# **WATER SECURITY OUTLOOK**

**NOVEMBER 2023** 

## South Gippsland Water

The town of Leongatha receives its primary water supply from four storages on Ruby Creek:

- Western Reservoir:1,137 ML capacity
- Hyland Reservoir:671 ML capacity
- No.2 Reservoir: 84 ML capacity
- No. 1 Reservoir:11 ML capacity

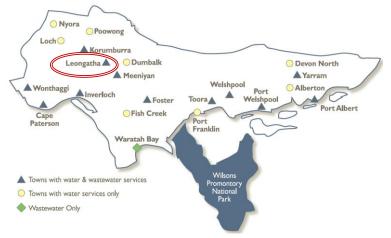
Alternative supply during drought is also available from local groundwater bores.

South Gippsland Water

1300 851 636

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## Leongatha Water Supply System



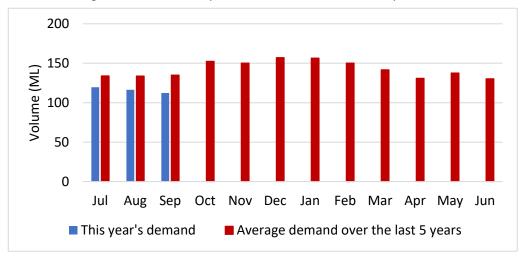
#### **Water Supply Information**

Water resources held by South Gippsland Water for the Leongatha Water Supply System are shown below. Only 14% of the available annual entitlement from the Leongatha storages has been used in the current year to date (Jul-Sep 2023). This entitlement is a legal right to access water, subject to availability. No water has been diverted to the Leongatha storages from the local groundwater bore.

Water Component	Maximum Annual Entitlement	Volume Extracted 2023-24	Volume Remaining 2023-24
No.1, No. 2, Hyland and Western Reservoirs	2,476 ML	348 ML	2,128 ML

### **Water Consumption**

Monthly water consumption for the Leongatha Water Supply System in the year to date has been below the average demand over the last five years. This is primarily due to water use by major customers being 14% lower over the year to date, relative to the last 5 years.



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#### **Further Information:**

- All four storages were at full capacity at the end of October.
- Volumes shown in values in megalitres (ML), where 1 ML is million litres or roughly 40% of an Olympic sized swimming pool.

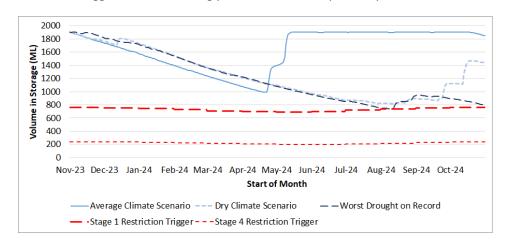
#### Climate Conditions

Forecast climate conditions for the coming three months have considered the Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal climate forecast for the region and local climate conditions in the year to date. Winter/spring rainfall in the year to date has been similar to long-term average, and the Bureau's climate outlook indicates that the next three months are likely to be slightly drier than usual. Air temperature over the next three months is forecast to be warmer than usual for this time of year, and this trend is expected to continue beyond this period. After taking these factors into account, South Gippsland Water is forecasting on the basis of a dry climate scenario.

Chance of Exceeding Median Rainfall	Chance of Exceeding Median Maximum Temperature	This Year's Winter/Spring Rainfall	Likely Outlook Scenario
40-45%	Greater than 80%	Average	Dry

#### **Urban Water Restrictions Outlook**

The volume in storage outlook for the Leongatha Water Supply System for the period November 2023 to October 2024 indicates that storage levels are expected to remain above water restriction triggers over the coming year under the anticipated dry climate scenario.



Based on the volume in storage outlook and the Bureau of Meteorology climate forecast, no water restrictions are anticipated for the remainder of the year at the current time. South Gippsland Water's Permanent Water Savings Plan applies to all customers over the outlook period.

Climate Scena	rio	Outlook		
	1 Jan 2024	1 Apr 2024	1 Jul 2024	
Wet	PWSP	PWSP	PWSP	
Average	PWSP	PWSP	PWSP	
Dry	PWSP	PWSP	PWSP	
PWSP Permanent Water Savings Plan				

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#### **Action Plan**

A list of priority actions for this supply system prior to the next update of the Urban Water Strategy in 2027 is presented below. The Urban Water Strategy identified that the Leongatha system is not able to meet South Gippsland Water's long-term target service criteria for restrictions, and water restrictions can be expected on average once every 3-5 years (depending on climate change assumptions). However storages are currently full and supplementary sources of water are available and ready to use if needed.

Further information on actions can be found in our 2022 Urban Water Strategy and our Price Submission 2020-2023 publication on our website. Actions at Leongatha include investigating expanded use of groundwater and investigating the interconnection of disused reservoirs to improve reliability of supply at Leongatha. Since completing the Urban Water Strategy, South Gippsland Water has completed further investigations to assess the scope and costs of bringing some existing groundwater bores back into service, for comparison against other options.

Action Name	Timing
Confirm water demand estimates for major customers	Ongoing
Investigate future use of existing groundwater bores	Complete
Investigate reuse of water treatment plant wash water	2025
Investigate interconnection of disused dams to Leongatha system	2027
Investigate interconnection with Lance Creek system	2027
Water awareness and efficiency programs	Ongoing
Leak reduction	Ongoing
Reuse opportunities	Ongoing
Update water security outlook	Every November
Planning for long term options as per the Urban Water Strategy	2022-2027

Victoria's <u>permanent water savings rules</u> are always in place in South Gippsland, saving water on an ongoing basis. For additional tips about how to save water see our <u>smart water advice</u>.

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