

# RINGAROOMA RIVER CATCHMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

**The Ringarooma Water Management Plan** took effect in December 2014. The Plan is a legal document prepared in accordance with the *Water Management Act 1999*.

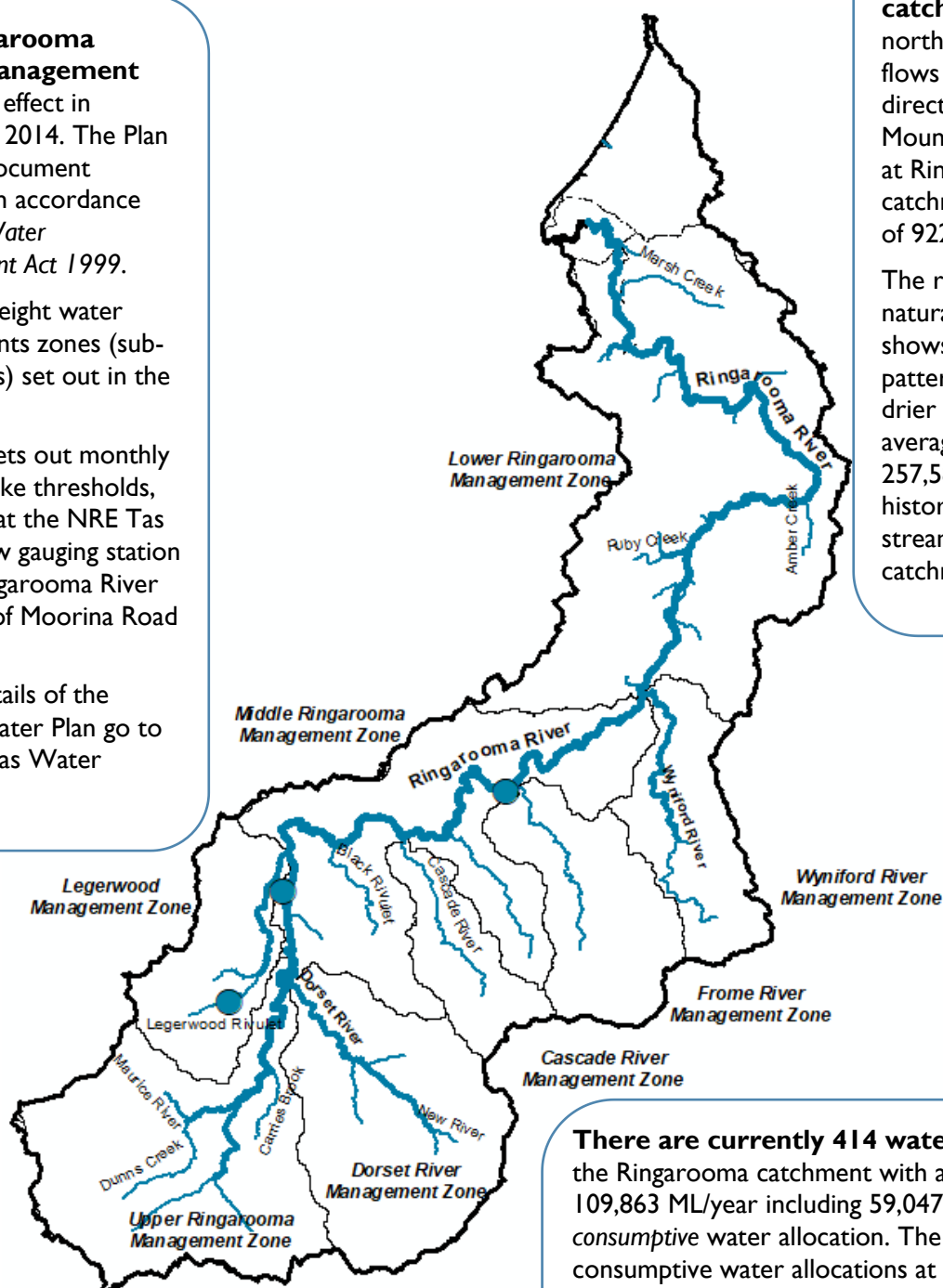
There are eight water managements zones (sub-catchments) set out in the Plan.

The Plan sets out monthly cease to take thresholds, measured at the NRE Tas stream flow gauging station on the Ringarooma River upstream of Moorina Road bridge.

For full details of the current Water Plan go to the NRE Tas Water website.

**The Ringarooma River catchment** is located in the north-east of Tasmania and flows in a north-easterly direction from Ben Nevis and Mount Maurice to Bass Strait at Ringarooma Bay. The catchment covers a total area of 922 km<sup>2</sup>.

The river system has a largely natural flow regime that shows a strong seasonal flow pattern (wetter in winter and drier in summer). The average annual water yield is 257,580 ML/year based on the historical flows at the lowest stream flow gauge in the catchment.



