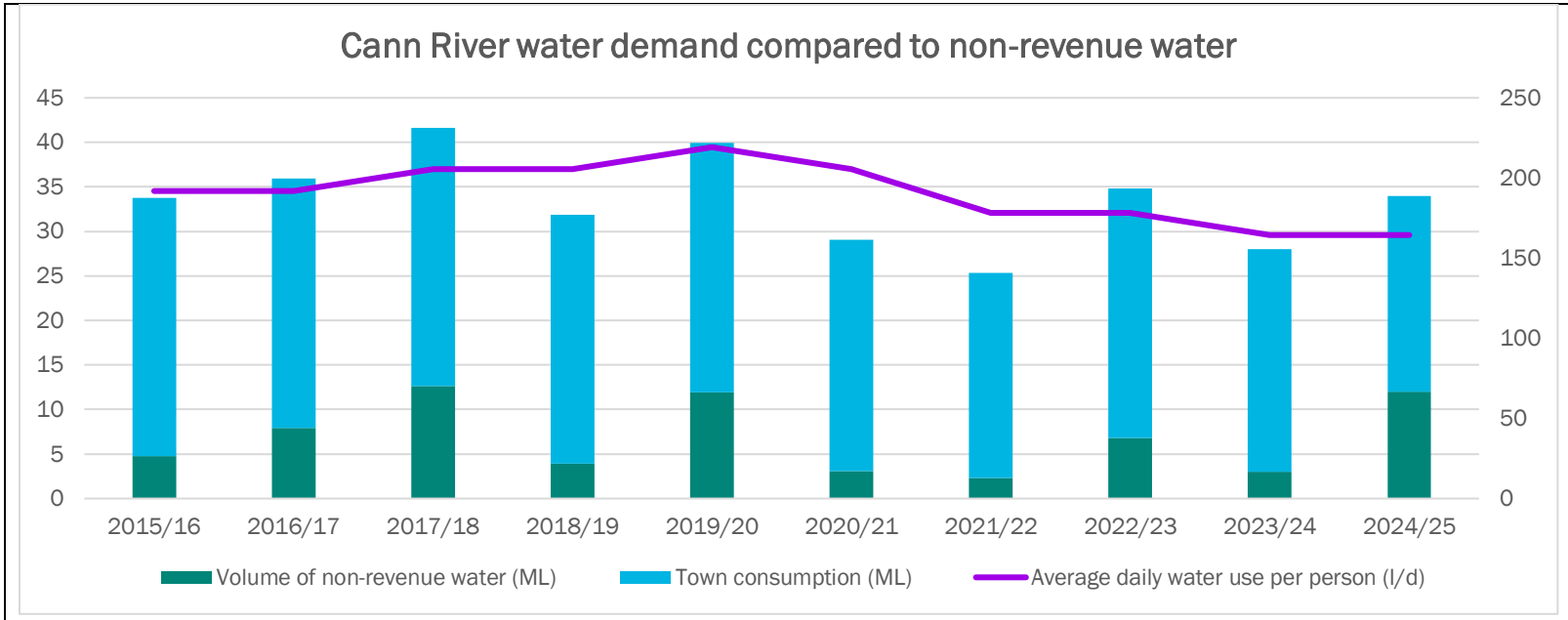

- Trending towards average streamflow for 2025
- Significant streamflow events in April and July 2025
- Average monthly streamflow has been below the 5-year average for 4 out of 9 months.

Annual Diversion Entitlement
192ML

Daily Diversion Entitlement
1.04ML

Total Use 2024-25
34ML

Expected Use 2025-26




- Total water demand has increased over the last 12 months compared to 2023/24. This is primarily attributed to an increase in non-revenue water
- Non-revenue water is above the target range of 10-20% which is likely due to 2 major service failures in the network and suspect unauthorised use
- Average daily water use per person is within the target of less than 200 litres per person per day

