

Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 Groundwater Sources

Groundwater annual report 2023.

Introduction

This report is a summary of water accounts, volume pumped and groundwater levels for the Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source and Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source up to 2023 including the start of year water account volumes for the 2023/2024 water year (1 July to 30 June).

For detailed information of the hydrogeology, management and past long-term water level behaviour of this water source refer to the Groundwater Resource Description Report for the Namoi Alluvial Groundwater Sources:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/230804/Namoi-Alluvium-WRP-resource-description.pdf

Description

The Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Upper Namoi Zone 11 groundwater sources are located within the Namoi River catchment. Zone 5 extends from Narrabri south-west approximately 50 km. Zone 11 is associated with Maules Creek adjoining Zone 5 to the east (Figure 1).

The Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Upper Namoi Zone 11 groundwater sources are made up of sediments deposited by the Namoi River, Maules Creek and their tributaries and are comprised of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

Water resource management

Water sharing plan

The Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater sources are managed by the rules defined in the Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020. This water sharing plan is available for viewing at: legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2020-0346

Basic rights

Basic landholder rights are available in this groundwater source for domestic and stock watering requirements. While landholders don't need an access licence to take water for domestic and stock purposes from groundwater below their property, the bore must be authorised by WaterNSW.

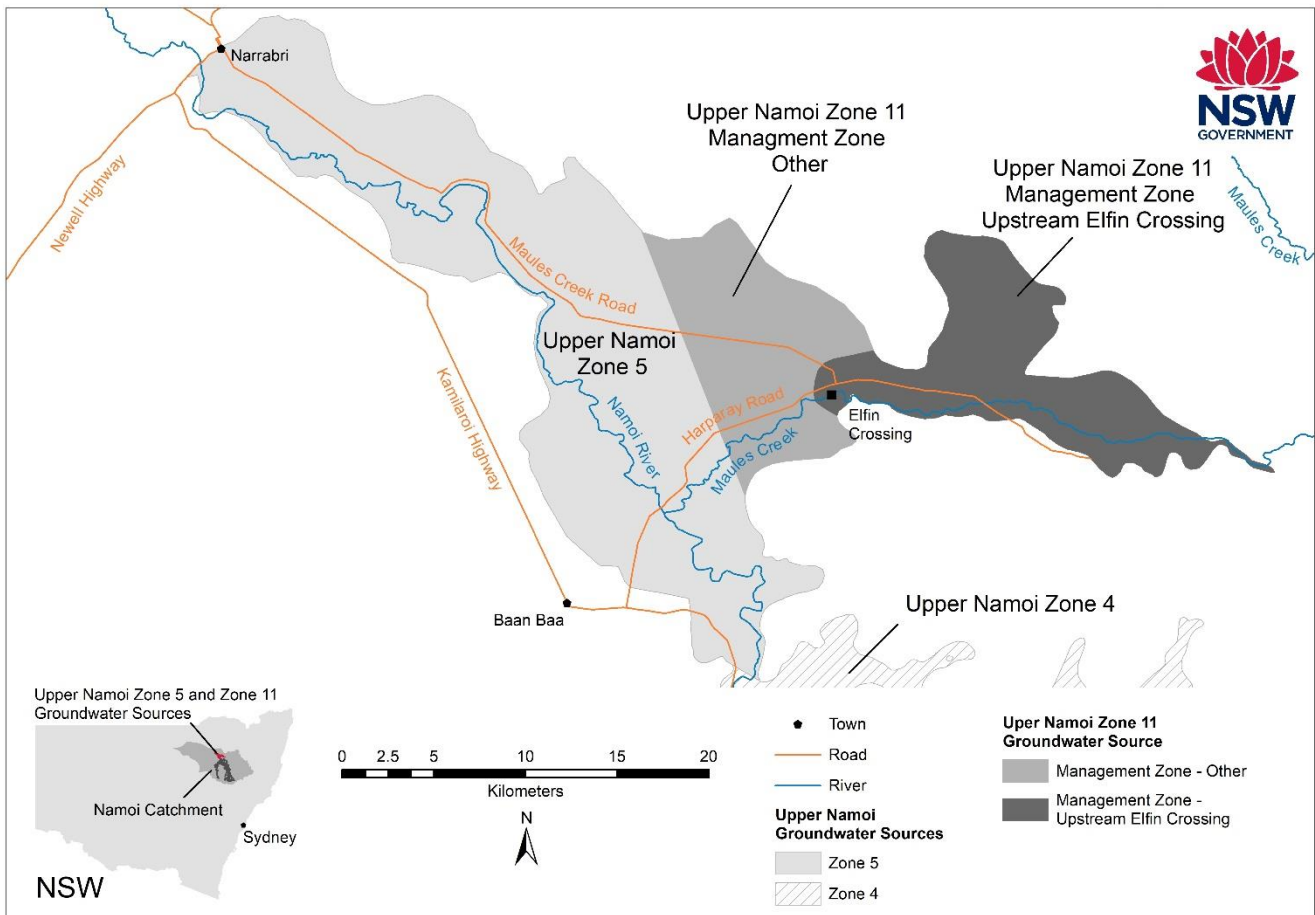
The volumes of water set aside in the water sharing plan for basic landholder rights are:

- Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source = 128 megalitres/year (ML/year)
- Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source = 69 ML/year

An approval holder is responsible for monitoring water quality from the bore to ensure it is suitable for its intended purpose for the duration of the approval. Inherent water quality and land use activities may make the water in some areas unsuitable for use.

Water from the groundwater sources should not be used without first being tested and, if necessary, appropriately treated to ensure it is fit for purpose. Such testing and treatment are the responsibility of the water user.

