

Diamond Creek Local Management Plan

2023-24 Annual Update



Diamond Creek is a tributary of the Yarra River Basin that starts at the southern edge of the Kinglake Plateau and flows through King Lake National Park in a south-westerly direction into the Yarra past St. Andrews, Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek and Eltham.

Surface water resources in the Diamond Creek catchment are managed under a local management plan (LMP) developed by Melbourne Water in 2016. The aim of the LMP is to provide surface water users a detailed system-specific surface water management framework.

Every year Melbourne Water monitors and reports the implementation of the Diamond Creek LMP. This annual report 2023-24 includes information on total entitlements issued, surface water flows, restrictions on use, metered water use, trades and transfers, and water use compliance.

Surface Water Entitlements

An allocation limit of 1,109.1 ML/year and a winter-fill limit of 346 ML/year has been set for the Diamond Creek catchment. As of 30 June 2024, total licensed allocated volume in the catchment was 1095.1 ML/year (Table 1), which is a reduction of 2 ML from previous years.

Table 1: Surface Water Licensed Allocated Volume in Diamond Creek catchment as of 30 June 2024.

Licence Type	No. of Licences	Allocated Volumes (ML)
All year	12	355.0
Winter-fill	6	273.0
Farm dam registration	58	445.1
Farm Dam	2	22.0
Total	78	1,095.1
Allocation Limit	-	1,109.1

Monitoring Surface Water Flows

Flow levels are monitored by gauges (compliance gauges) that provide continuous flow readings. The compliance gauge for Diamond Creek is located at [Hurstbridge \(Gauge station ID: 229619B\)](#). The highest mean flow rate per day for the year 2023-24 was 207.5 ML/d during January 2024 which was the exception compared to very dry conditions experienced between November 2023 to June 2024. (Figure 1).

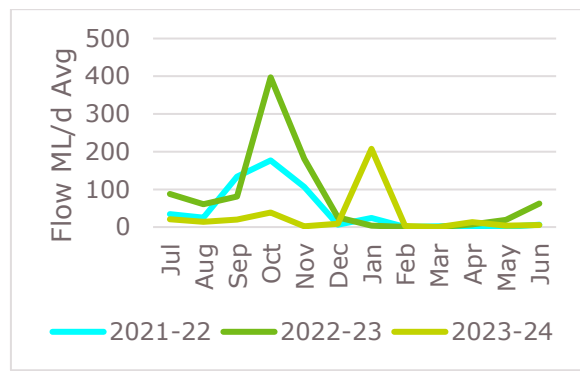


Figure 1: Monthly mean flow rate per day (ML/d) in the Diamond Creek (Hurstbridge Gauge station ID: 229619B) during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Restrictions on Take & Use

During 2023-24 Diamond Creek was on ban status for 115 days (Figure 2), 12 days more than the 2022-23 water year.

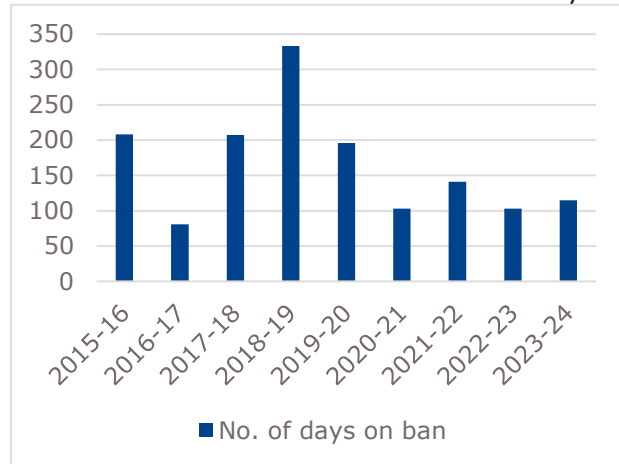


Figure 2: Number of days the Diamond Creek has been on Ban status from 2015-16 and 2023-24.

Monitoring Surface Water Use

During 2023-24, eight licences with a total of 585 ML of licensed allocation were metered in the Diamond Creek catchment (Figure 3).

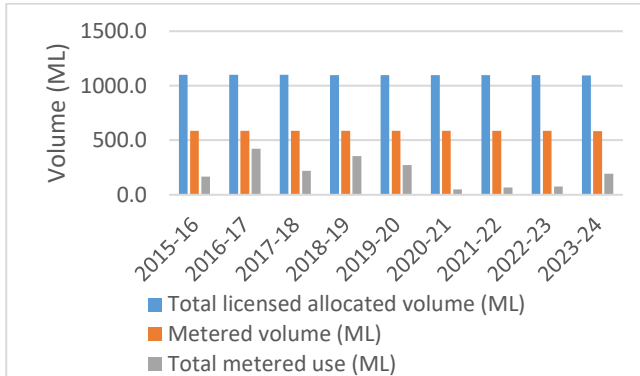


Figure 3 Total licensed allocated volume, metered volume and total metered use (ML) in the Diamond Creek catchment from 2015-16 to 2023-24

Total metered surface water use in 2023-24 in the Diamond Creek catchment was 192.27 ML, representing 17.6% of licensed allocation volume and 17.3% of allocated limit for the catchment (Table 2).

Table 2: Metered use in the Diamond Creek catchment in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

	2022-23	2023-24
Number of metered licences	9	8
Metered volume (ML)	587.0	585.0
Metered volume use (ML)	75.3	192.27
Metered use as % of PCV	6.8%	17.3%
Metered use as % of total licensed allocation volume	6.9%	17.6%

Surface Water Trades & Transfers

Licence holders may transfer licensed volume on a permanent or temporary basis within the Diamond Creek catchment. During 2023-24, there were no licensed allocation permanently or temporarily transferred within or out of the

catchment (Table 3). Two ML was surrendered, but there was no newly issued allocation in 2023-24.

Table 3: Volume (ML) of licence transfers in the Diamond Creek catchment in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23

Annual Reporting Year	Allocation surrendered	Permanent transfers	
	within Diamond Creek catchment (ML)	within Diamond Creek catchment (ML)	out of Diamond Creek catchment (ML)
2022-23	0	0	0
2023-24	2	0	0

Metering Activities

In 2023-24, there were 11 meters monitored in the Diamond Creek catchment, which were read 15 times (winter-fill licences were read twice).

Monitoring Water Use Compliance

In 2023-24, there were no licences with use greater than their allocation in the Diamond Creek catchment, consistent with previous years.

Melbourne Water will continue to engage with licence holders to ensure they are aware of their responsibility to comply with their licence conditions, including Melbourne Water's obligations under the *Victorian Water Act 1989* to assess water use compliance.

Review of Local Management Plan

Melbourne Water has determined that at this time no amendments are required to be made to the Diamond Creek LMP. For more information, the Diamond Creek LMP is available on the Melbourne Water website: [Stream flow management | Melbourne Water](#)