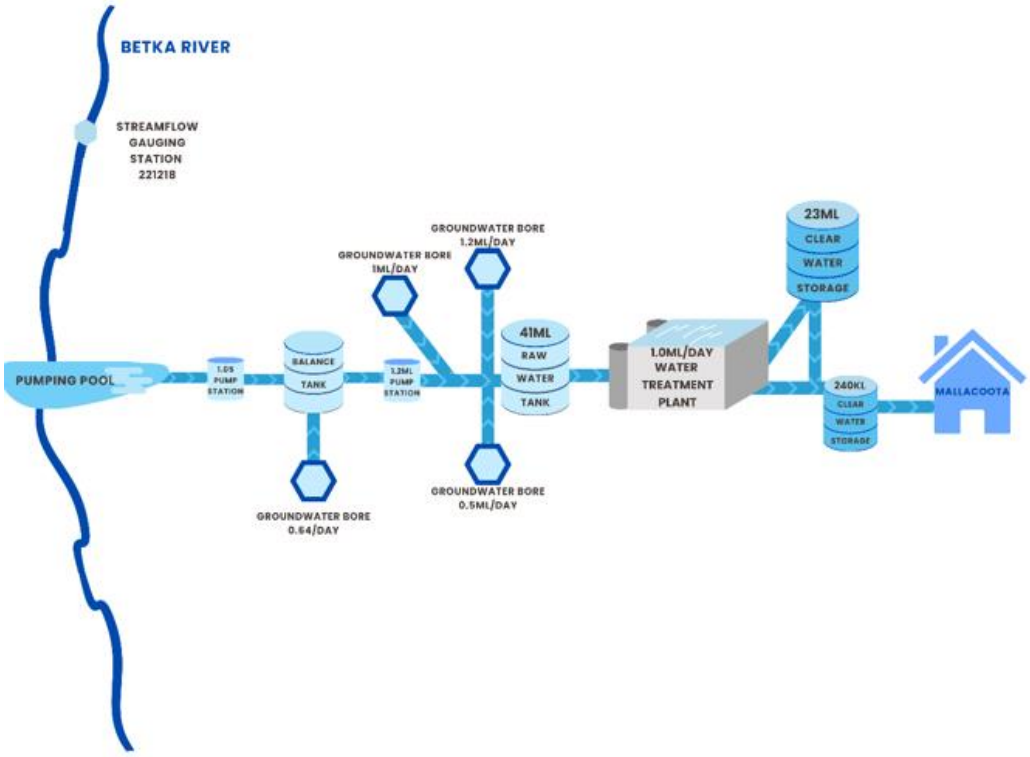
25ML

Non-Revenue Water
12ML (35%)

Average Daily Use Per Person
164 l/d

| Action | Timing | Status | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Investigate options to improve offtake reliability during extreme events | 2027 | Additional treatment processes (UV) are being installed to reduce the need for alternative supply | This was a response to the 2019-20 bushfires and catchment condition assessment |
| Explore opportunities for less climate dependant water source | 2040 | Will progress if there is a reduction in surface water reliability of the Cann River. Otherwise due to commence in 2030 | |

## System 5.9- Mallacoota




The Mallacoota drinking water supply system is sourced from the Betka River and pumped via a 6km pipeline into a 41ML raw water storage basin. An alternative groundwater supply is available during times of low river flow or poor water quality.

The raw water is treated at the Mallacoota water treatment plant and then transferred to a 240kL clear water tank, before it is supplied to the township of Mallacoota. There is also a 23ML partially treated water storage basin which holds additional treated water that is available for use as required.

Likelihood of Restrictions
Rare

Population
1100

Connections
1051

| | |
|---|---|
| **System reliability (risk of water restrictions):**<br>• It is expected, with the current rainfall outlook, that diversion of water will be possible this summer, and there will still be 86 days of storage<br>• If a low streamflow event occurs, which happens regularly, the surface water pump station operations stop and the groundwater bores are usually already in operation. However, there will be 10 days before water diversion is impacted<br>• Level of service (risk of water restrictions) is 1 in 61 years<br>• Some capacity issues- particularly the production rate of the WTP<br>• Some entitlement issues- daily diversion limits do not meet peak daily demand<br><br>**Source water availability:**<br>• Average annual streamflow of 98GL/yr<br>• Most years' experience a cease flow event<br>• Surface water does not meet demand during summer, and the system is reliant on groundwater.<br><br>**Mitigation/preparedness:**<br>• Modelling improvements- missing historical data will not be recoverable<br>• Groundwater expansion investigations<br>• Improve diversion controls<br>• Complete any water storage or WTP maintenance<br>• Begin filling the 23ML Partially Treated Water Storage (PTWS)<br>• Upgrade WTP<br>• Construct a closed town water supply<br>• Review algae management plan<br><br>**Contingency/response:**<br>• Increase surveillance and resourcing frequency<br>• Cease any DWQ flushing programs | |