Figure 1: Location Map



Groundwater access licences

Groundwater access licence share components to 30 June 2023 are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 Groundwater Sources share component 30 June 2023

Access Licence Category	Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source		Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source	
	Number of Licences	Total Volume	Number of Licences	Total Volume
Aquifer ¹	78	15,992	30	2,223

¹Megalitres per unit share

Extraction limit

All groundwater sharing plans have rules to manage extraction in a water source to the long-term average annual extraction limit.

The extraction limits for these groundwater sources are:

- Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source 16,128 ML/year
- Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source are and 2,269 ML/year

Extraction in the Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater sources is not compliant if the 5 years average annual extraction is more than 105% of the extraction limit (known as the compliance trigger). If average extraction exceeds the compliance trigger, then the available water determination made for aquifer access licences for the following water year, may be reduced by an amount that would return subsequent total water extraction to the extraction limit.

Information on tracking groundwater extraction against extraction limit for the groundwater source including the likelihood of compliance being triggered in the current water year can be found at: water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/extraction-limits/tracking-groundwater

For each inland groundwater source, the dashboard shows for the current water year:

- Volume that if extracted will reach the compliance trigger (in ML, calculated annually)
- Volume remaining to be extracted before reaching the compliance trigger (in ML, calculated throughout the year)
- The likelihood that access to groundwater may be reduced in the next water year.

Note: the information on the dashboard is limited by the extraction data available at the time.

Available water

Total water availability in a water year is controlled by the available water determinations credited to an access licence account, and the carryover rules that dictate the allowable volume to be brought forward from one year to the next.

Total available water for use is controlled by the annual account usage limits, which define the maximum volume of allocated water that can be taken in that water year. The rules and limits that are applicable to the Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater sources are provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 Groundwater Sources access licence account rules

Access Licence Category	Carryover Limit	Annual Use Limit	Maximum AWD
Aquifer	2 ML/share	2 ML/share	1 ML/share

The maximum amount of water that can be debited from an aquifer access licence account in a water year can't exceed 2 ML per unit share component (annual use limit) plus any allocation transferred in (temporary trade), and minus any allocation transferred out. This means that metered extraction plus transfers out can't exceed 200 per cent of the of share component, unless water is transferred in.

Total account water for period 2014/2015 to 2023/2024 is displayed in Figure 2 and Figure 3 showing the proportion available for use and what is not available for use in a year. Total yearly extraction is also displayed.

Note: all access licence categories have been combined in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

Figure 2: Account water availability and usage summary for Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source

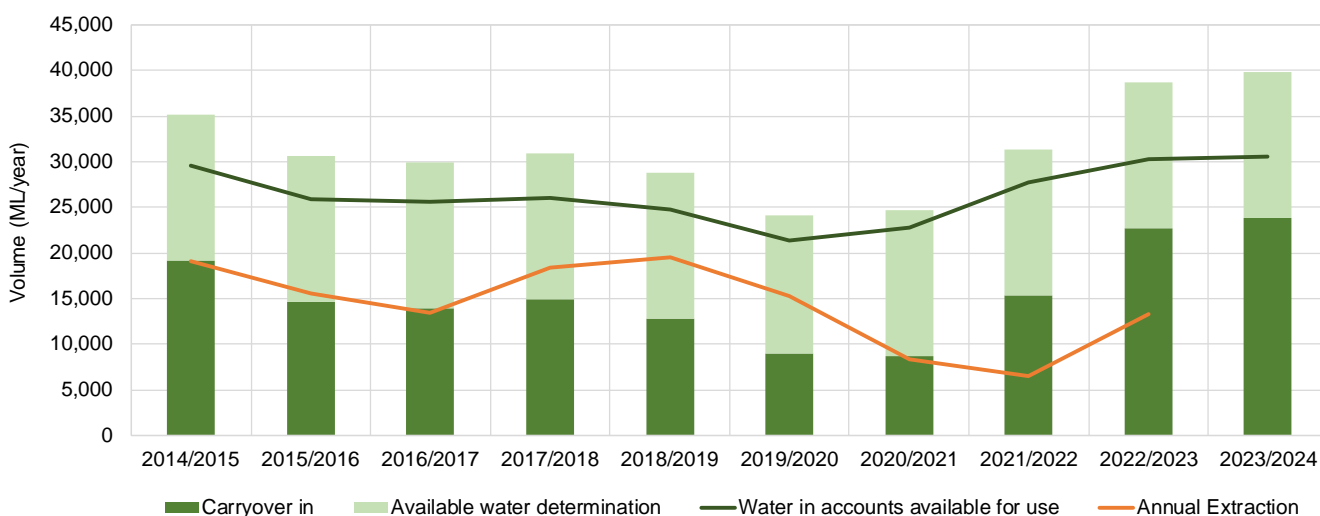
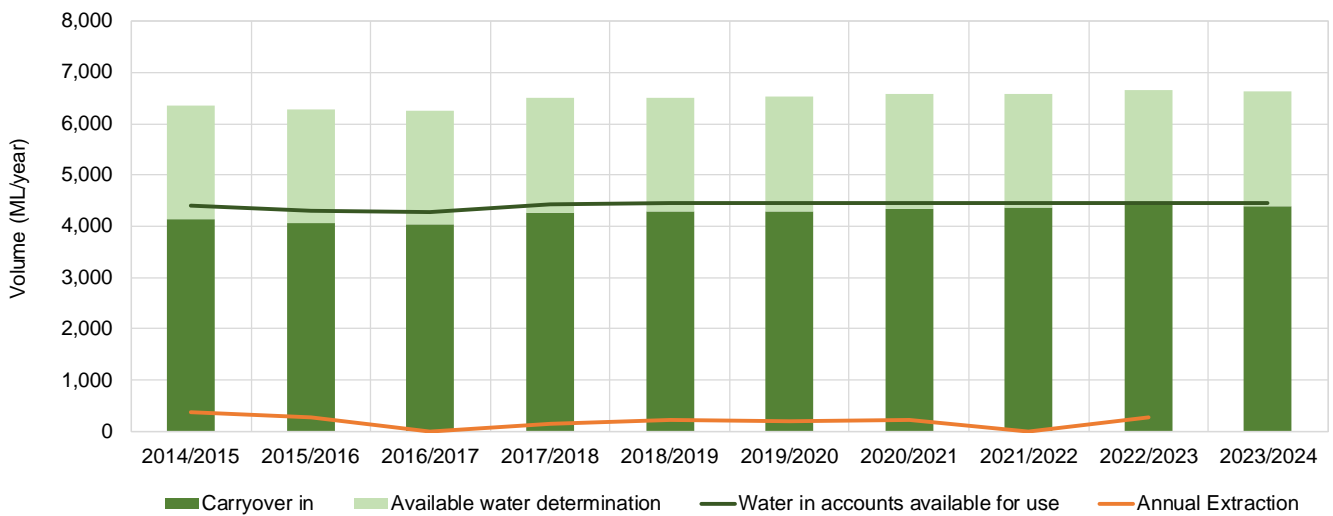


