

Securing our water future

Current situation

The Anglesea borefield is one of a number of water sources that can supplement the existing Greater Geelong water supply system. Our diverse water supply mix is part of a balanced approach to managing the region's water resources and providing greater water security.

While recent rainfall has boosted local storage levels ensuring our system is secure in the short-term, long-term trends still point to a hotter, drier climate where less rainfall is predicted to fall in our catchments and reservoirs.

To secure water for our future, we are finding smarter ways to use the water we already have, and are gradually shifting our reliance to more climate resilient water sources, such as recycled and desalinated water.

As more and more climate resilient water is introduced over time, we expect that our reliance on surface water and groundwater will lessen.

The Anglesea borefield is important for short-term water security in our region until the next water supply augmentation is delivered.

The climate is becoming hotter and drier

Our priority is to ensure we plan and deliver a secure water future for our region. However, our water supply systems currently rely on a variable source - rainfall.

While it is true our storages are healthy, we cannot guarantee this will be the case every year into the future. Over recent decades, Victoria's climate has become drier and warmer, with less rain falling in our catchments.

Since the Millennium Drought, we have seen a "step change" of between 30 to 60 per cent reduction in average annual inflows since 1997, compared to the long-term average.

We need to be prepared for the possibility of a drier, hotter future where less water will be available from traditional, rainfall-dependent sources, at the same time as human and environmental demand for water increases.

West Barwon Reservoir Yearly Inflows

