

Molonglo Catchment Group

ABOUT THE MOLONGLO CATCHMENT

A Healthy Catchment

Our Catchment not only collects and stores the clean water we drink. It also contains our natural assets - the flora, fauna, soil and water - our life support systems which enable us to produce the food we eat and the clothes we wear and help clean the air we breathe. As a community, we need to recognise that those natural assets are vital for our future and we need to make changes now to preserve them.

Concern about catchment health is a recognition that both urban and rural residents need to leave smaller footprints on the land. Most people want to leave the land in as good or better condition for generations to come. That's not new. What is new are the challenges facing our countryside: an increasing population, development of rural areas and climate change. These challenges mean that many practices are no longer sustainable because they do not fit with our new understanding of the value and management needs of our natural assets.



Vineyards and truffle orchards, Mt Majura

Conservation and restoration are now under way in rural and urban areas of our catchment. It's a huge job because the land needs help in so many different ways but as a community we can make a huge impact. There are many ways to sustain the health of the catchment, such as protecting our native vegetation, planting, retaining groundcover and controlling invasive species. These all contribute to the restoration of the bushland, grasslands, wetlands and river environments. This also makes economic sense and improves our quality of life.

Get Involved — Make a Difference

Everyone can do something. Whatever your age, experience or circumstances, there are many ways you can contribute now to help improve our future. Make a difference: leave a legacy by helping to create healthy landscapes for yourself and those who follow. Ways in which you might help include: joining a Landcare, Parkcare or Catchment Group; taking water quality measurements; managing a website; writing up media releases; creating posters and environmental displays; making presentations in schools and public meetings; managing a resource library; seeking sponsorship; writing grant applications; making a donation; or taking simple steps in your backyard to reduce your personal footprint. Contact us at the address below.



Molonglo Catchment Group

Landholders at Carwoola identifying native grassland species



Australian Government



Molonglo Catchment Group Inc.

The Molonglo Catchment Group is a non-profit community group of Landcare and Parkcare groups, other organisations and individuals managing natural resources in the Molonglo catchment. The group is supported by the ACT Government through the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality under the Getting Equipped program, another *Living Environment Project*. Additional support is provided by the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority by locating the Coordinator in the CMA's Queanbeyan Office.

Phone: 6128 3376

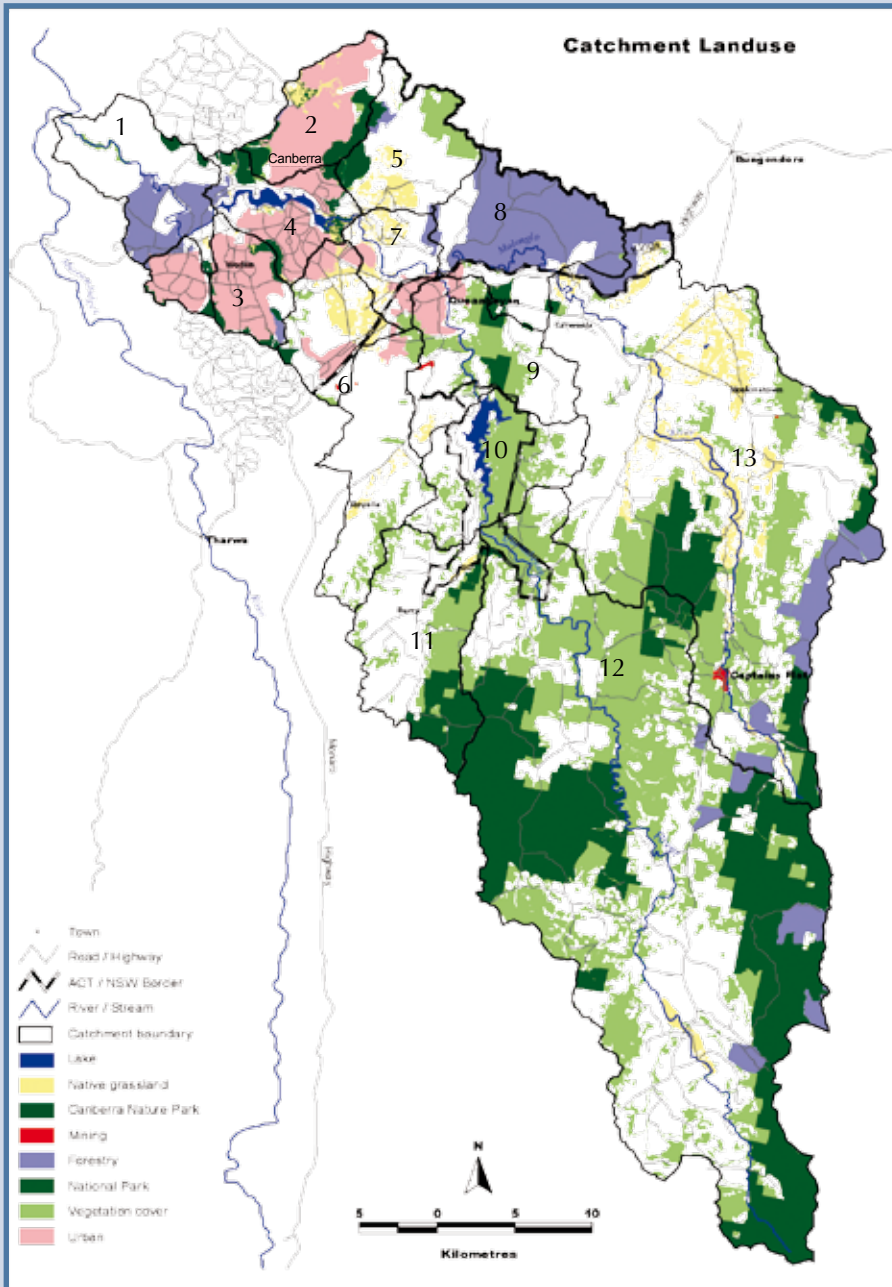
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About the Molonglo Catchment