Figure 3: Account water availability and usage summary for Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source



The access licence account information for the Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater sources on 01 July 2023 is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3: Access License Account Information Summary

Access Licence Category	Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source	Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source
Carryover (ML)	23,909	4,404
Available Water Determination (ML)	15,992	2,223
Total water in account (ML)	39,901	6,627
Total water available for use (ML)	30,517	4,446

Groundwater trading

Trades are permitted within but not between Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater source and any other groundwater source. Trades to Upper Namoi Zone 10 groundwater source are permitted but subject to conditions and assessment.

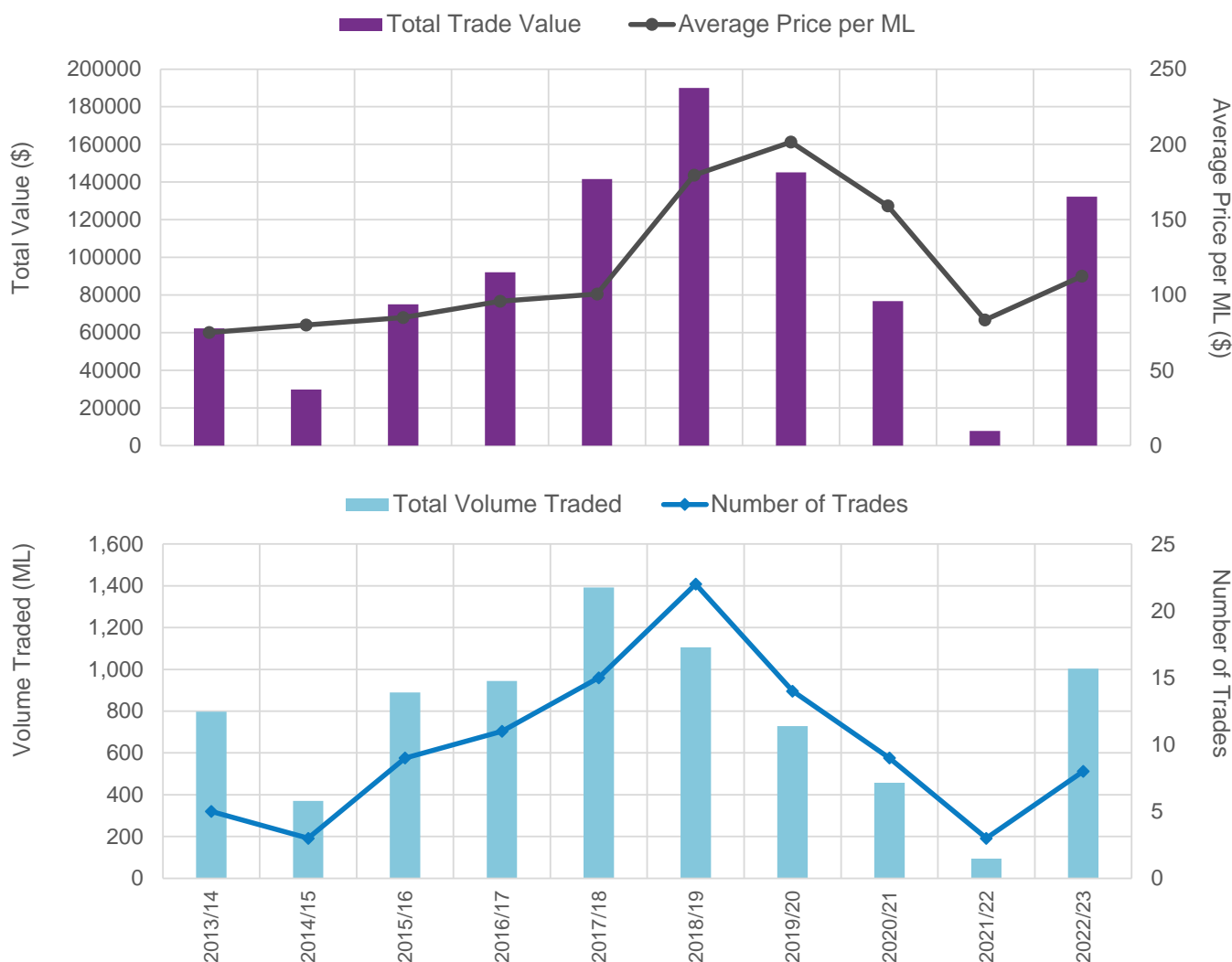
Allocation assignments (temporary trade)

Trading statistics for the Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source is illustrated in Figure 4, trades greater than \$0 per megalitre. The average value paid per megalitre in 2022/2023 was \$112.5, while the maximum value was \$170 per megalitre.