**Drought response trigger:**

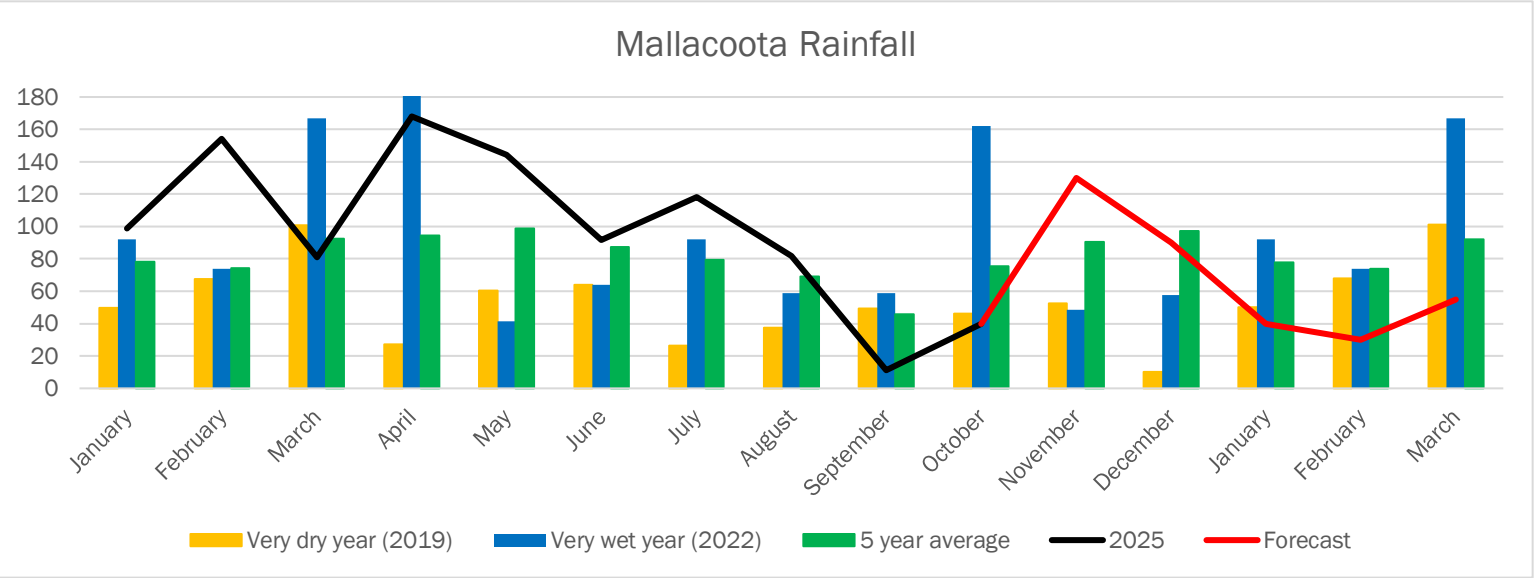
- Stage 2- <20ML of combined storage
- Stage 4- <15ML of combined storage

**Key risks:**

Although the system is reliable in drought because of the 4 groundwater bores, the key risk is the reliability and production rate of the WTP which is under capacity and a partially covered town water storage. As well as water availability from the Betka River.

Water Resource Position

- Current volume of water in storage is normal with operating levels typically between 80-100%.