**There are currently 414 water allocations** across the Ringarooma catchment with a combined volume of 109,863 ML/year including 59,047 ML/year of *non-consumptive* water allocation. The table below details the consumptive water allocations at Surety's 5 and 6.

## CONSUMPTIVE WATER ALLOCATION

Surety Level	Summer Vol.(ML)	Winter Vol. (ML)	Overall Vol. (ML)
S 5	7,917	28,880	36,797
S 6	11,108	2,911	14,019
Total	19,025	31,791	50,816

## CATCHMENT LAND USE

Approximately 26% of the catchment is under production native forests and plantation forestry. A further 18% is used for agricultural purposes with the remaining area supporting a diversity of land uses including mining, urban areas and conservation land. The catchment includes the townships of Branxholm, Derby, Gladstone and Ringarooma. The land use layer shown here uses data from 2019.

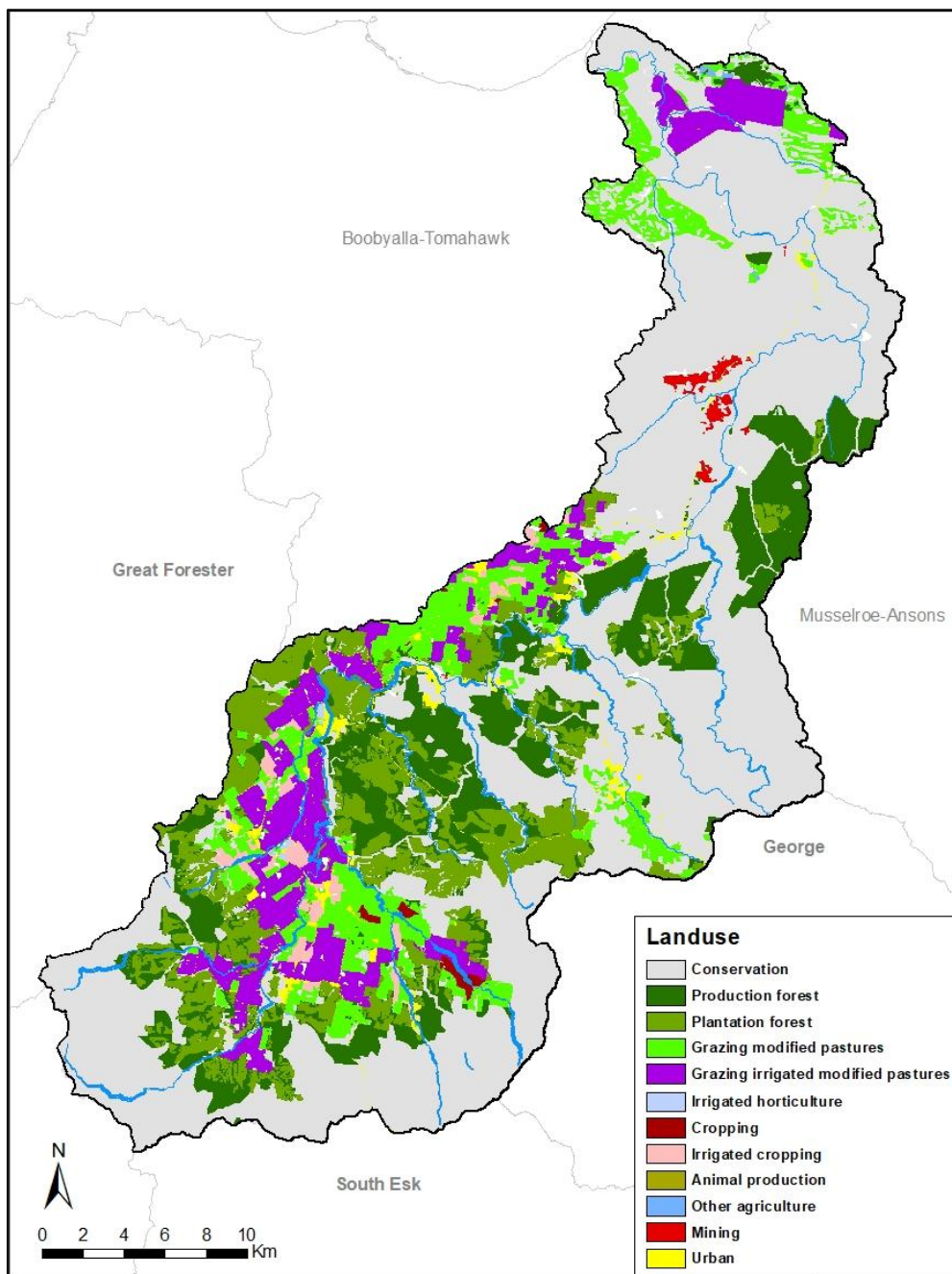


Figure 1. Ringarooma River catchment land use

For further information contact your local Regional Water Management Officer at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania:  
Phone: 1300 368 550  
Email: [Water.Operations@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:Water.Operations@nre.tas.gov.au)  
[nre.tas.gov.au/water](http://nre.tas.gov.au/water)