The Molonglo catchment extends from the Murrumbidgee River to the headwaters of Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers and Jerrabomberra Creek, an area of about 200,000 Ha. The catchment landscape includes areas seriously affected by the January 2003 bushfires and ongoing drought. Apart from the urban areas of Queanbeyan and inner Canberra, the catchment includes villages, rural residential areas and farmland, native and pine forests, wetlands, national parks and the foreshores of Googong Dam, which supplies some of Canberra's and Queanbeyan's water. All of these areas provide run-off that contributes to water supply for irrigation areas and towns downstream.

The catchment is an ancient landscape of plains, rivers and streams, rolling hills and low mountains within the upper Murrumbidgee catchment. The soils are generally thin and stony over the ridges and hillsides with more fertile soils in the foothills and valleys. When devoid of vegetation, they readily erode to form gullies.

The vegetation is (or was) predominantly natural temperate grassland, which has now been largely replaced through urban settlement or modified by pastoral activities. There were also box-gum grassy woodlands, still seen on many of the surrounding hills today. These diminishing woodlands and remaining grasslands are vital habitat for a great variety of threatened animals and plants. Dry sclerophyll forests occur on slopes in the headwaters of the catchment.

Human settlement

For the last 21,000 years, and probably a lot longer, the Molonglo catchment has been part of the rich and diverse home of the Ngunnawal and Ngarigo people. Evidence of this occupation still abounds in the countryside including scarred trees, artefact scatters and stone arrangements. Local Ngunnawal and Ngarigo descendants still care for their culture and country.

The first European explorers arrived in 1820 and found squatters already present tending their sheep. The 1828 census identified settlements at Canberry, Duntroon, Ginninderra, Jerrabomberra, Tuggeranong and Queenbeenn stock stations.

The urban areas of inner Canberra and Queanbeyan are significant parts of the catchment and contain most of the catchment's estimated population of 130,000 and considerable commerce and light industry. Outside the urban areas, pastoral activities, forestry and rural settlement predominate.

Sub-catchment	Urban area (Ha)	Reserves (Ha)	Tree Cover (Ha)	Treed areas > 50 Ha	Waterbodies (Ha)	Major streams (km)	Sub-catchment area (Ha)
1 Coppins	89	2,271	253	194	-	151	7,196
2 Sullivans	2,530	1,593	1,082	1,007	-	30	5,232
3 Weston-Woden	3,721	1,693	676	364	-	20	5,041
4 Lake Burley Griffin	2,226	1,684	623	678	673	71	4,873
5 Woolshed	725	717	2,085	1,409	-	39	6,112
6 Jerrabomberra	1,338	-	1,108	656	-	91	12,840
7 Fyshwick	585	284	395	395	-	53	3,411
8 Kowen	130	6,416	6,450	6,362	-	105	9,078
9 Lower Queanbeyan	1,122	343	2,869	2,505	-	133	8,064
10 Googong	-	3,366	3,187	2,522	666	36	7,352
11 Burra	-	2,695	3,716	3,679	-	88	10,040
12 Upper Queanbeyan	-	24,564	46,947	37,354	-	599	71,747
13 Upper Molonglo	-	8,326	18,392	13,955	-	295	48,513
Total	12,466	53,952	87,783	71,080	1,339	1,711	199,499