

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Skills and TAFE
Minister for Water



Thursday, 17 April 2025

BENEFITS OF REALLOCATED WATER TO FLOW ACROSS GIPPSLAND

The Allan Labor Government is delivering more water for Gippsland farmers, Traditional Owners and improving the health of the Latrobe River.

Minister for Water Gayle Tierney today announced 16 gigalitres of water for farming, the environment, and Traditional Owners in the Latrobe Valley.

This water was previously set aside for power generation, but is currently unused and has now been reallocated. The 16 gigalitres will be equally shared between agriculture, Traditional Owners and the environment.

Additional water for environmental flows will improve the health of the Latrobe River as well as the Gippsland Lakes system downstream.

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation will have access to additional water for self-determined cultural uses.

Southern Rural Water will make additional water available to farmers. Agriculture supports thousands of jobs in Gippsland, and the availability of more water licences will help boost the local economy.

This water allocation is known as the Latrobe 3-4 Bench Bulk Water Entitlement, it was originally allocated back in 1996 for coal fired power generation.

The decision to reallocate 16 gigalitres of the 25 gigalitre water entitlement was made through the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy.

The remaining 9 gigalitres of the entitlement will be retained by government to provide continued flexibility to respond to emerging needs in Gippsland.

Quote attributable to Minister for Water Gayle Tierney

"I'm so pleased to announce this reallocation of water which is a win-win-win for Gippsland. This change ensures more water supply within Gippsland to support the environment, farming, and Traditional Owners."

Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

"We are backing farmers in the Latrobe Valley by making sure more water entitlements are made available to support greater agricultural production and more local jobs."

Quote attributable to Minister for Treaty Natalie Hutchins

"Returning water to Traditional Owners in Gippsland means that they can determine what it's used for and continue their ongoing connection to land and waters."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh

"This announcement meets the key water priorities of agriculture, environment, Traditional Owners and the economy."

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Quote attributable to Chair of Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Troy McDonald

“Water is more than a resource; it’s a pathway to healing and a stronger future for our people. This allocation recognises the Gunaikurnai People’s enduring connection to Country, and our right to lead how water is respectfully managed and shared.”

Quote attributable to Latrobe River irrigator Angus Zilm

“Having more water available for farming benefits everyone, from irrigators looking to improve their water security or expand their operations to farmers looking to set up in the region.”

Quote attributable to West Gippsland CMA Board Chair Mikaela Power

“This allocation of water for the environment will play an important role in improving the health of one of Gippsland’s iconic rivers with additional benefits for communities and the Gippsland Lakes.”