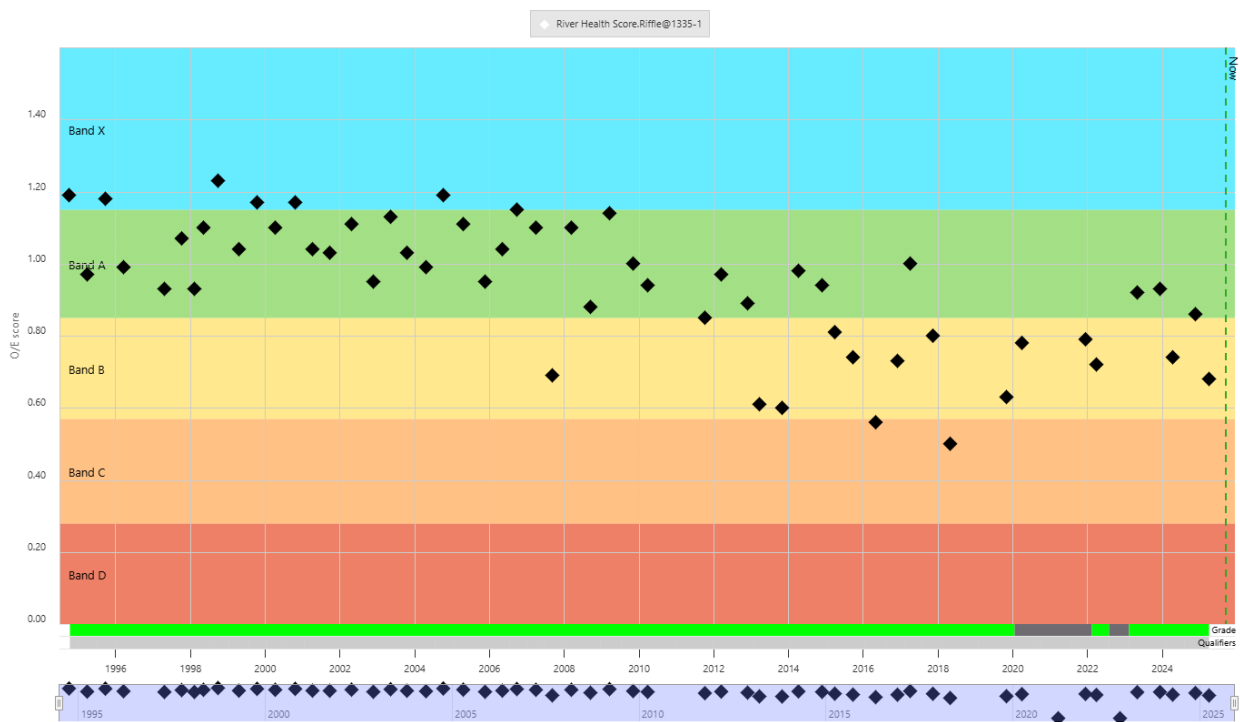
## RIVER HEALTH

Waterbugs (macroinvertebrates) are used globally to monitor the health of rivers as they are sensitive to pressures on river systems (e.g. poor water quality, sedimentation). River health monitoring by NRE Tas focuses on the composition of waterbug communities found on the riverbed; however, other values that are not monitored can also contribute to the health of rivers (e.g. water plants, fish, riverbank vegetation).

NRE Tas has two long-term river health monitoring sites in the Ringarooma River catchment: Ringarooma River at Branxholm (mid-reach) and Dorset River at Ruby Flats Road (lower-reach of this tributary).

Monitoring indicates:

- Historically the mid-reach of the Ringarooma River was in good to excellent condition, with river health scores (O/E scores) equating to bands X and A (above and equivalent to reference condition) (Figure 2). However, between 2007 and 2022 river health has declined and become more variable, with most scores falling into band B (significantly impaired). Notably, in 2023 river health improved, with scores rebounding to band A (equivalent to reference condition).
- Dorset River: Since monitoring began in 1997 river health in the lower-reach of the Dorset River has been variable, but typically in good to excellent condition, with most river health scores equating to band A (equivalent to reference condition).



**Figure 2.** River Health Observed/Expected score at the Ringarooma at Branxholm site, whole of record  
 Band X = above reference condition, Band A = equivalent to reference condition,  
 Band B = significantly impaired, Band C = severely impaired and Band D = impoverished.

