

Goulburn-Murray Water

Summary of feedback from survey of

Mid Loddon Local Management Rules Survey

October 2023

Overview

On 23 August 2023, Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) sent a letter to all groundwater licence holders in the Mid Loddon Groundwater Management Area (GMA) and the broader proposed Loddon Plains Groundwater Management Area with the intention to:

- inform licence holders of the proposed Local Management Plan (LMP) and associated boundary;
- seek feedback from licence holders on the operation of the existing Mid Loddon Local Management Rules 2009.

GMW also created a webpage with a survey attached which gave customers the option of providing either written or online submissions. The survey was closed on Friday 6 October 2023. The associated website address was referenced in the customer letter.

Additional resources were provided including a fact sheet and map showing the proposed Loddon Plains LMP.

Licence holders were encouraged to call, or email relevant GMW staff for more information if required.

Engagement

Letters were sent to licence holders dated 25 August 2023. Licence holders were further reminded to make their submission prior to the closure of the survey date via SMS and email.

The website survey received 46 visits by 29 separate visitors. The results are summarised below in Figure 1 below.

SUMMARY

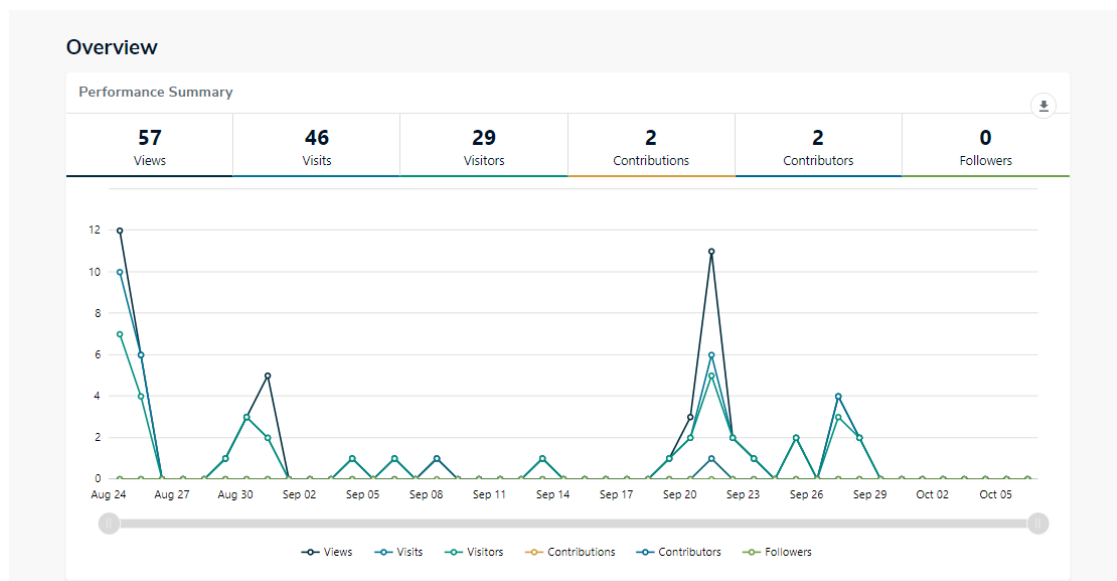


Figure 1: Summary of Statistics from website visits - Mid Loddon Survey 2023

Feedback received

GMW received six submissions - four via written feedback on the supplied form and two directly via the online survey.

Key points:

- All submitters were generally supportive of the existing Plan.
- No submissions were received from licence holders outside the existing Mid Loddon GMA boundary.

Summary of comments regarding rules

Table 1 overleaf is a summary of comments/suggestions received from the survey.

Personal information, or information whereby the submitter may be readily identified, or responded with “agreed” or “yes” has not been included.

Where several people have made the same comment, it is reported once in order to capture the range of responses in summary form.

For the full details, including sub sections of each Rule, please refer to the [Mid Loddon Local Management Rules 2009](#).

What happens next?

The responses to the survey will be discussed with the Mid Loddon Local Management Rules Implementation Committee and GMW Management.

A decision will be made regarding the appropriate process to finalise a review and potential amendment to the LMR’s and incorporation into the Lower Loddon Local Management Plan.

Progress and planning timelines will be updated to the [Loddon Plains GMA Local Management Plan development webpage](#).

Table 1: Summary of comments/suggestions received from a Mid Loddon Local Management Rules

Rule no. and title	Comment/suggestion
Rule 1: Cap on Licence Entitlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support as long as no new water is “found”. • No new bores as well as no new licences. • As long as existing users are not affected. • The GMA is already at capacity, no new licence entitlement. • Happy for licences to be managed within the cap, as long as opportunity for new developers via trading.
Rule 2: Assessing Interference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitter commented/questioned GMW procedure for licence assessment. • Concerns were raised about a specific situation where interference may have occurred. • Access to information is complex, need to protect Domestic and Stock access. • Water Act shows the rules that need to be followed.
Rule 3: Managing Intensity of Groundwater Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing rules work well. • No new licences should be approved. • 5000 ML/5km radius seems excessive. • The rule protects users in local areas.
Rule 4: Managing Groundwater Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing rule works well and should continue. • Interested to know how much entitlement is available under the cap. • Very happy for the rules to continue as is.
Rule 5: Transfer of Groundwater Entitlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works well and should continue as is. • No transfers north to south. • Good idea as long as the water remains owned by the owner of the property. • Reasonable approach. • Rule has worked very well.
Rule 6: Carryover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current rules work well. • You should be able to carryover your own unused water. • Carryover has work very well.
Rule 7: Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperative to continue and reported to the reference committee. • Levels during the water season is enough, not all year. • Very important. • Information from the Rothacker’s Road bore is valued by irrigators.

SUMMARY

Rule 8: Monitoring Groundwater Salinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to continue to be monitored and reported to the reference committee.• What does it achieve?• Current level of observation to be continued.
Rule 9: Record Meter Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imperative to continue.• Two meter readings only - April and June.• Three meter readings are excessive and costly.• One reading in wet years is sufficient.
Rule 10: Annual Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting is standard practice and must continue.
Rule 11: Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual meetings with the reference committee, and newsletters and internet must continue.• Stick to basic reporting to limit costs to licences.• Effective communication is a must.
Rule 12: Plan Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imperative that 12(d) comprehensive review after five years is conducted and has been poorly adhered to.• A must for management.• The rule is adequate.