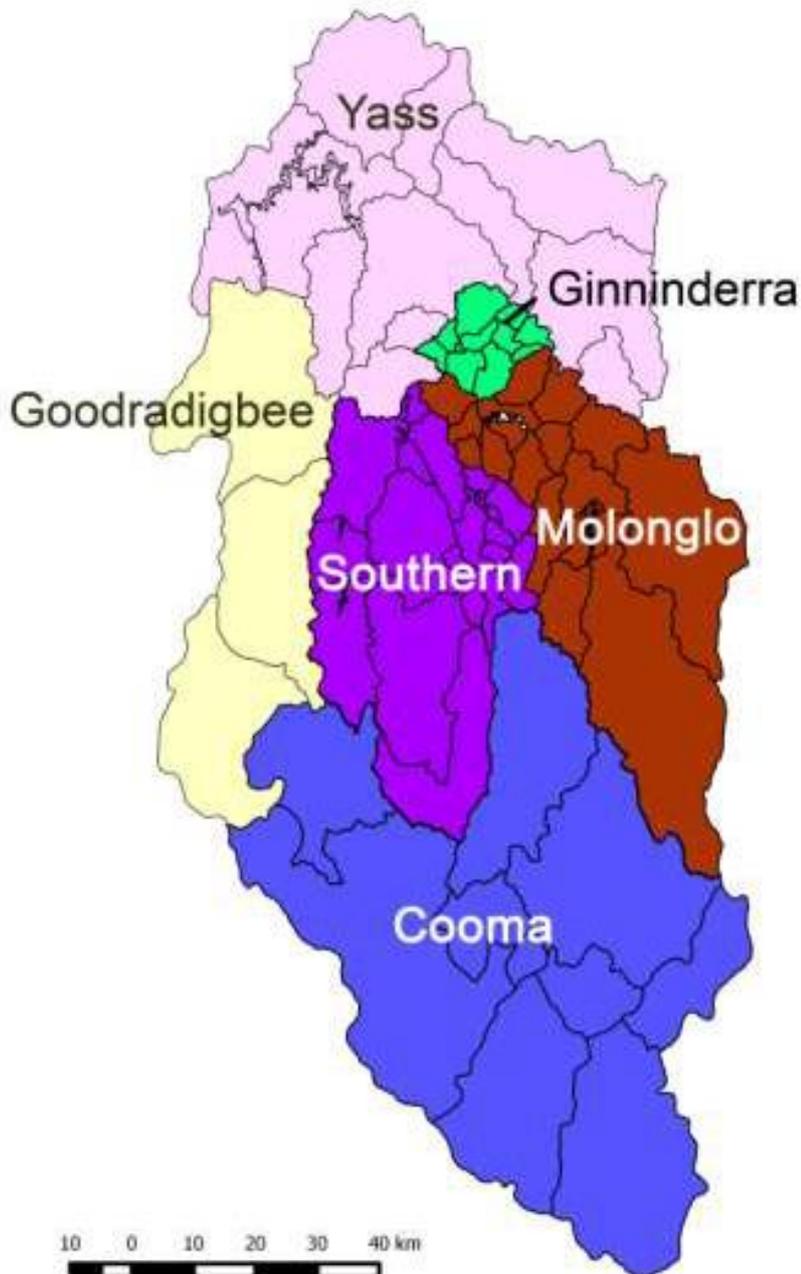


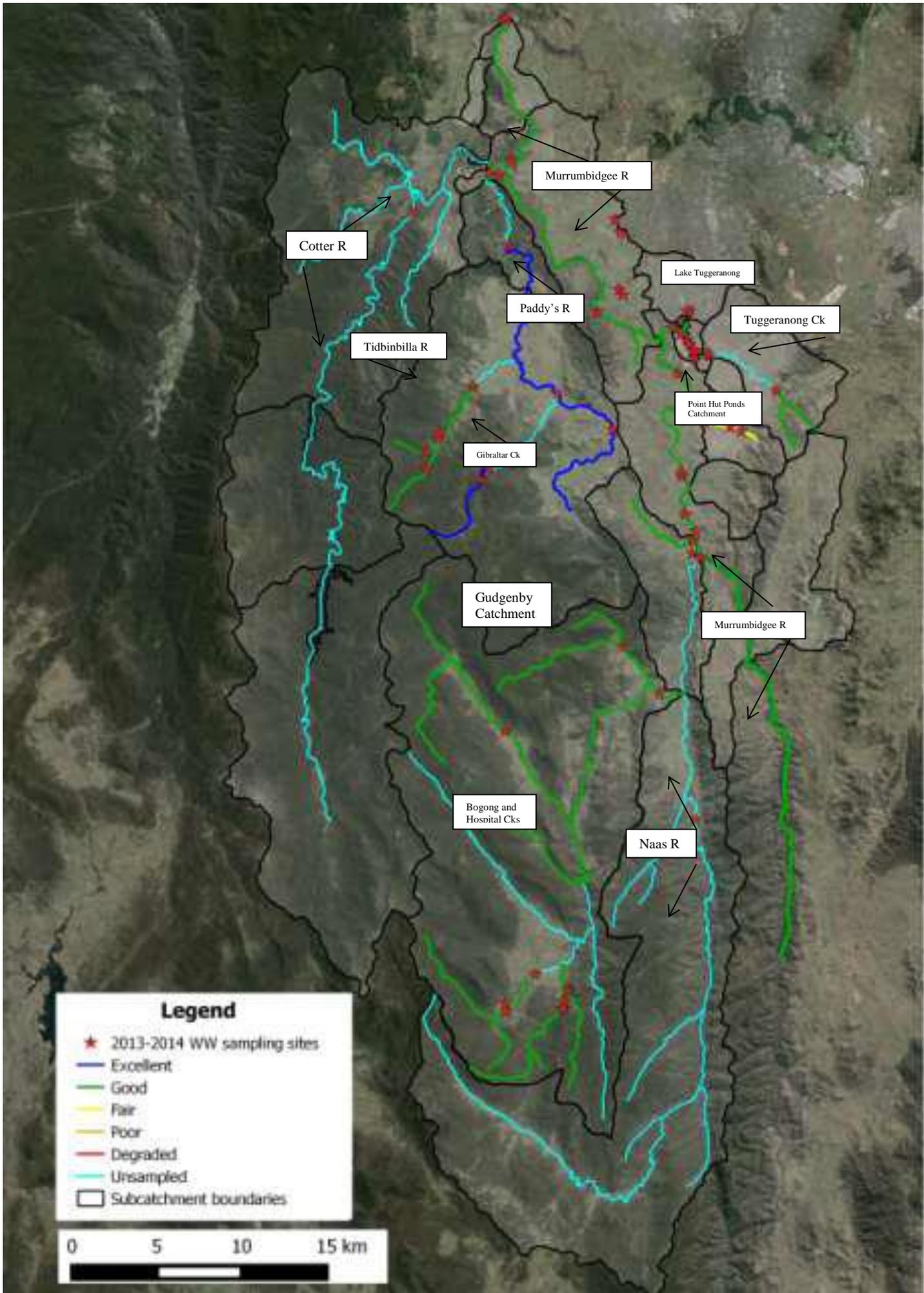
Catchment Update 2 2015

In General:

Hi teams. I hope you have all had a chance to look through the Catchment Health indicator Program (CHiP) report for last year. It is a huge improvement on what we had before. It lets you see the whole region in a comparative context. Here is the link: <http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/> (It's sitting on the front page so you can't miss it.)

The regions that define the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment of the Murray-Darling Basin are shown on the left below. The Southern ACT takes in the purple section in the middle, about 1/8th of the catchment.





The venous map shows the major rivers and creeks, including any dams and lakes that flow through the Southern ACT. Sections in light blue indicate rivers or stretches of rivers where we did not have enough data by the cutoff date to be included in this report. The other colours are where assessments were made. Detail on the assessments can be read in the report itself. I mainly intend this news letter to help clarify which reaches are in which sub-catchments.

I used to collate waterways based on the ACT government's Water Management Areas (WMAs). That is why the lower Cotter at the Campground, for instance, was banked with the Lower Murrumbidgee sites like Casuarina Sands. With our new found spirit of independence and bonafide rigor, we (the Waterwatch Coordinators) have decided to regroup the waterways to reflect the actual river ways.

Our 6 rivers are;

- Murrumbidgee River
- Naas River
- Gudgenby River