## HYDROLOGY SUMMARY

The following pages show plots of long-term streamflow (full period of available record), short term flow and rainfall (last 5 water years), and last years flow, rainfall and restriction data, split into winter (May 2024 – November 2024) and summer (December 2024 – April 2025) seasons.

Over the period from May 2024 to April 2025:

- Annual yield at the gauge was slightly below average, however this is inclusive of irrigation scheme releases, so natural flow is likely to have been below average.
- Annual rainfall at the Ringarooma gauge was slightly below average.
- Three days of restrictions were imposed in winter.



For further information contact your local Regional Water Management Officer  
at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania:

Phone: 1300 368 550

Email: [Water.Operations@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:Water.Operations@nre.tas.gov.au)

[nre.tas.gov.au/water](http://nre.tas.gov.au/water)

August 2025

Full flow record, 1977 - 2025

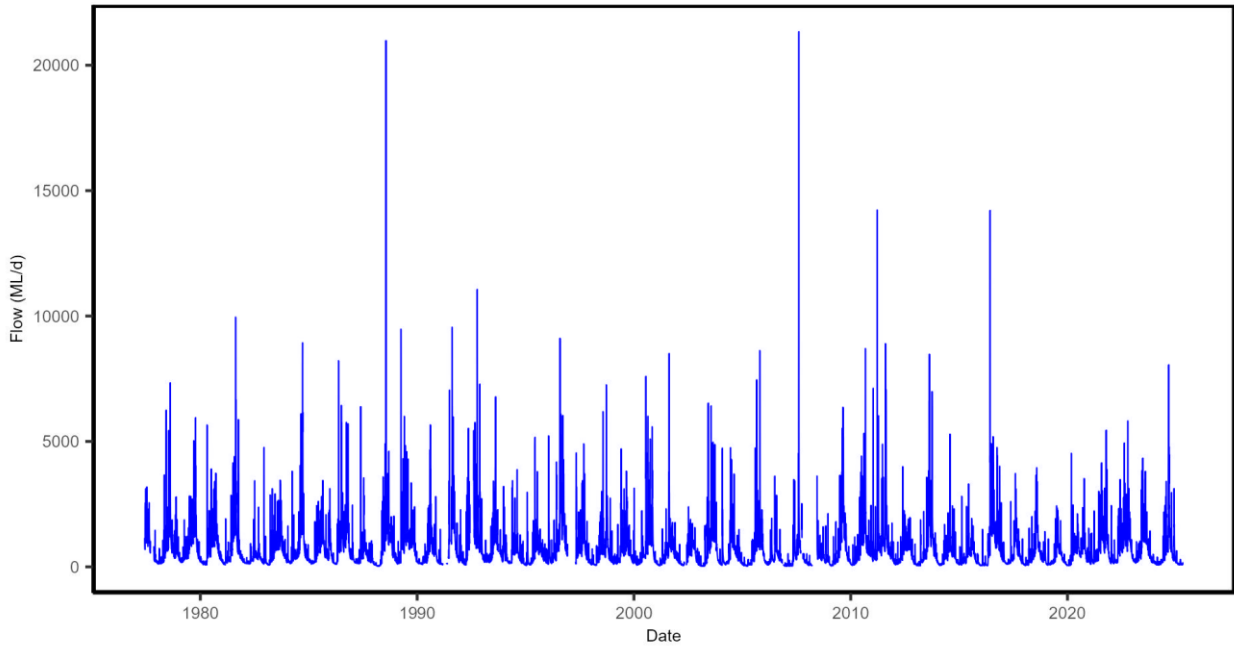


Figure 3. Mean daily flow in the Ringarooma River at the Moorina streamflow gauging station, whole of record.