There has been limited temporary trading in the Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source over the last 10 years.

Further information on water licences, approvals, water trade and water dealings and other matters related to water entitlements in NSW can be found on the NSW Water Register at: waterregister.watarnsw.com.au/water-register-frame

Figure 4: Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source temporary trade statistics



Bores

There are approximately 582 and 219 registered bores across the Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater sources, respectively (Figure 5). The majority of these bores are used for stock and domestic purposes (Basic Landholder Rights). There is also significant use of groundwater for irrigation (Table 4).

The majority of production bores in Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater sources produce supply in the range of 400 ML/year and 230 ML/year, respectively (Figure 6).

Table 4: Approximate number of licensed bores in Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 Groundwater Sources (2023)

Groundwater Source	Registered Bore Purpose	
	Basic Landholder Rights	Production
Upper Namoi Zone 5	441	141
Upper Namoi Zone 11	191	28

Figure 5: Registered bores in the Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater sources

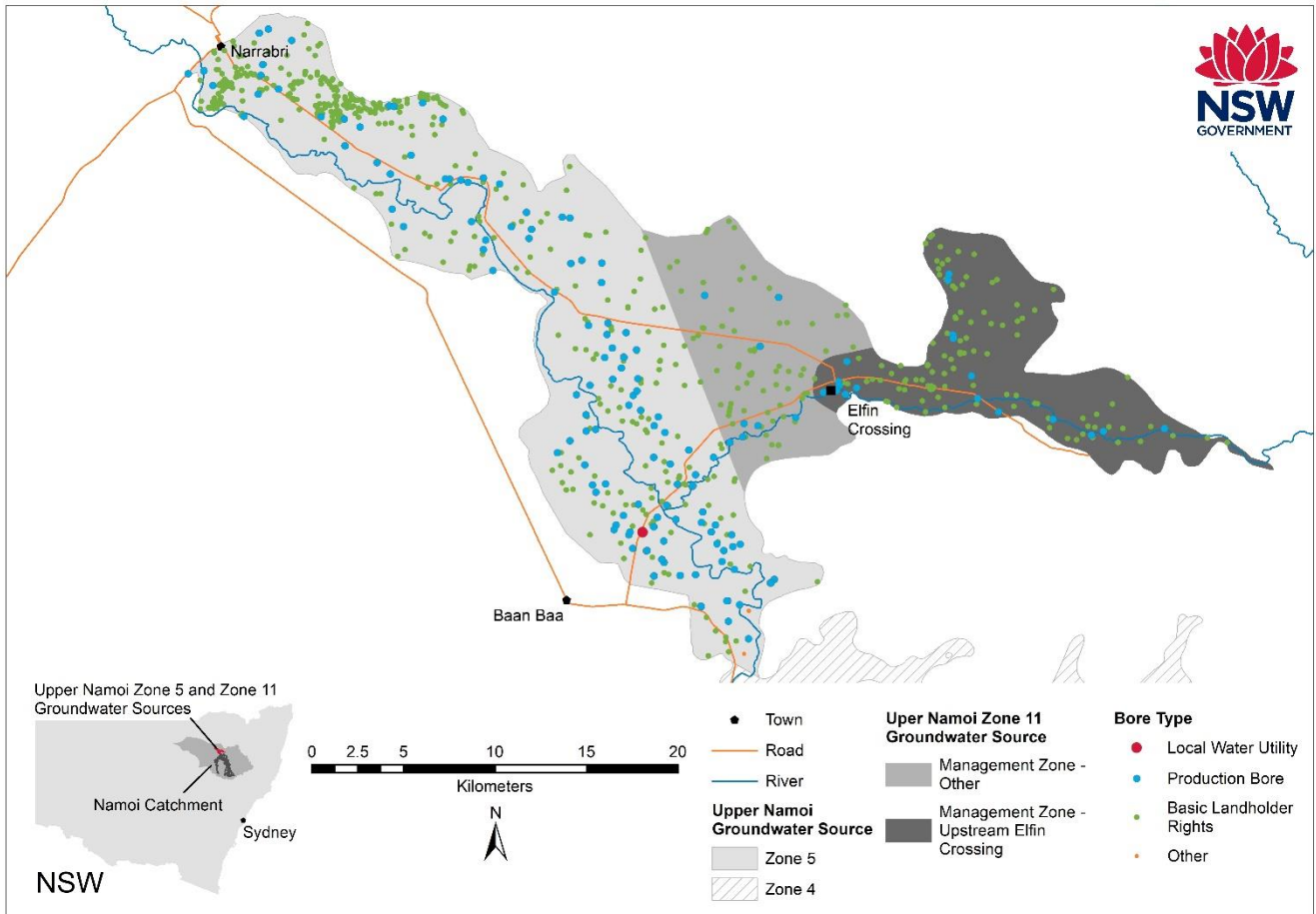
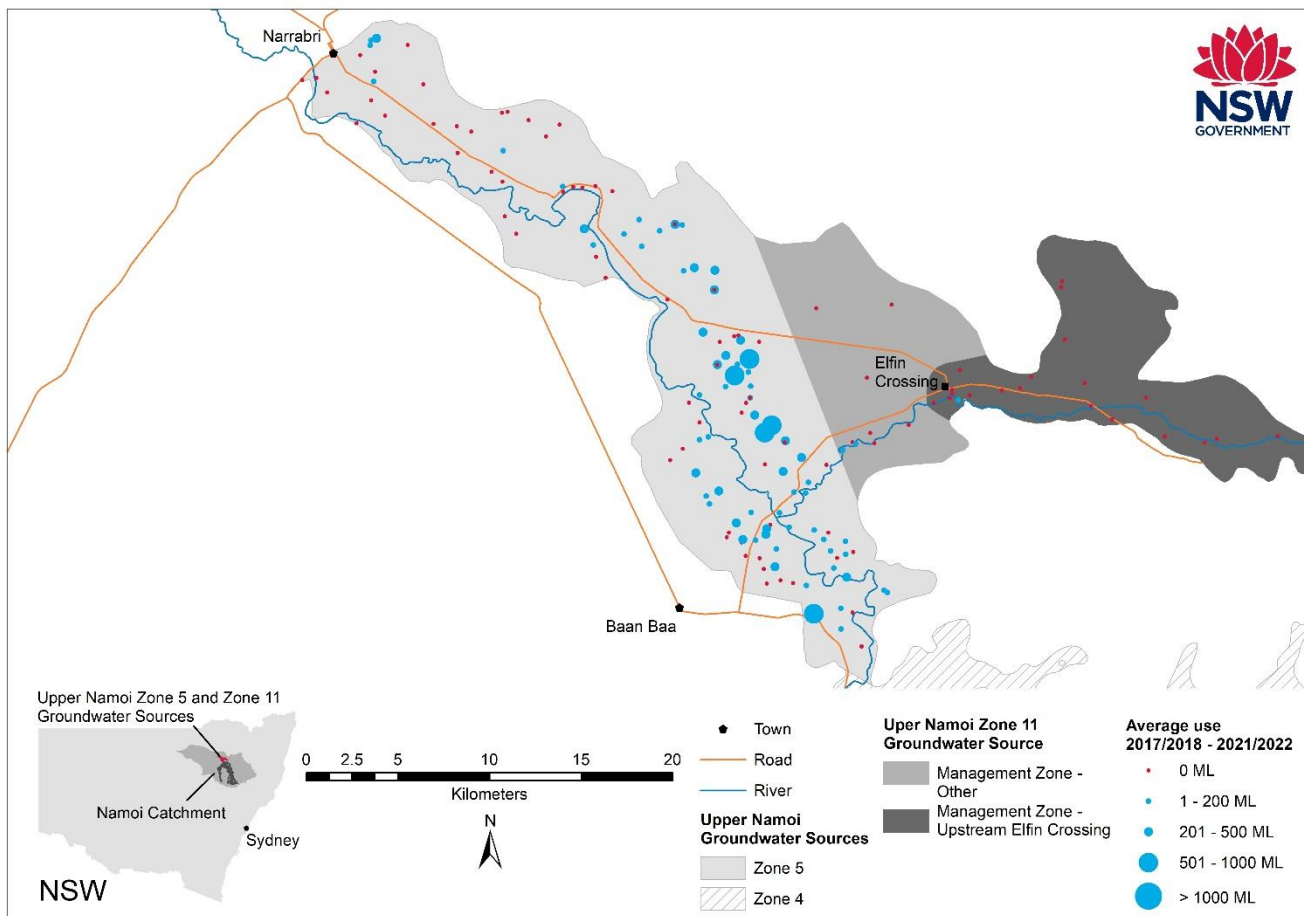


