

Our water sources

Q:

Why does the taste of drinking water change depending on which town you're in?

A:

We manage a complex range of water sources, and they all have unique characteristics which can impact the taste.

They include shallow bores, deep aquifers, surface catchments and an award-winning roof water harvesting system.

Together, they supply nearly 12,000 megalitres of drinking water each year to customers in our region which stretches from the Otways to the South Australian border, and from the Grampians to the coast.

Q:

Where does the Otway system water come from?

A:

Although it only has a small headworks catchment area, the high rainfall in the Otways generates significant run-off. Instead of using a dam, we divert water into the North Otway pipeline using small concrete weirs at East Arkins, West Arkins and First Creeks.

The North Otway Pump Station also pumps water from the Gellibrand River to provide a consistent supply.

Storages are strategically located along the pipeline at Cobden, Donalds Hill (Camperdown), Ewens Hill (Cobrico), Tank Hill (Panmure), and Dales Road and Brierly Basin (Warrnambool).

The storages are drawn on in summer when supply from the headworks is insufficient to meet high

demand, and to reduce pumping costs. The storages are then refilled during winter when the flow in the catchment is high.

The South Otway pipeline supplies water direct to Warrnambool, reducing reliance on the North Otway pipeline, and increasing the security of the whole system.

Water is pumped from the Gellibrand River, upstream of the junction with Kennedys Creek, to a storage basin at Plantation Road, east of Port Campbell. It's then delivered by gravity to Warrnambool.

Today, we supplement this system using groundwater bores at Albert Park in Warrnambool. The Warrnambool Roof Water Harvesting System also captures excess rainfall from roofs in the city's north-eastern growth corridor, the Albert Park precinct and the Horne Road industrial estate.

A contingency bore at Curdievale provides extra supply security.

The Otway Water Supply System services Allansford, Camperdown, Cobden, Derrinallum, Glenormiston, Koroit, Lismore, Mortlake, Noorat, Purnim, Simpson, Terang and Warrnambool.

The system also supplies non-drinking water to nearly 900 rural customers.

Q:

Where does the Grampians system water come from?

A:

The Grampians Water Supply System is our oldest – dating back to 1900.

Water for our customers in Hamilton, Dunkeld and Tarrington comes from streams in the Grampians. During dry periods, we can take extra water from Rocklands Reservoir or shallow groundwater bores in the Grampians.



The water is stored in Hayes, Cruckoor and Hartwicks reservoirs, allowing the different raw water qualities to blend together. This also allows sediment to settle before the water is sent to the Hamilton Water Treatment Plant.

We source Cavendish's water from streams or bores in the Grampians. It's treated using UV and disinfected before we deliver it to around 100 customers.

Balmoral's water is sourced from Rocklands Reservoir. It's treated using a filtration and disinfection process at a local treatment plant.

Q: **Which towns are supplied by the Dilwyn Aquifer?**

A:
The Dilwyn Aquifer is a deep geological formation that stretches across South West Victoria and into South Australia.

It is the source of water for Dartmoor, Heywood, Peterborough, Port Campbell, Port Fairy, Portland and Timboon.

The aquifer consists of strongly confined quartz sand that is up to 1.5 kilometres deep in places. It's isolated from more shallow aquifers by layers that prevent water moving from one aquifer to the other.

The water in the aquifer is very old, having fallen as rainfall between 900 and 30,000 years ago. In some areas, there is enough natural pressure for the water to be classified as artesian. These means it can rise to the surface under pressure without the need for pumping.

Because the water comes from deep underground, it has naturally occurring mineral salts which can impact the taste.

Q: **Which towns are supplied by the Bridgewater Formation Aquifer?**

A:
Thirty-metre deep bores at the Tullich borefield, west of Casterton, are used to source water from the Bridgewater Formation Aquifer.

The water is treated then supplied to customers in Casterton, Coleraine, Merino and Sandford.

Q: **What other water sources are there?**

A:
Water for Penshurst and Caramut is harvested from two bores that tap into the Newer Volcanics aquifer.

Macarthur's water is supplied from a bore tapping into the high-yielding Clifton Formation Aquifer.

At Glenthompson, we harvest water from the Yuppeckiar Creek in two farmland catchment areas. The water is stored at the Glenthompson Reservoir. It's also supplemented from the Willaura pipeline that is managed by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.

Wannon Water – Here for you!