Full record of yields in water years 1977 - 2024

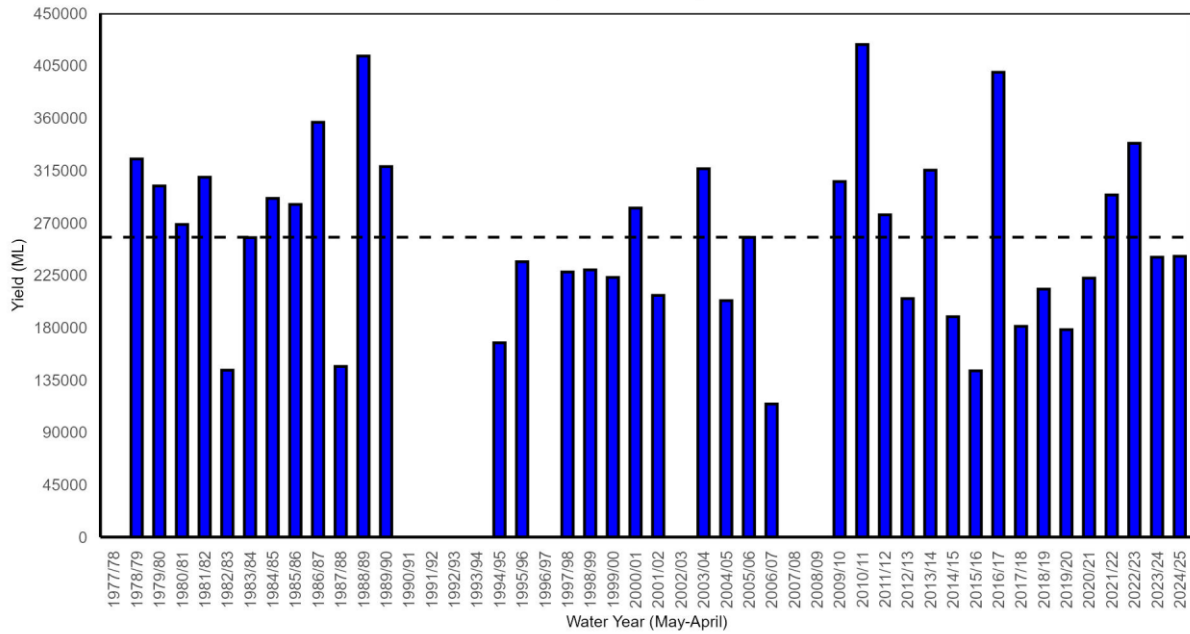
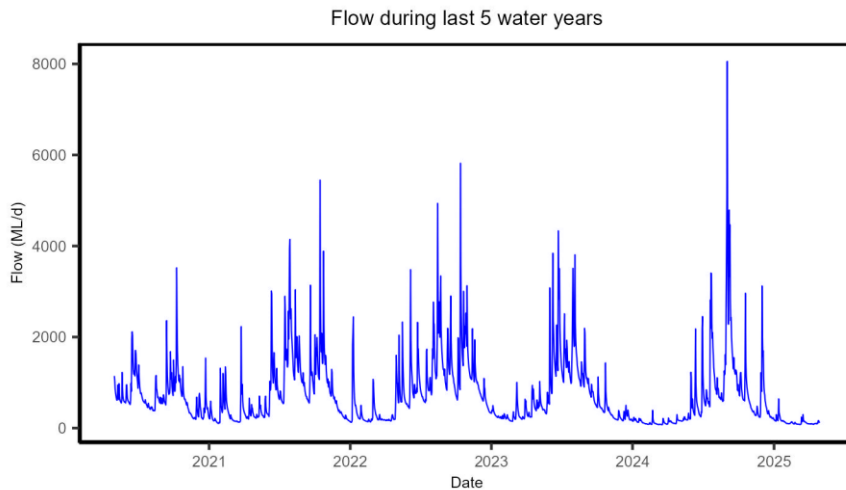
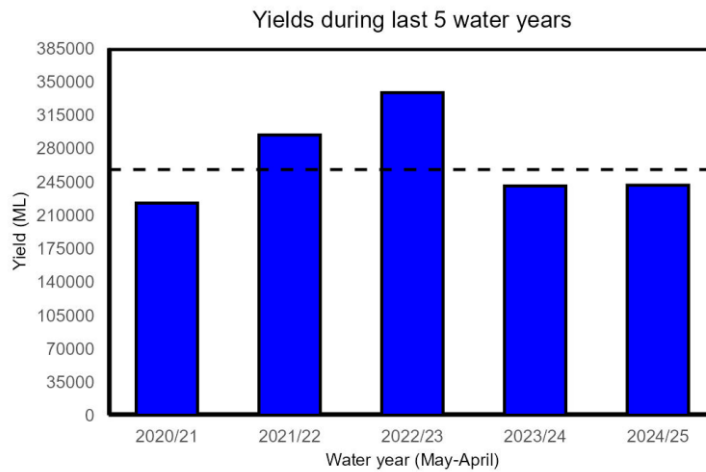


Figure 4. Yields in the Ringarooma River at the Moorina streamflow gauging station. Water years with <95% of the daily flow record available are excluded. The long-term mean yield is shown as the dashed horizontal black line (257,580 ML).

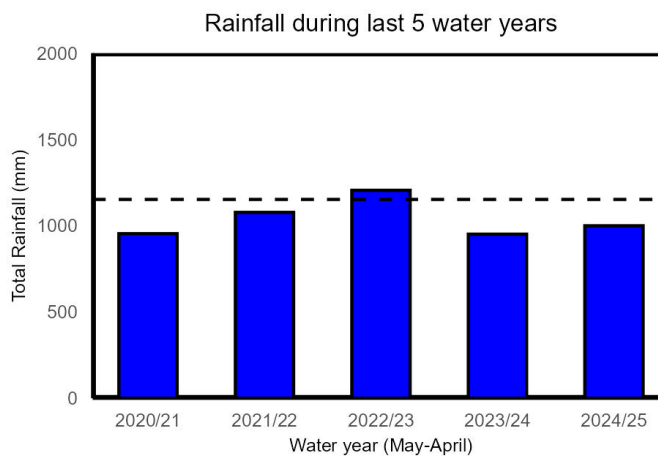
For further information contact your local **Regional Water Management Officer**  
 at the **Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania:**  
**Phone: 1300 368 550**  
**Email: [Water.Operations@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:Water.Operations@nre.tas.gov.au)**  
**[nre.tas.gov.au/water](http://nre.tas.gov.au/water)**



