

Emergency Water Supply Point Review 2025-26

Fact Sheet

Victoria's Emergency Water Supply Point (EWSP) network is reviewed every five years. This review was brought forward in response to continued dry conditions, helping farming communities access essential water when and where they need it most.

What are emergency water supply points?

Emergency water supply points (EWSP) are locations where water can be collected and carted for stock and domestic use during severe dry or drought conditions.

They are not for everyday use. They are intended to support communities when normal water supplies are under pressure. Some sites are equipped to supply fire-fighting vehicles with water.

There are 3 main types of EWSPs:

- bores that access groundwater
- urban standpipes connected to reticulated drinking water systems
- rural standpipes that access channels or reservoirs.



Rural EWSP in Mitchell Shire (Image credit: Mitchell Shire Council)

Who manages emergency water supply points?

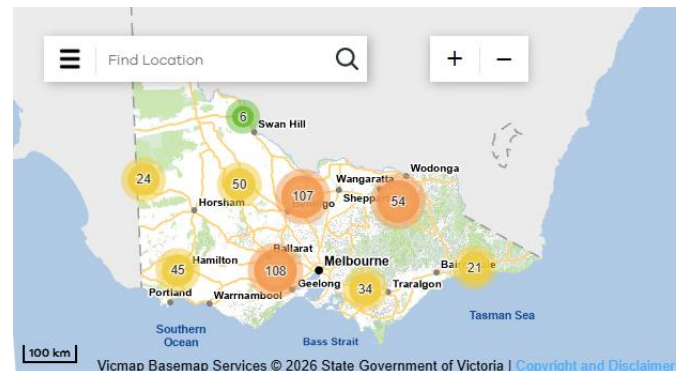
EWSPs are managed by Water Corporations (WCs) and Local Government Authorities (LGAs). They are best placed to manage EWSPs with strong local knowledge and close connection to community needs. Managers are responsible for:

- Maintaining the site
- Managing access arrangements
- Providing information about use and availability

Victoria's EWSP network

There are more than 400 EWSPs across the state. The network has grown over time as needs have changed and new sites have been added.

Find your nearest EWSP using the EWSP network map



The 2025-26 statewide review

This review focused on supporting the network to remain fit for purpose into the future. It ensures that:

- EWSPs are located where they are most needed
- the network can reliably provide water in dry conditions; and
- the EWSP network is effectively managed and well used and understood by community.

Process and engagement

The review process included:

- Engagement with more than 80 EWSP managers
- Collection of updated information on existing sites
- Identification of potential new or upgraded EWSPs
- An assessment of the locations and network coverage

What did the 2025-2026 EWSP review find?

The review found five key recommendations:

1. **Ensure database information is up to date**, so communities and managers have clear, accurate details when they need them.
2. **Keep improving and expanding the network** by funding proposed projects to upgrade sites and build new supply points where they are needed most.
3. **Continue to fill in network gaps** through engagement with local managers to make sure the network supports more communities.
4. **Make it easier to find information about EWSPs** by refining the database and updating the website to make it simpler to find information about locations, availability and use.
5. **Improve access and information on-site** by supporting managers to make EWSPs easier and safer to use.



Wattle Creek EWSP - Pyrenees Shire Council (Image credit: Pyrenees Shire Council)

What actions has DEECA taken to respond to the review?

DEECA has responded through targeted action including:

- Updated the online EWSP map: Information for more than 60 additional emergency water supply points has been added and is now live on the online network map.
- Delivered priority upgrade works across Victoria: Construction and upgrade works have been completed or are underway at multiple sites across the state, including in Baw Baw Shire and Moyne Shire, with works to be finished by mid-2026.
- Worked collaboratively with local managers to plan next steps: DEECA has worked with WCs and LGAs to prioritise the next round of upgrades and new sites, based on submitted proposals.
- Improved access and on-site information: Plans for the next stage of works include upgrades to physical access and clearer on-site information.

What does this mean for farming communities?

These actions in response to the review mean that communities will have:

Better access to emergency water on the ground: Priority upgrades in drought affected areas are giving landholders easier access to emergency water closer to home, with more reliable supply, higher flow rates and improved pumping capacity; and

Clearer and easier to find in times of need: Improvements to signage, mapping and location information are making emergency water supply points easier to find, understand and use during dry conditions.

Next steps

DEECA will continue to work collaboratively with EWSP managers and community to address gaps in the network. Additional works will be finalised by mid-2027 and the database will be updated as infrastructure upgrades or new EWSPs come online.

Additional information

- Visit the EWSP website: www.water.vic.gov.au/emergency-water-supply-points
- For any questions contact: dry.conditions@deeca.vic.gov.au

We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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