Water use for irrigation in northern Victoria is continuing to change in response to seasonal conditions, commodity prices and water availability. The long-term water use trends are:

- **In GMW Districts**, water use has fluctuated significantly over the last ten years in response to seasonal conditions and water availability. 1,337 GL was used in 2017-18, an increase on the amount used in the two preceding years, but 21% less than the volume used in 2004-05.

- Water use by **LMW river diverters** has increased steadily since the millennium drought and is now more than double the volume used in 2004-05. Median use since 2014-15 has been 410 GL, with 429 GL used in 2017-18.

- **For LMW Districts & GMW river diverters**, water use remained steady since the millennium drought but use in 2017-18 was still around 24% less than the volume used in 2004-05.

In 2017-18, environmental holders used 799 GL and water corporations used 75 GL in northern Victoria.

In 2018-19, lower carryover volumes, reduced water availability across the connected southern Murray-Darling Basin and higher market prices for water allocation have influenced water use for irrigation in northern Victoria. As of 25 March 2019, GMW district use has been 855 GL compared to 936 GL at this time in 2017-18, but total water use for the year will be strongly influenced by the extent of autumn irrigation. GMW river diverters have so far used 68 GL compared to 58 GL this time last year, LMW districts 110 GL compared to 94 GL and LMW river diverters 397 GL compared to 336 GL.


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**Figure 1: Water use for irrigation in GMW and LMW districts and by river diverters**

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