**Figure 5.** Mean daily flow in the Ringarooma River at the Moorina streamflow gauging station, last five years.

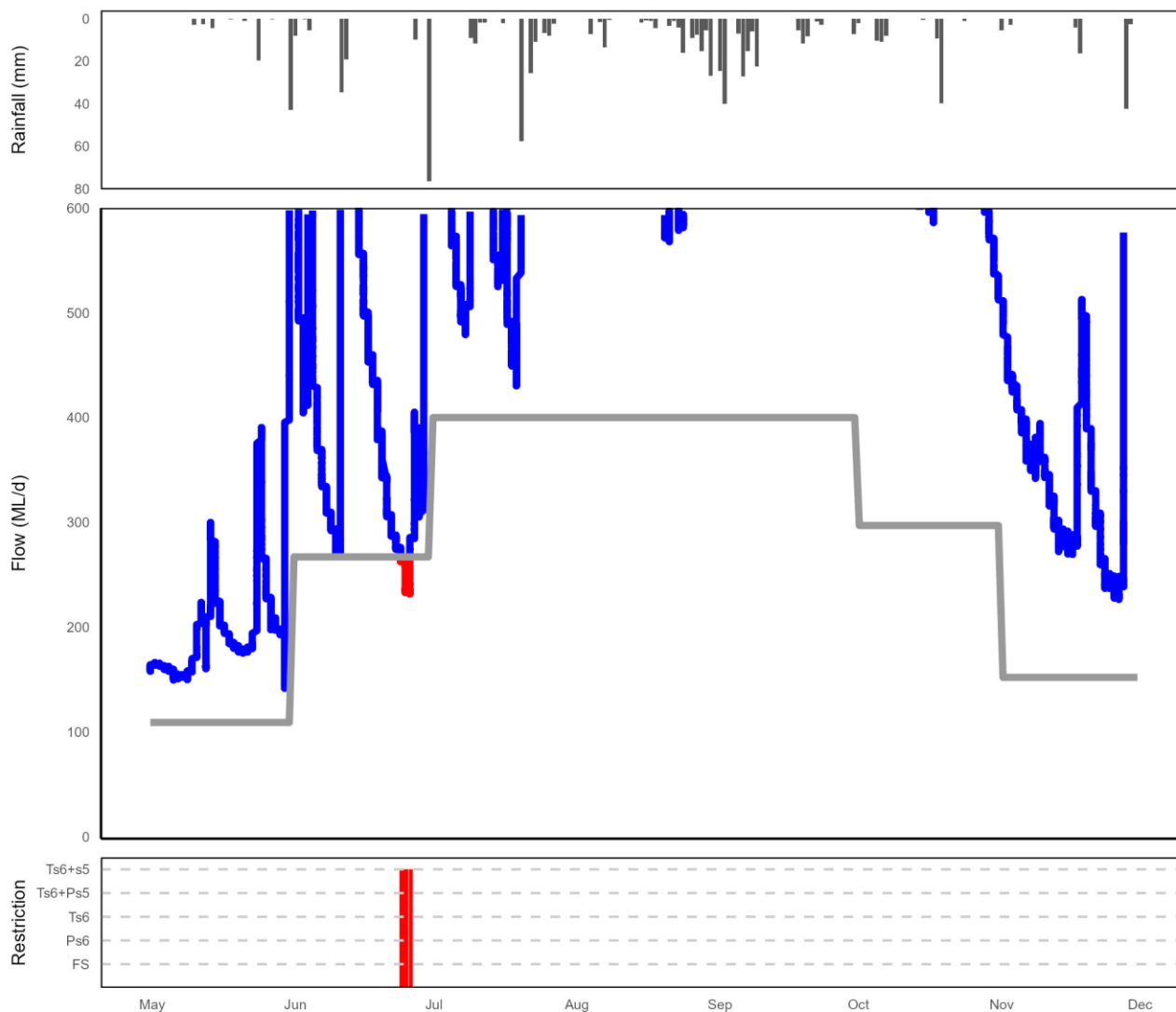


**Figure 6.** Yields in the Ringarooma River at the Moorina streamflow gauging station for the last five years. The long-term mean yield is shown as the dashed horizontal black line (257,580 ML).