- Cotter River
- Paddys River
- Tuggeranong Creek

Tuggeranong Creek gets its own special category due to its extensively altered system of tributaries. The other creek system that could arguably be identified separately is that flowing into Point Hut Pond. Its creek line is nominally titled Conder Creek after the suburb through which most of the main storm water system runs. As with Tuggeranong Creek it is heavily modified and prior to the establishment of the suburbs I believe did not exist, but was rather a series of bogs and ponds.

Under each of the 6 rivers are sections referred to as '**reaches**'. This is an artificial construct and represents the length of the waterway that we can confidently expect the data to represent. It usually ends downstream at the lowest waterwatch site and extends upstream until there is a major confluence joining the river, or a significant change in the rivers hydrology, geology or surrounding landscape.

The number of reaches identified may vary with each CHiP report as may their length, as new sites are undertaken by volunteers.

Each reach is given a code.

Below is where they sit in our 6 rivers. Under each are the current Waterwatch teams conducting monitoring and their number of sites.

I have just given first names for individuals to respect privacy. I have taken the liberty of also including some new teams and members that are still undergoing training and are yet to enter data.

Murrumbidgee River;

CMM6 The highest reach in our section of the Murrumbidgee. It extends south of the border to Willows road just north of Michelago to the 'Sandwash' just south of Tharwa.