Figure 6: Water supply bores and distribution of extraction in the Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater sources



Water level monitoring

WaterNSW monitors groundwater levels at 73 monitoring bores at 39 sites in the Zone 5, and 18 monitoring bores at 12 sites in the Zone 11 Groundwater Sources (Figure 7). At most monitoring sites there are two or more pipes monitoring different depths. The depth monitored by each pipe reflects the depth where the casing is slotted to allow groundwater entry into the pipe.

A hydrograph is a plot of groundwater level or pressure from a monitoring bore over time. A representative sample of hydrographs from monitoring bores have been selected and are presented in Figure 8 to Figure 14.

Data for the monitored bores as well as private bore information can be obtained from the WaterNSW real time data portal at: realtimedata.waternsw.com.au/

You can also request information via: Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au

Figure 7: Monitoring bore sites in the Upper Namoi Zone 5 and Zone 11 groundwater sources

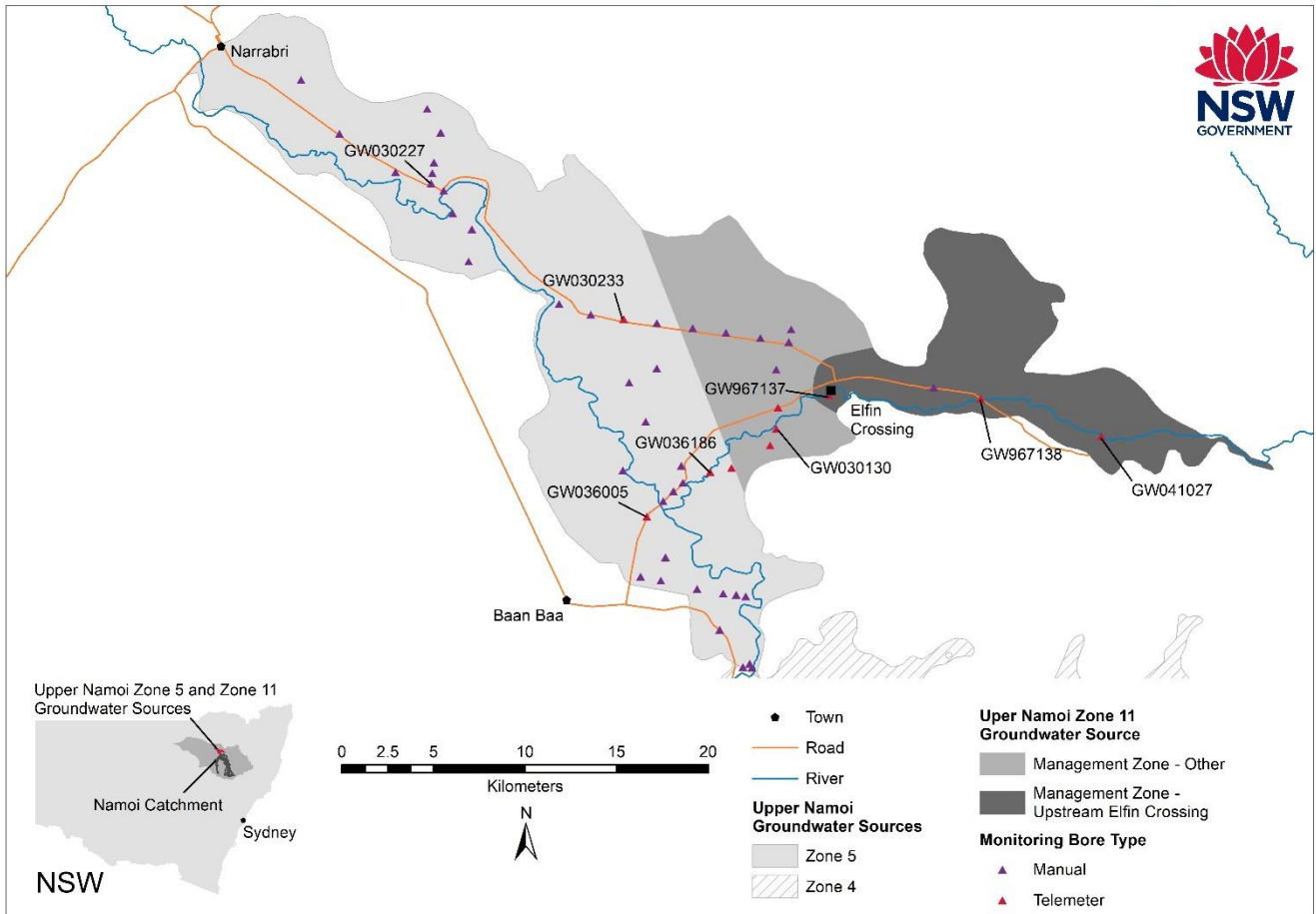


Figure 8: Hydrograph for monitoring bore GW036005 – Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source

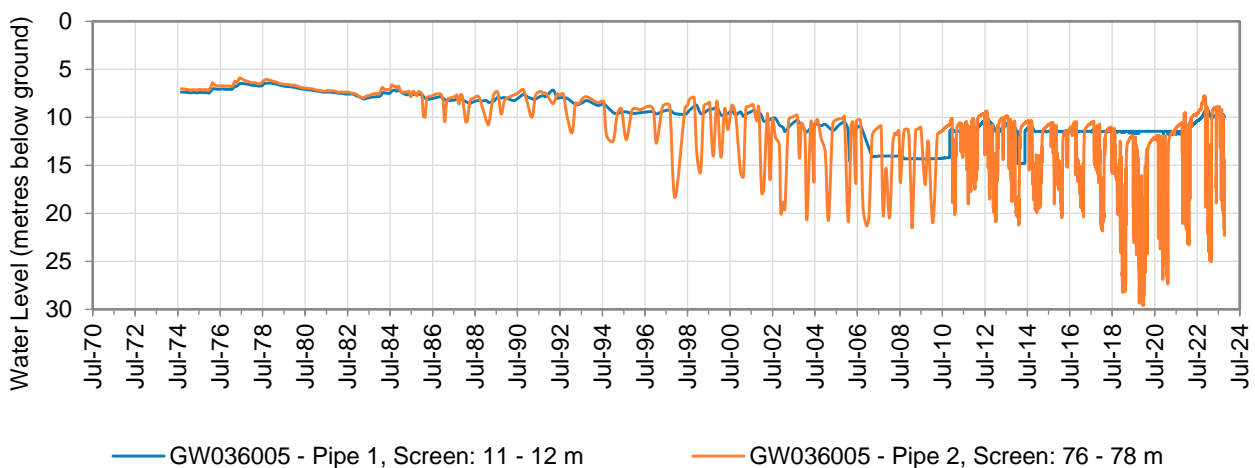


Figure 9: Hydrograph of monitoring bore GW036186 – Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source

