



February 2026

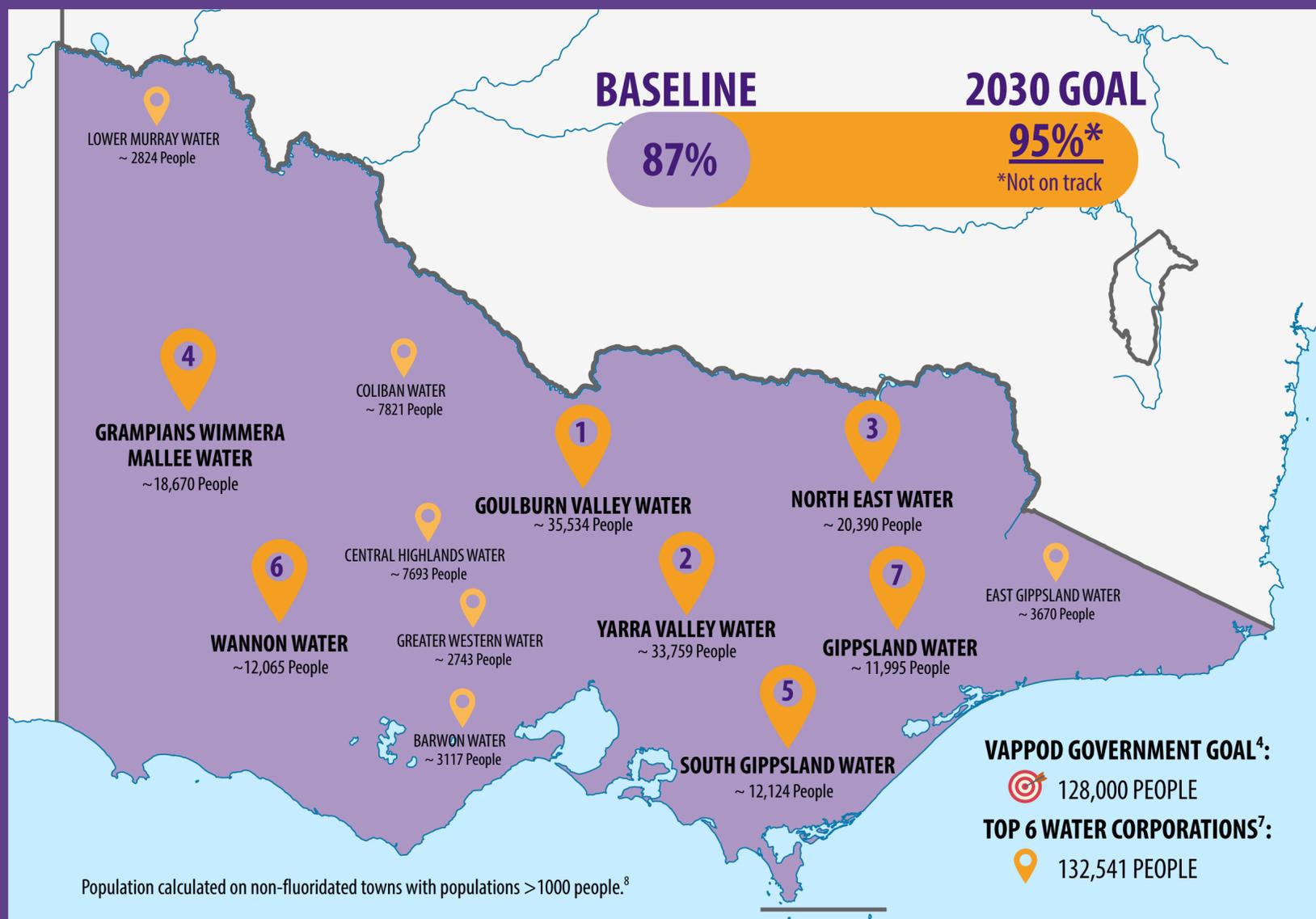
# VICTORIA'S COMMITMENT TO ORAL HEALTH: WHY AREN'T WE THERE YET?

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Fluoridation is endorsed by the World Health Organization, NHMRC, and the Australian Dental Association as a safe and effective public health measure.<sup>1-3</sup>
- Fluoridated water reduces tooth decay by 26-44% in children and 27% in adults.<sup>2</sup>
- The Victorian Government has committed to improving oral health through expanded access to fluoridated water.<sup>4</sup>
- The Victorian Action Plan to Prevent Oral Disease (VAPPOD) 2020–2030 aims to increase fluoridation coverage from 87% to 95% of rural and regional Victorians (~128,000 people).<sup>4</sup>
- At the half-way point of the VAPPOD, 73 rural towns (with populations over 1,000) still remain unfluoridated, affecting ~150,000 people.<sup>5</sup>
- These areas show higher rates of dental decay and preventable hospitalisations, especially in children aged 0-9.<sup>6</sup>

