Water Act 1989

PERMISSIBLE CONSUMPTIVE VOLUME GROUNDWATER AMENDMENT ORDER 2026

I, Hon. Michaela Settle MP, Minister for Water, and Minister responsible for administering the **Water Act 1989** (the Act), make the following Order:

1. Citation

This Order is called the Permissible Consumptive Volume Groundwater Amendment Order 2026.

2. Authorising provision

This Order is made under section 22A(1) of the **Water Act 1989** and section 27 of the **Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984.**

3. Commencement

This Order comes into operation on the date it is published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

4. Definitions

In this Order, **PCV Groundwater Order 2024** means the Permissible Consumptive Volume Groundwater Order 2024, dated 12 July 2024 and published in the Victoria Government Gazette G30 on 25 July 2024 (page 1490-1499) as amended by the Permissible Consumptive Volume Groundwater Amendment Order 2025, dated 20 June 2025 and published in the Victoria Government Gazette G27 on 3 July 2025 (page 1448-1449).

5. Purpose

The purpose of this Order is to amend the PCV Groundwater Order 2024 in relation to the Rosedale and Stratford Groundwater Management Areas to revise the zones and permissible consumptive volumes applicable within those areas and to correct typographical errors.

6. Permissible Consumptive Volumes

6.1. For clause 7.1 **substitute –**

"**7.1** Subject to clause 7.3, I declare that the total volume of groundwater that may be taken in each area listed in Table 1 and Table 2, whether used in that area or elsewhere, under the Act or any other Act, during a water season, must not exceed:

(a) the volume listed in Column D of Table 1 and Columns B to E in Table 2; and

(b) the volume listed in Column D of Table 1 and Columns B to E in Table 2 plus the volume that may be taken under any licence issued or amended or to be issued or amended under section 51 of the Act in the area –

(i) to take and use groundwater for the purpose of dairy shed cleaning as provided for under the Dairy Shed Water Licence Transition Program; and

(ii) in respect of a MAR scheme and which contains a condition prohibiting the licence holder from taking more groundwater than the volume of water injected or infiltrated under the scheme into an aquifer in the area; and

(iii) to take over a period of a maximum of 14 consecutive days for the purpose of a single pumping test:

A. no more than 30 megalitres of groundwater; or

B. groundwater amounting to no more than 2 per cent of the PCV declared for the area; whichever is the lesser amount; and

(iv) that must be returned subject to the conditions on that licence; and

(v) for the Moorabbin Groundwater Management area only, to take groundwater for the purpose of dewatering in relation to Suburban Rail Loop infrastructure projects where the total cumulative volume of take from all section 51 licences issued for this purpose do not exceed 800 megalitres per water season until 31 December 2031.

Note - For groundwater area accounting purposes, returned water is accounted for such that the licensed consumptive volume (inclusive of any loss) is the take volume minus the return volume. Only the licensed consumptive volume is considered within the permissible consumptive volume in Column D of Table 1 and Columns B, C, D and E of Table 2."

with –

"**7.1** Subject to clause 7.3, I declare that the total volume of groundwater that may be taken in each area listed in Table 1 and Table 2, whether used in that area or elsewhere, under the Act or any other Act, during a water season, must not exceed the greater of the following:

(a) the volume listed in Column D of Table 1 and Columns B to E in Table 2; or

(b) the volume listed in Column D of Table 1 and Columns B to E in Table 2 plus the volume (where relevant) that may be taken under any licence issued or amended or to be issued or amended under section 51 of the Act in the area –

(i) to take and use groundwater for the purpose of dairy shed cleaning as provided for under the Dairy Shed Water Licence Transition Program; and

(ii) in respect of a MAR scheme and which contains a condition prohibiting the licence holder from taking more groundwater than the volume of water injected or infiltrated under the scheme into an aquifer in the area; and

(iii) to take over a period of a maximum of 14 consecutive days for the purpose of a single pumping test:

A. no more than 30 megalitres of groundwater; or

B. groundwater amounting to no more than 2 per cent of the PCV declared for the area; whichever is the lesser amount; and

(iv) that must be returned subject to the conditions on that licence; and

(v) for the Moorabbin Groundwater Management Area only, to take groundwater for the purpose of dewatering in relation to Suburban Rail Loop infrastructure projects where the total cumulative volume of take from all section 51 licences issued for this purpose does not exceed 800 megalitres per water season until 31 December 2031.

Note: For groundwater area accounting purposes, returned water is accounted for such that the licensed consumptive volume (inclusive of any loss) is the take volume minus the return volume. Only the licensed consumptive volume is considered within the permissible consumptive volume in Column D of Table 1 and Columns B, C, D and E of Table 2."

6.2 In Table 1 in clause 7, for the Rosedale Groundwater Management Area, **substitute** –

	LEGL./04–157	Zone 1 – All formations from 50 metres to 150 metres below the surface.	

Rosedale Groundwater Management Area		Zone 2 – All formations from 25 metres to 350 metres below the surface.	Collectively 23,373
		Zone 3 – All formations from 200 metres to 300 metres below the surface.	

with

Rosedale Groundwater Management Area	LEGL./26-045	Zone 1A (Yallourn) – All formations below 50 metres from the surface.	1,650
		Zone 1B (Hazelwood) – All formations below 50 metres from the surface.	18,400
		Zone 1C (Loy Yang) – All formations below 50 metres from the surface.	19,997
		Zone 1D – All formations below 50 metres from the surface.	Collectively 13,742
		Zone 2 – All formations from 25 metres to 350 metres below the surface.	
		Zone 3 – All formations from 200 metres to 350 metres below the surface.	

6.3 In Table 1 in clause 7, for the Stratford Groundwater Management Area, **substitute** –

Stratford Groundwater Management Area	LEGL./04–158	Zone 1 – All formations below 250 metres from the surface.	Collectively 27,686
		Zone 2 – All formations below 350 metres from the surface.	

with

Stratford Groundwater Management Area	LEGL./26-046	All formations below 350 metres from the surface.	1,217

Dated: 25/10/2026



Hon. Michaela Settle MP
Minister for Water