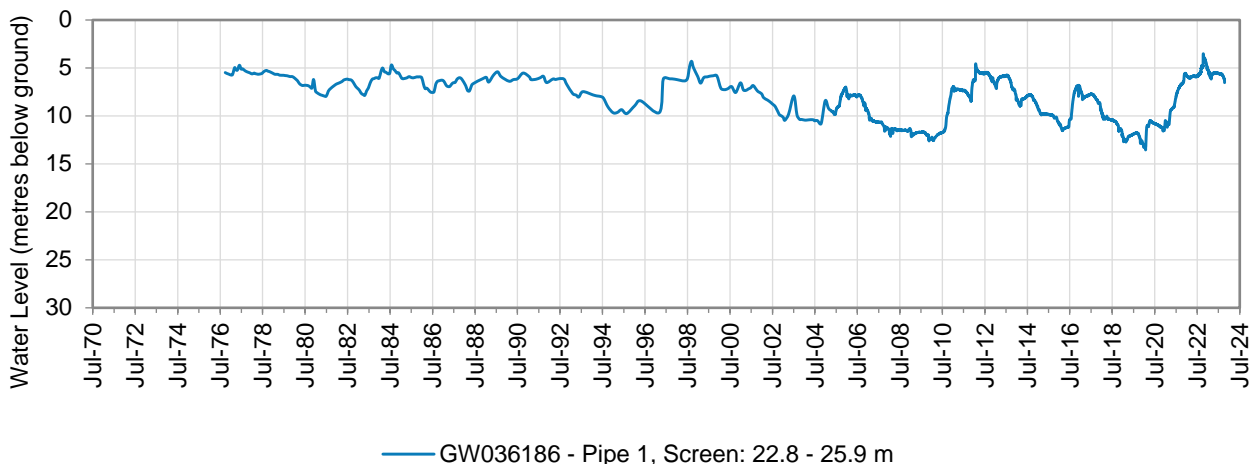


Figure 10: Hydrograph of monitoring bore GW030233 – Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source

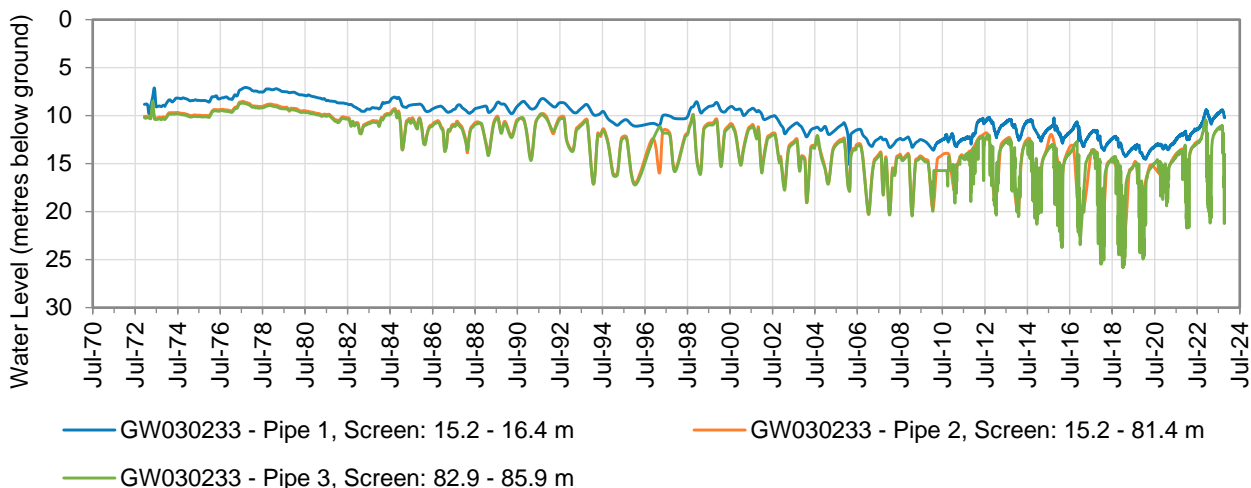


Figure 11: Hydrograph of monitoring bore GW030227 – Upper Namoi Zone 5 Groundwater Source

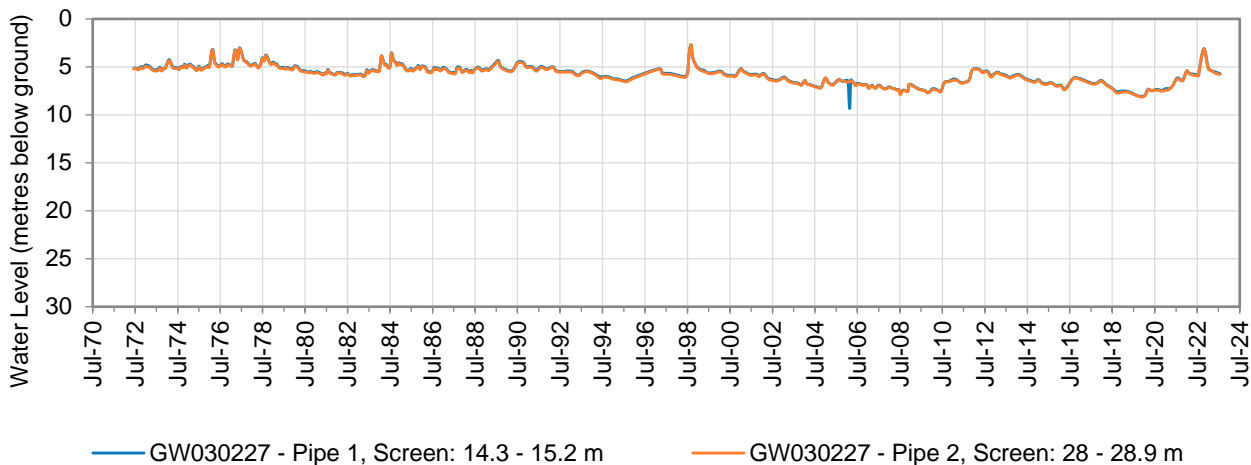


Figure 12: Hydrograph of monitoring bore GW030130 – Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source