## Top 7 Water Corporations Servicing Non-Fluoridated Towns in Rural and Regional Victoria (Towns >1000 Population)

Top 7 Water Corporations based on population to reach VAPPOD Fluoridation Goal





## REFERENCES:

1. World Health Organization. Fluoride. In: Water, sanitation and health – Chemical hazards in drinking-water. Geneva: WHO. <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health/chemical-hazards-in-drinking-water/fluoride>
2. National Health and Medical Research Council. Information Paper – Water fluoridation: dental and other human health outcomes. Canberra: NHMRC; 2017. Available from: <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/fluoridation-info-paper.pdf>
3. Australian Dental Association. Policy Statement 2.2.1 – Community Oral Health Promotion: Fluoride Use. Revised March 2023. Available from: <https://ada.org.au/policy-statement-2-2-1-fluoride-use>
4. Department of Health (Victoria). Victorian Action Plan to Prevent Oral Disease 2020-30. 14 March 2020. Accessed 13 November 2025. <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/victorian-action-plan-to-prevent-oral-disease-2020-30>
5. Victoria (State). Is my water fluoridated? In: Water fluoridation. Melbourne: Department of Health Victoria; reviewed 30 July 2025. Available from: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/water/is-my-water-fluoridated> (accessed November 13, 2025).
6. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Oral health and dental care in Australia: Potentially preventable hospitalisations. Canberra: AIHW; 2024 Sep 18 [cited 2025 May 14]. Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/dental-oral-health/oral-health-and-dentalcare-in-australia/contents/hospitalisations/potentially-preventable-hospitalisations>
7. "Find your water corporation." Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Victoria, 30 Oct 2025. Available from: <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/for-households/find-your-water-corporation>
8. Victorian Oral Health Alliance. VOHA 2025 Health Promotion Project: LGA Advocacy for Communities with Limited Access to Fluoridated Water. September 4, 2025. Accessed November 13, 2025. <https://voha.org.au/2025/09/04/voha-2025-health-promotion-project-lga-advocacy-for-communities-with-limited-access-to-fluoridated-water/>

## Appendix 1 - List of Urban Water Corporations supplying non-fluoridated rural and regional towns (>1000 population) in Victoria

Priority by Population	Water Corporations	Towns	Total Population
1	Goulburn Valley Water	12	35,534
2	Yarra Valley Water	10	33,759
3	North East Water	10	20,390
4	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	8	18,670
5	South Gippsland Water	4	12,124
6	Wannon Water	7	12,065
7	Gippsland Water	8	11,995
8	Coliban Water	3	7821
9	Central Highlands Water	4	7693
10	East Gippsland Water	2	3670
11	Barwon Water	2	3117
12	Lower Murray Water	2	2824
13	Greater Western Water	1	2743
			<b>TOTAL: 172,405</b>

## Appendix 2 - Expanded List of Urban Water Corporations supplying non-fluoridated rural and regional towns in Victoria

Water Corporation	Region	Town	Population	Total Population
Goulburn Valley Water	Northern Victoria	Mansfield	5541	35534
		Tatura	4955	
		Numurkah	4604	
		Broadford	4592	
		Euroa	3508	
		Alexandra	2801	
		Nagambie	2254	
		Yea	1789	
		Nathalia	1982	
		Rushworth	1411	
		Strathmerton	1072	
Yarra Valley Water	Eastern Victoria	Katunga	1025	32681
		Emerald	5890	
		Cockatoo	4408	
	Northern Victoria	Gembrook	2559	
		Healesville	7589	
		Yarra Glen	3012	
		Yarra Junction	2875	
		Warburton	2020	
		Millgrove	1666	
		Badger Creek	1610	
		Wesburn	1052	
North East Water	Northern Victoria	Beechworth	4274	20390
		Myrtleford	3285	
		Bright	2620	
		Rutherglen	2579	
		Yackandandah	2008	
		Corryong	1352	
		Tallangatta	1175	
		Wahgunyah	1061	
		Porepunkah	1024	
		Tawonga South	1012	



## Appendix 2 - Cont. Expanded List of Urban Water Corporations supplying non-fluoridated rural and regional towns in Victoria

Water Corporation	Region	Town	Population	Total Population
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	Western Victoria	Stawell	6220	18670
		Nhill	2401	
		Warracknabeal	2359	
		St Arnaud	2318	
		Dimboola	1635	
		Donald	1472	
		Ouyen	1170	
South Gippsland Water	Eastern Victoria	Leongatha	5869	11693
		Yarram	2136	
		Foster	2044	
		Nyora	1644	
Wannon Water	Western Victoria	Terang	2254	11335
		Heywood	1815	
		Cobden	1804	
		Casterton	1673	
		Mortlake	1477	
		Timboon	1250	
		Coleraine	1062	



## Appendix 2 - Cont. Expanded List of Urban Water Corporations supplying non-fluoridated rural and regional towns in Victoria

