

NATURAL FLOWS RETURN

Wimmera River at Campbells Bridge



Glenlofty Creek

Did you know?

From early spring 2018 to the end of April 2019, rainfall was below average and temperatures were above-average. This resulted in system inflows for the entire 2018-19 being just **20 percent of the historic average.**

For the first time on record, there was **no measurable flow in the upper Wimmera River at Huddlestons Weir** for the entire year.

Dry and hot conditions over the two previous years caused **storage levels to decline to below 40 percent of total storage capacity** in early April 2019.

Above average rainfall over the past couple of months has seen some sections of the Wimmera River flow for the first time in several years including flows at Glenorchy for the first time since 2016.

Wimmera CMA chief executive David Brennan says with some small yet well-timed rain events in May, June and July, it is good to see creeks and rivers flow naturally.

"We stopped environmental water delivery at the end of June as natural flows have occurred over the majority of the system. It is the first time this has happened for some time," he said.

But Mr Brennan said conditions remained fragile with less than average rain falling in July and the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting a warmer than average spring.

"Although the late autumn and winter rain so far has resulted in river flows, it has not been enough to have a significant impact on the low levels of Wimmera and Grampians storages.

"Our priority is to manage water for the environment conservatively and efficiently to help our rivers and creeks get through spring and summer and beyond."



Fyans Creek at
Grampians Road Bridge

Concongella Creek at
Donald Road



Wimmera CMA

Don't forget to put your photos on social media using
#wimmerariver #wimmerawaterways
#wimmerawetlands
so we can share them!



SEASONAL WATERING PLAN

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder has released the 2019-20 Seasonal Watering Plan which aims to:

- Provide watering holes, habitat and food for frogs and turtles in Wimmera-Mallee wetlands
- Protect and increase freshwater catfish and other native fish
- Maintain and increase the resident platypus population in the MacKenzie River by providing places to breed and feed, as well as opportunities for juveniles to disperse further downstream towards the Wimmera River
- Increase the abundance and diversity of waterbugs, which break down dead organic matter and support the waterway's food chain