Team: Park Carers of Southern Murrumbidgee (P.O.S.M) **1 site.**

CMM7 Runs from the 'Sandwash' to Point Hut Crossing. Includes the tributaries of Spring Station and Castle Hill creeks.

Current teams: Outward Bound Australia **2 sites.**

Cuppacumbalong **1 site.**

Castle Hill HomeStead **2 sites.**

Soon to join: Anne and Bill.

CMM8 From Point Hut Crossing to Kambah Pool and includes Barneys Gully near Gordon.

Current teams: Park Carers of Southern Murrumbidgee (P.O.S.M) **1 site.**

Green Army **1 site.**

Soon to join: Anne and Bill.

CMM9 Then continues from Kambah Pool to Uriarra Crossing.

Current team: 'Sands' Waterwatch team **1 site**.

Soon to join: Lisa.

So we have the full extent of the Murrumbidgee river cover by our monitoring.

Under the Murrumbidgee banner is also Point Hut Ponds, McQuoid's Creek and Coleman Ridge as follows;

MPG1 This includes Point Hut Ponds and the sites upstream to Conder wetlands.

Teams: 'Conder Wetlands' Waterwatch team **2 sites**.

Carers of Point Hut Ponds **3 sites**.

TMM1 This covers the creeks and dams on Westwood Farm in Kambah that flow in near Kambah Pool.

Team: Green Army **2 sites**.

RAN1 These are the isolated dams on Coleman Ridge. Their connection to the Murrumbidgee is minor but they provide an important case study of historic farm dams and their water quality.

Team: Coleman Ridge Parkcare **2 sites**.

Naas River;

NNN1 Only one reach which covers almost the entire river. It may also include Gudgenby Creek (*not river!*) which flows into it through the lower properties.

Team: Danica and Michael **2 sites**.

C.I.T. Students Amanda, Max and Ana have contributed data that will be used in the next ChiP report. New team Danica and Michael have been delivering data to the web site this will all fill in the gaping hole we had for this river last year.

Gudgenby River;

CGG1 This reach is a web comprising the lower part of the river and both the Orroral River and Honey Suckle Creek.

Teams: Park Carers of Southern Murrumbidgee (P.O.S.M) **1 site**.

Outward Bound Australia **2 sites**.

Danica and Michael **1 site**.

CGB1 Bogong Creek.

CGH1 Hospital Creek. Both of these are in Namadji National Park.

Team: Gudgenby Bush Regenerators **7 sites covering both the above reaches**.

Cotter River:

MCC1 Currently there is only one reach on this river covering the stretch below the Cotter dam. This will change in the next report. The river may be divided into 2 reaches. We'll see.

Current team: 'Paddy's River' Waterwatch team **1 site**.

Soon to join: Parks and Conservation rangers.

Daddy's River:

CTP1 Paddy's River upper. This covers the entire river upstream of Murray's Corner.

Teams: 'Paddy's River' Waterwatch team **1 site**.

Josh **1 site**.

CTT1 Tidbinbilla River. This includes the Sanctuary and tributaries in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

Teams: Friends of Tidbinbilla Parkcare **3 sites**.

Conservation Volunteers Australia **2 sites**

GIB1 Gibraltar Creek.

Team: Josh **2 sites**.

Tuggeranong Creek:

TUG1 Lowest stretch of Tuggeranong Creek from the Lake Tuggeranong dam wall to the Murrumbidgee.

Team: 'Fish' Waterwatch team **1 site.**

TUG2 Highest stretch of Tuggeranong Creek and Monks Creek, on the border with ACT near Theodore.

Current team: Brad **1 site.**

Soon to join: Chisholm High School

New reaches or extensions of existing reaches will occur in the next CHiP report with the arrival of these 2 new teams this reporting year. Chisholm High School have been monitoring for some time now at 4 regular sites. They will have a significant contribution in the next CHiP.

TLT1 Main body of Lake Tuggeranong.

Current team: Lake Tuggeranong College 'Sustainability Unit **3 sites.**

Soon to join: Ben.

TLT2 The southern section of Lake Tuggeranong upstream from the walking bridge weir to the zigzag dam near Drakeford Drive.

Current team: Walt **2 sites.**

Soon to join: Tuggeranong Sea Scouts.

TIP1 Isabella Pond.

Current team: Walt **1 sites.**

Soon to join: Eileen and Stuart.

A huge thank you to all those groups and individuals involved in collecting data. Waterwatch volunteers provide vital and immediate information on the state of our waterways which is used regularly by government, consultants and corporations and other agencies locally and nationally.

To view Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch data go to <http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au> .

For more information contact the SACTCG Waterwatch Coordinator on 62966400 or at waterwatch@sactcg.org.au .

Martin Lind.



Some of the Green Army (Ed, David, Rebecca, Mallory and Jack) on the job at Westwood farm April 2015.