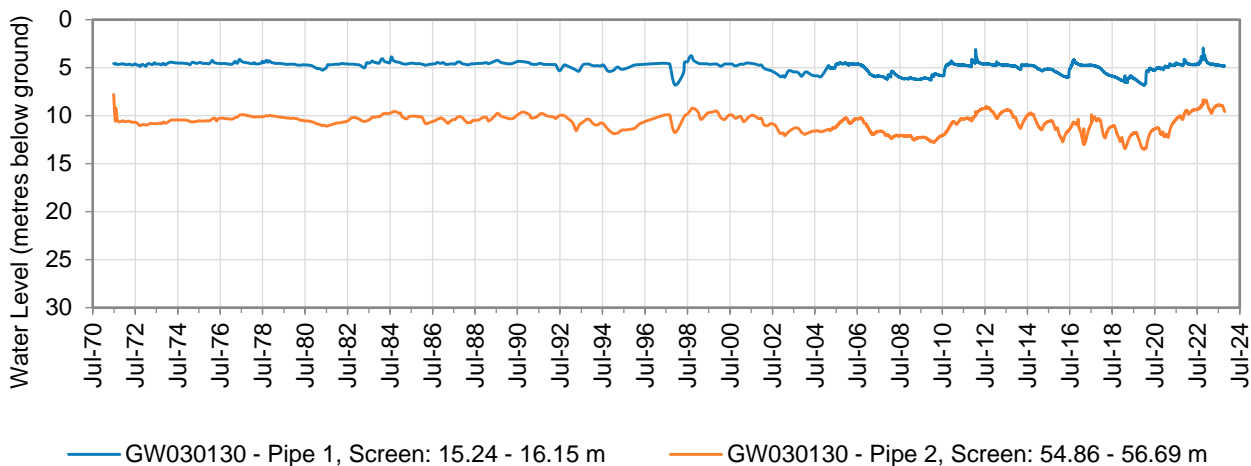


Figure 13: Hydrograph of monitoring bore GW967137 – Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source

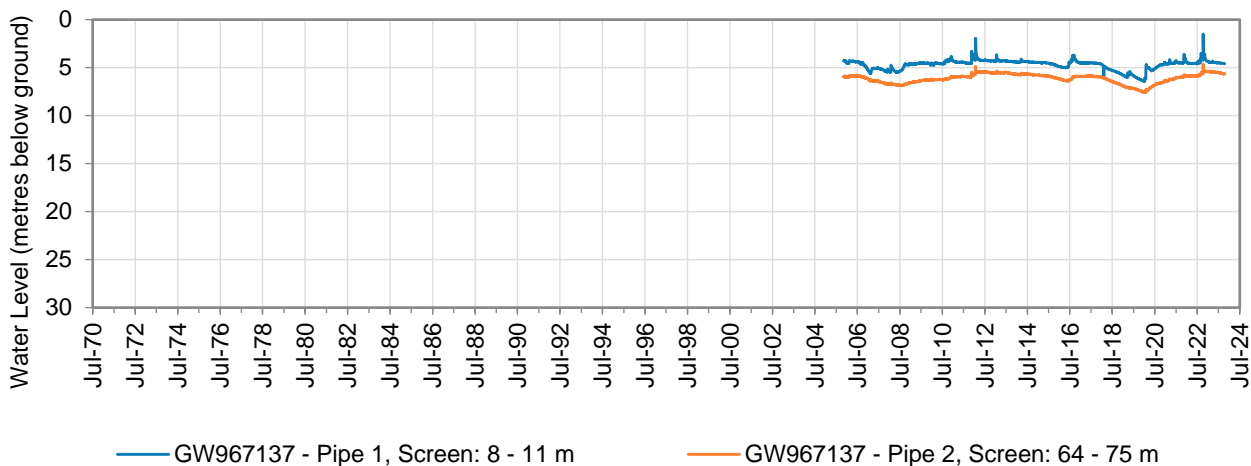


Figure 14: Hydrograph of monitoring bore GW967138 – Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source

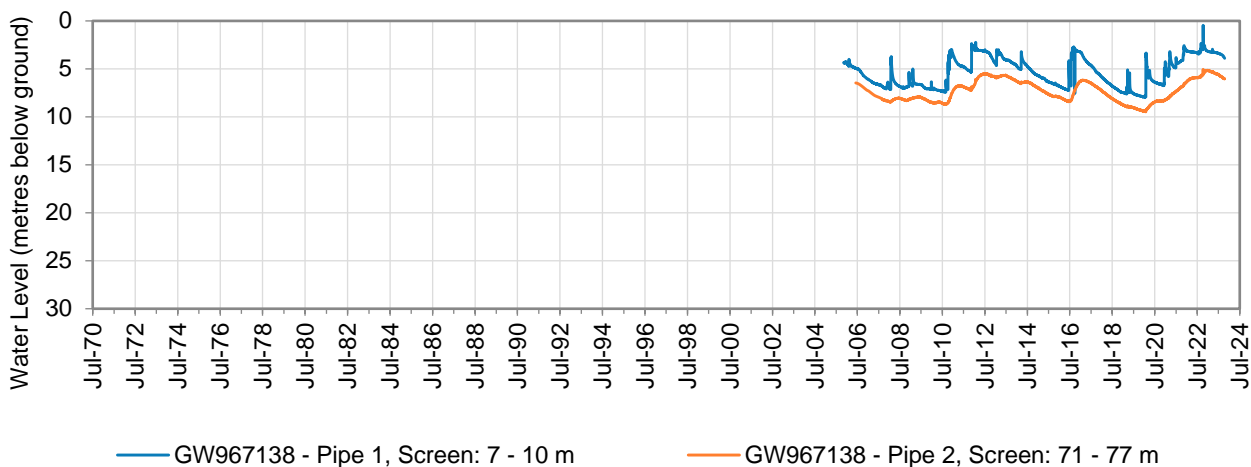


Figure 15: Hydrograph of monitoring bore GW041027 – Upper Namoi Zone 11 Groundwater Source