Storage levels (21-10-2025)

Raw water storages
26.2ML (64%)

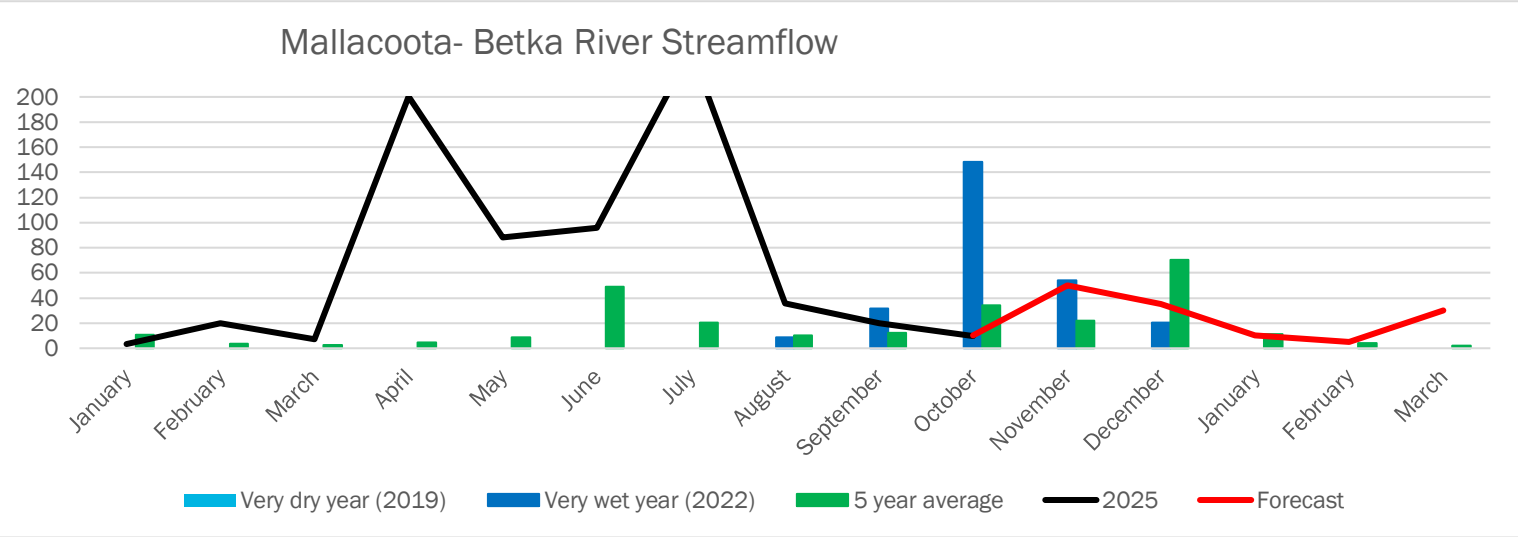
Clear water storages
17.7ML (77%)

Total water in storage
44.1ML (69%)

Annual Rainfall (till October)
949mm

Average Annual Rainfall (5-year)
983mm

- Above average rainfall will occur for 2025
- Significant rainfall events in February, April, and July 2025
- Actual monthly rainfall fell below 5-year average in March and September 2025




- Trending towards above average streamflow for 2025
- Significant streamflow events in April and July 2025
- Average monthly streamflow has been below the 5-year average for 2 out of 9 months (data quality issues)