**Figure 7.** Total rainfall at the Ringarooma BoM weather station during the last five water years. The long-term (1899-2024) mean total rainfall (1,154 mm) is shown as the black horizontal dashed line.

### Rainfall, low flows and restriction periods during winter 2024/2025



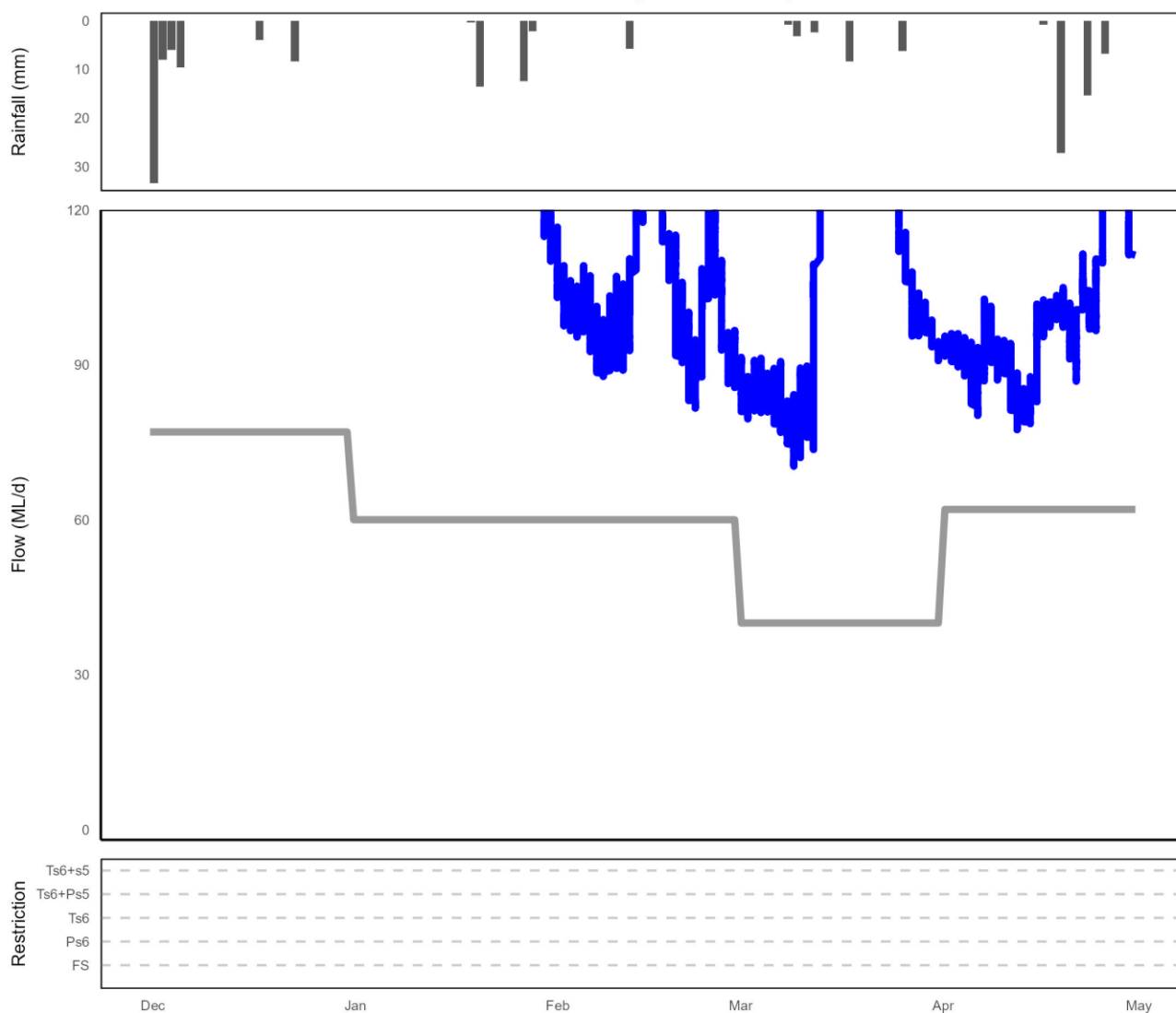
**Figure 8.** Summary of rainfall, low flows and restrictions in the Ringarooma catchment during winter (May-November) 2024.  
 Top plot: total daily rainfall (Ringarooma BoM site).  
 Middle plot: instantaneous flow (<600 ML/d) Ringarooma River at the Moorina station (compliance flow site).  
 Bottom plot: days when restrictions were in place.

