

# Bulk entitlement

## Overview

Barwon Water has a bulk entitlement to access groundwater from the Anglesea borefield. This was initially issued by the Victorian Government in 2009 and continues to be reviewed and updated in line with the conditions stipulated in the bulk entitlement.

The bulk entitlement stipulates the volume of water Barwon Water is able to pump from the Anglesea borefield. Barwon Water is entitled to pump up to the following amounts in the following periods:

- 40 million litres of drinking water a day
- 10,000 million litres in any year
- 35,000 million litres in any five year period

It also includes sophisticated environmental triggers and an extensive Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP) to protect the environment.

While the volumetric limits are stipulated, when in use we have operated the borefield safely below these limits, to ensure that groundwater levels remain above the trigger levels that protect groundwater dependent ecosystems.

## When is the next bulk entitlement review?

In line with the conditions of the bulk entitlement, Barwon Water must conduct a review of the bulk entitlement and Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP), due to the Minister for Water five years from the date that groundwater extraction recommenced.

Based on Barwon Water activating the borefield in 2019, the next review is due to the Minister for Water by November 2024. The review is to inform the Minister about:

- the long term sustainability of groundwater resources in the area
- protecting the environmental values and health of groundwater dependent ecosystems.
- improving resource management arrangements under the bulk entitlement.

The updated groundwater model and more than a decade of environmental monitoring data will help inform the review.

## **Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP)**

The Anglesea borefield operates in conjunction with an extensive environmental monitoring program, which includes community oversight of the monitoring through the Anglesea River Advisory Group.

Under the bulk entitlement for the Anglesea borefield, Barwon Water has established a comprehensive Monitoring and Assessment Program (MAP) that has been independently reviewed by independent experts and approved by the Minister for Water.

The objectives of the MAP are:

1. to protect the environmental values and health of groundwater dependent ecosystem, and
2. to continue to collect data to build our understanding of the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources in the Anglesea area.

In 2013, the MAP was reviewed as part of the bulk entitlement review process and additional monitoring locations were established, particularly within the Anglesea Swampland, to collect data from areas that were most at risk of impact from operation of the Anglesea borefield.

The updated MAP was reviewed and endorsed by an independent Technical Review Panel and ultimately approved by the Minister for Water in 2014.



Image:  
Spring monitoring  
program 2019