Water Corporation	Region	Town	Population	Total Population
Gippsland Water	Eastern Victoria	Mirboo North	2263	11995
		Heyfield	2050	
		Rosedale	1729	
		Neerim South	1599	
		Briagolong	1133	
		Glengarry	1113	
		Toongabbie	1085	
		Boolarra	1023	
Coliban Water	Northern Victoria	Rochester	3154	7498
		Heathcote	2962	
		Trentham	1382	
Central Highlands Water	Northern Victoria	Daylesford	2781	7693
	Western Victoria	Clunes	1844	
		Beaufort	1712	
		Avoca	1356	
East Gippsland Water	Eastern Victoria	Orbost	2264	3447
		Mallacoota	1183	
Barwon Water	Western Victoria	Apollo Bay	1790	3117
		Lorne	1327	
Lower Murray Water	Northern Victoria	Koondrook	1101	2824
	Western Victoria	Nichols Point	1723	
Greater Western Water	Northern Victoria	Lancefield	2743	2743

## Appendix 3 - List of Urban Water Corporations supplying non-fluoridated rural and regional towns in Victoria by LGA

Town (>1000 Population)	Population	Urban Water Corporation	LGA
Myrtleford	3285	North East Water	Alpine Shire
Bright	2620		
Porepunkah	1024		
Tawonga South	1012		
Neerim South	1599	Gippsland Water	Baw Baw Shire
Donald	1472	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	Buloke Shire
Charlton	1095		
Rushworth	1411	Goulburn Valley Water	Campaspe Shire
Rochester	3154	Coliban Water	
Cockatoo	4408	Yarra Valley Water	Cardinia Shire
Gembrook	2559		Cardinia Shire and Yarra Ranges Shire
Emerald	5890		
Heathcote	2962	Coliban Water	City of Greater Bendigo
Tatura	4955	Goulburn Valley Water	City of Greater Shepparton
Apollo Bay	1790	Barwon Water	Colac Otway Shire
Terang	2254	Wannon Water	Corangamite Shire
Cobden	1804		
Timboon	1250		
Orbost	2264	East Gippsland Water	East Gippsland Shire Council
Mallacoota	1183		

## Appendix 3 Cont. - List of Urban Water Corporations supplying non-fluoridated rural and regional towns in Victoria by LGA

Town (>1000 Population)	Population	Urban Water Corporation	LGA
Koondrook	1101	Lower Murray Water	Gannawarra Shire
Heywood	1815	Wannon Water	Glenelg Shire
Casterton	1673		
Trentham	1382	Coliban Water	Hepburn Shire
Daylesford	2781	Central Highlands Water	
Clunes	1844		
Nhill	2401	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	Hindmarsh Shire
Dimboola	1635		
Beechworth	4274	North East Water	Indigo Shire
Rutherglen	2579		
Yackandandah	2008		
Wahgunyah	1061		
Glengarry	1113	Gippsland Water	Latrobe City
Toongabbie	1085		
Boolarra	1023		
Lancefield	2743	Greater Western Water	Macedon Ranges Shire
Mansfield	5541	Goulburn Valley Water	Mansfield Shire
Ouyen	1170	Grampians Wimmera	Mildura Rural City Council
Nichols Point	1723	Lower Murray Water	
Broadford	4592	Goulburn Valley Water	Mitchell Shire
Numurkah	4604		Moirra Shire
Nathalia	1982		
Strathmerton	1072		
Katunga	1025		

## Appendix 3 Cont. - List of Urban Water Corporations supplying non-fluoridated rural and regional towns in Victoria by LGA

Town (>1000 Population)	Population	Urban Water Corporation	LGA
Mortlake	1477	Wannon Water	Moyne Shire
Alexandra	2801	Goulburn Valley Water	Murrindindi Shire
Yea	1789		
Stawell	6220	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	Northern Grampians Shire
St Arnaud	2318		
Beaufort	1712	Central Highlands Water	Pyrenees Shire
Avoca	1356		
Leongatha	5869	South Gippsland Water	South Gippsland Shire
Foster	2044		
Nyora	1644		
Mirboo North	2263	Gippsland Water	
Coleraine	1062	Wannon Water	Southern Grampians
Euroa	3508	Goulburn Valley Water	Strathbogie Shire
Nagambie	2254		
Lorne	1327	Barwon Water	Surf Coast Shire
Corryong	1352	North East Water	Towong Shire
Tallangatta	1175		
Yarram	2136	South Gippsland Water	Wellington Shire
Heyfield	2050	Gippsland Water	
Rosedale	1729		
Briagolong	1133		
Healesville	7589	Yarra Valley Water	Yarra Ranges Shire
Yarra Glen	3012		
Yarra Junction	2875		
Warburton	2020		
Millgrove	1666		
Badger Creek	1610		
Wesburn	1052		
Warracknabeal	2359	Grampians Wimmera	Yarriambiack Shire