**NOTE:** Refer to the last page for a 'legend' and description on how to interpret these plots

**Table 1.** Restriction levels and total days at each level for the winter period (May - November 2024).

Restriction Type	Days at restriction level in 2023/24	Days at restriction level in 2024/25
Flow Sharing	0	0
Partial Surety 6	0	0
Total Surety 6	0	0
Total Surety 6 + Partial Surety 5	0	0
Total Surety 6 + Total Surety 5	0	3

Rainfall, low flows and restriction periods during summer 2024/2025



**Figure 9.** Summary of rainfall, low flows and restrictions in the Ringarooma catchment during summer 2024/25 (Dec-April).  
 Top plot: total daily rainfall (Ringarooma BoM site).  
 Middle plot: instantaneous flow (<120 ML/d) Ringarooma River at the Moorina station (compliance flow site).  
 Bottom plot: days when restrictions were in place.

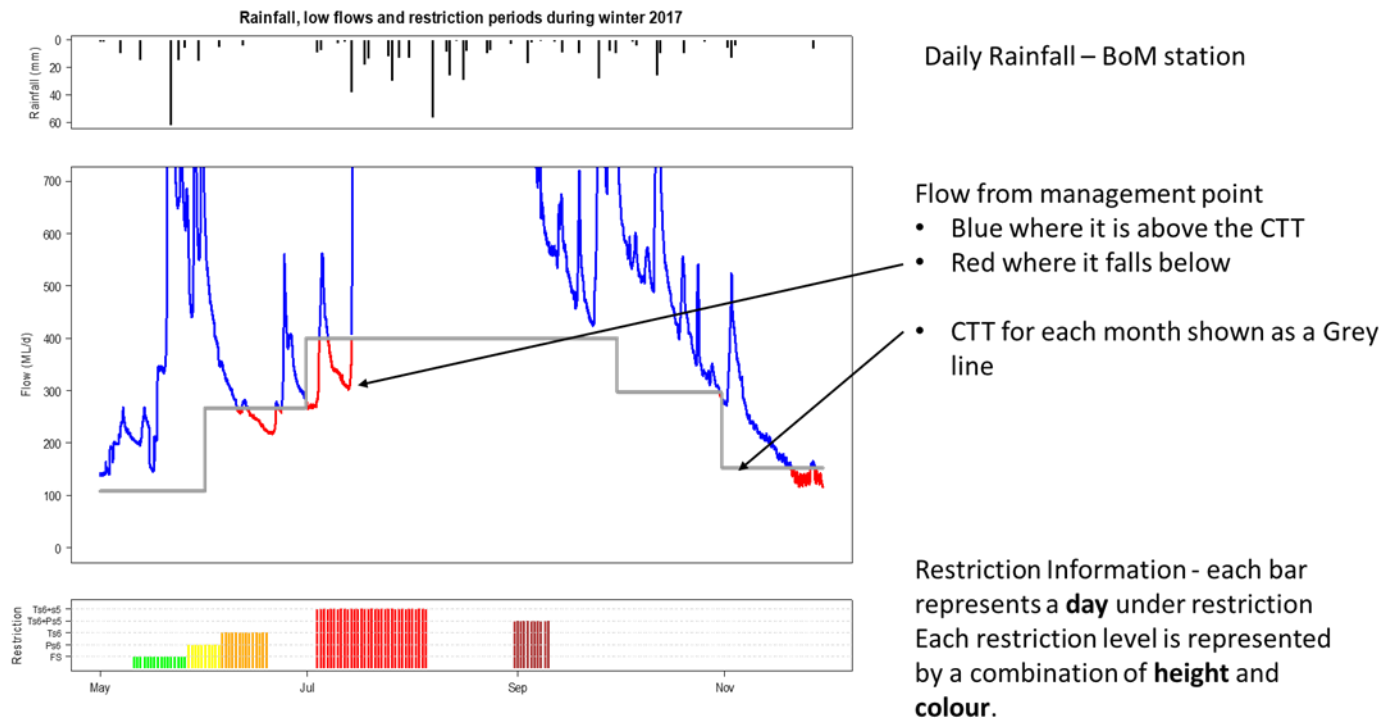
**NOTE: Refer to the last page for a 'legend' and description on how to interpret these plots**

**Table 2.** Restriction levels and total days at each level for the summer period (Dec 2024 – April 2025).

Restriction Type	Days at restriction level in 2023/24	Days at restriction level in 2024/25
Flow Sharing	0	0
Partial Surety 6	0	0
Total Surety 6	0	0
Total Surety 6 + Partial Surety 5	0	0
Total Surety 6 + Total Surety 5	0	0

## Rainfall, flow and restriction plot legend

**NOTE:** This is a hypothetical example to assist in interpreting the plots in the main body of this document.



### Flow Restriction definitions:

- FS = flow sharing (only some catchments), shown in GREEN
- Ps6 = partial surety 6 ban, shown in YELLOW
- Ts6 = total surety 6 ban, shown in ORANGE
- Ts6+Ps5 = total surety 6 and partial surety 5 ban, shown in BROWN
- Ts6+s5 = total surety 5 and 6 ban, shown in RED