Current Streamflow
6ML/day

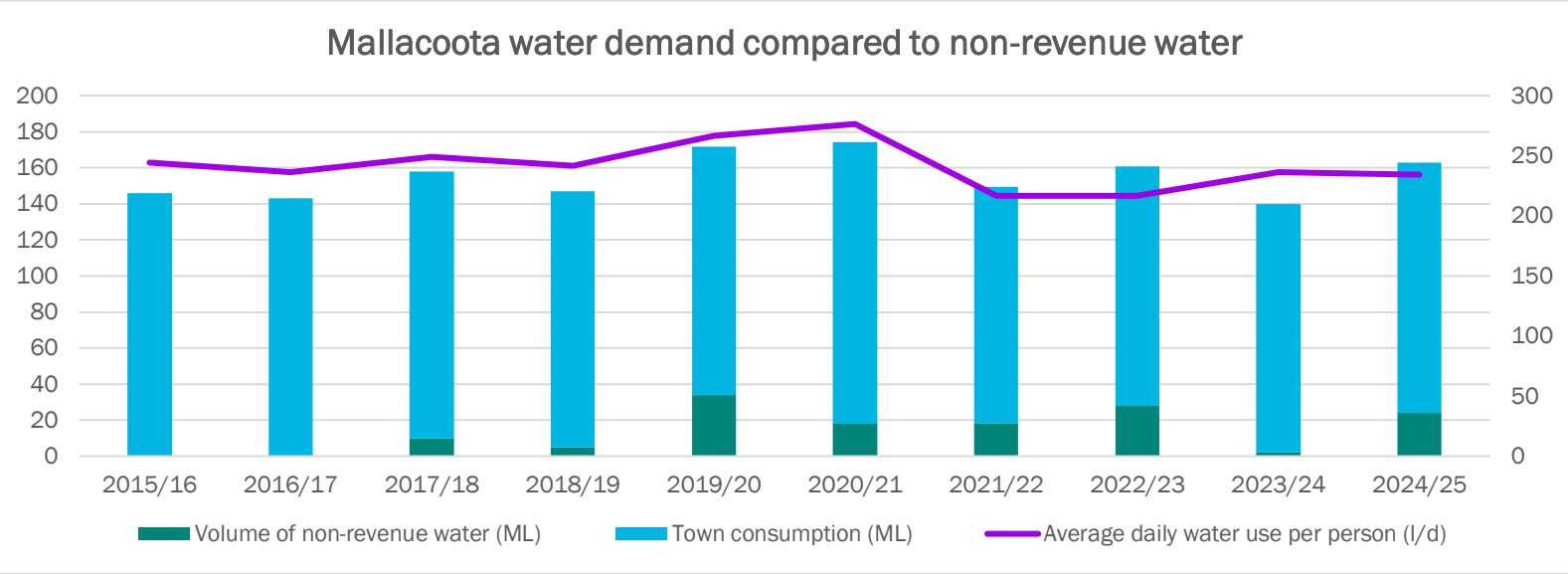
2025 Average Streamflow
60ML/day

5 year-Average Streamflow
44ML/day

Current Groundwater
Sustainable

Annual Diversion Entitlement
330ML

Daily Diversion Entitlement
1.55ML




- Total water demand has increased over the last 12 months compared to 2023/24. This is primarily attributed to an increase in non-revenue water
- Non-revenue water is within the target range of 10-20%
- Average daily water use per person is slightly above the target of less than 200 litres per person per day, which is likely influenced by tourism

Total Use 2024-25
163ML

Expected Use 2025-26
150ML

Non-Revenue Water
24ML (15%)

Average Daily Use Per Person
234 l/d

| Action | Timing | Status | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Modelling improvements to Source model | 2026-27 | Expected to be completed by 2027 | |
| Investigate options to expand groundwater | 2027 | This will progress in 2027 depending on the outcomes of the masterplan | The optimisation of the four bores are currently being reviewed |

## 9. APPENDIX – WATER RESTRICTIONS LIKELIHOOD

To be updated throughout the year as required. See below.

Table 9.1: Likelihood of water restrictions rated according to DELWP (2017) guidance. **Likelihood of water restrictions range:** very rare <1%; rare 1-4%; unlikely 5-19%; possible 20-49%; likely 50-79%; almost certain 80-100%.

| Water Supply System | Townships supplied | Water source | Likelihood of water restrictions over 2025/26 summer | Contingency plans/comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dinner Plain | Dinner Plain | Groundwater bores (2) | | |
| Omeo | Omeo | Butchers Creek | | |
| Swifts Creek | Swifts Creek | Tambo River | | |
| Mitchell River | Bairnsdale (including Wy Yung and Lucknow), Lindenow, Paynesville, Raymond Island, Metung, Tambo Bluff, Lakes Entrance (including Lake Tyers, Lake Tyers Beach and Kalimna), Nowa Nowa, Nicholson, Johnsonville, Swan Reach, Bruthen and Sarsfield | Mitchell River + 5 groundwater bores (take and use plus Aquifer Storage and Recovery) | | |
| Buchan | Buchan | Buchan River | | |
| Orbost | Orbost, Marlo, Newmerella | Brodribb River | | |

| Water Supply System | Townships supplied | Water source | Likelihood of water restrictions over 2025/26 summer | Contingency plans/comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bemm River | Bemm River | Bemm River | | |
| Cann River | Cann River | Cann River | | |
| Mallacoota | Mallacoota | Betka River and 4 groundwater bores | | |