WATER SECURITY OUTLOOK

South Gippsland Water

NOVEMBER 2022

Leongatha Water Supply System

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

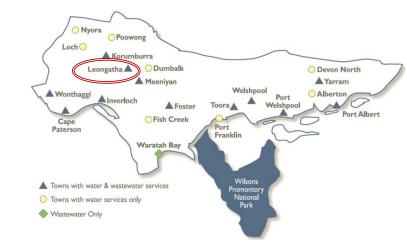
- Western Reservoir: 1,137 ML capacity
- Hyland Reservoir: 671 ML capacity
- No.2 Reservoir: 84 ML capacity
- No. 1 Reservoir: 19 ML capacity

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

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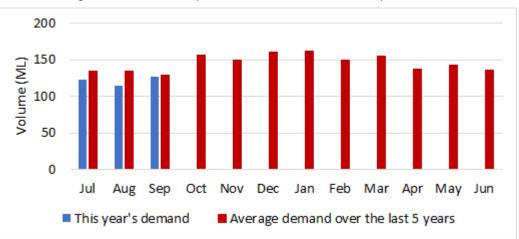
Water Supply Information

Water resources held by South Gippsland Water for the Leongatha Water Supply System are shown below. Only 15% of the available annual entitlement from the Leongatha storages has been used in the current year to date (Jul-Sep 2022). 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 | Volume Extracted | Volume Remaining |
|---|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Entitlement | 2022-23 | 2022-23 |
| No.1, No. 2, Hyland and Western Reservoirs | 2,476 ML | 363 ML | 2,113 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 15% lower over the year to date, relative to the last 5 years.



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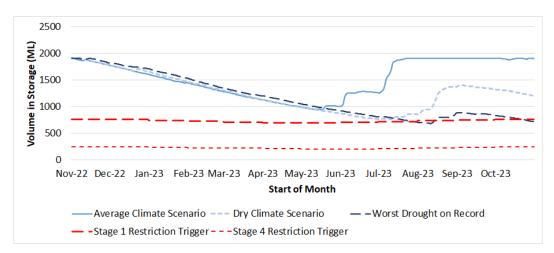
Climate Conditions

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 the long-term average, and the Bureau's climate outlook indicates that rainfall over the next three months is likely to be wetter than usual. Air temperature is forecast over the next three months 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 an average climate scenario, which is characterised by streamflow into the Leongatha storages that are close to long-term average values.

| Chance of Exceeding | Chance of Exceeding Median | This Year's | Likely Outlook |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Median Rainfall | Maximum Temperature | Spring Rainfall | Scenario |
| 65-70% | Greater than 80% | Average | Average |

Urban Water Restrictions Outlook

The volume in storage outlook for the Leongatha Water Supply System for the period November 2022 to October 2023 indicates that storage levels are expected to remain above water restriction triggers over the coming year under the anticipated average climate scenario. If conditions were considerably drier than expected, Stage 1 restrictions could be put into effect in spring 2023, leading into the 2023/24 summer period.



South Gippsland Water's Permanent Water Savings Plan applies to all customers over the outlook period. If conditions are considerably drier than expected, particularly in winter/spring 2023, Stage 1 restrictions could be put into effect in spring 2023.

| Climate Scenario | Outlook | | |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 1 Jan 2022 | 1 Apr 2022 | 1 Jul 2022 |
| Wet | PWSP | PWSP | PWSP |
| Average | PWSP | PWSP | PWSP |
| Dry | PWSP | PWSP | PWSP |

PWSP Permanent Water Savings Plan

Further Information:

- All four storages were at full capacity at the end of October.
- Volumes shown in the storage outlook are start of month values in megalitres (ML), where 1 ML is equivalent to 1 million litres (or roughly one Olympic sized swimming pool)

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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 <u>2022 Urban Water Strategy</u> and our <u>Price</u> <u>Submission 2020-2023</u> 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 |
|--|----------------|
| 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>.

The information provided in this water security outlook is intended as a guide only. An update will be issued if conditions change during the outlook period.

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