

Hi Waterwatch teams,

CHIP 2019 has been launched! It happened last Friday and there are rumours of a blurb about it in last Sunday's Canberra Times. I'm not a subscriber (yet) so don't have the link, sorry. See below Woo's media release for all the fun facts. Thanks again to all of you who worked hard and visited lots of dried out waterways last year. Also see below links from the ACT gov and Greens for the latest on the flu pandemic.

Stay well.

Martin Lind.



Click here ↓ to head to the latest on the SACTCG website
[SACTCG Calendar/News](#)

SACTCG has been supporting the Southern Canberra community and its catchments for over 18 years, and we need your help to continue to do so in the years ahead. There has never been a more important time to be stepping up to protect our local environment now and for the future. SACTCG's environmental work is mostly funded by competitive grants, which are often small, short term, intermittent and don't meet all our community or catchment needs. If you would like to support us, please consider donating to the Southern ACT Catchment Fund through [our secure online platform](#) or via [direct debit](#).

If you must visit us, please phone the office on 62966400. Please try to avoid dropping in.



WW news and shared links;

Greetings Waterwatchers and friends

Well it's a little late this year but I'm pleased to finally announce the release of the

Waterwatch Catchment Health Indicator Program (CHIP) report for 2019!

The report can be found at: www.environment.act.gov.au/r/2019-chip-report (NB: due to technical issues, it's currently sitting on the ACT Government Environment page but will be redirected to the Waterwatch website www.act.waterwatch.org.au as soon as possible).

While the extended dry conditions in 2019 resulted in some less than cheery results for our waterways, it has been a slightly better outlook for the Waterwatch program itself. As Minister Gentleman mentions below, the ACT Government has now committed to ongoing funding for the Waterwatch program! The CHIP was considered key to this win as the report is now feeding into a growing list of strategies and implementation plans for the not just the ACT, but in the broader upper Murrumbidgee catchment. In addition, the 2019 ACT State of Environment report was released late last year featuring the past four CHIP reports which was a great vote of confidence in the program and for citizen science in general.

This year Waterwatch has also teamed up more formally with the Frogwatch program and the 2019 FrogCensus report will also be available in the next week at: <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch-useful-stuff/>

So thank you to the Waterwatch team and volunteers for their hard work and passion as well as the broader network of people who use the data and promote the program. It all adds up.

Cheers - Woo

Mick Gentleman MLA

Catchment report highlights climate challenges

The latest report on the ACT's water catchment health has highlighted the challenges posed by increasingly dry conditions.

Minister for the Environment and Heritage Mick Gentleman said the new report underscored how hotter and drier seasons due to climate change are negatively impacting our region's waterways

"Three reaches were found to be in 'excellent' condition, 37 were 'good', 53 were 'fair', four were 'poor', none were 'degraded' and one was too dry for too long to produce results," Minister Gentleman said.

"While the results are positive they have deteriorated in recent years, which the Waterwatch team has attributed to below average rainfall in 2019.

"Most of the Murrumbidgee River reaches showed signs of stress after the extended dry period, including around Tharwa where the river almost ceased to flow in December.

"The Catchment Health Indicator Program (CHIP) report provides us with an early warning system for ecosystem health issues through its surveys of water quality, waterbugs and the condition of riverbank vegetation.

"The successful citizen science report details conditions across 232 sites, representing 98 'reaches' of waterway. More than 200 volunteers conducted over 2000 water quality surveys for the 2019 report.

"The ACT Government is continuing its support for the program and recently committed ongoing funding to Waterwatch in the 2019/20 mid-year budget review."

The latest report is available at: www.environment.act.gov.au/r/2019-chip-report

Statement ends

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- Canberra Times article featuring Leslie Harland, Ginninderra Waterwatcher;

[CANBERRA'S CREEKS ARE FULL AND CITIZEN SCIENTISTS ARE OVERJOYED](#)



[Mapping citizen science in Australia](#)



[Waterway closures.](#)

[Recreational Water Quality](#)

[Bacteria alerts](#)

For water and sewerage faults and emergencies phone 02 6248 3111 (option 1)



Eflow releases;

Below is a summary of water releases from Icon Water dams in the Southern ACT, courtesy of Sarah McLaren, Icon Water.

Bendora

Currently not overflowing.

Current release is approximately 72 MLD.

Release currently at licence requirements:

17 June	21.9 – 24.4 MLD	0.89 – 0.90 m
24 June	67.5 – 71.0 MLD	1.04 – 1.05 m Through scour valve
24 June	152.1 – 158.1 MLD	1.24 – 1.25 m Through cone valve
27 June	67.5 – 71.0 MLD	1.04 – 1.05 m WDE to close cone valve

Licence requirements:

17 June	22.5 MLD
24 June	150 MLD 3 day riffle release
27 June	67.5 MLD

Corin

Currently not overflowing.

Current release is approximately 41 MLD.

Release currently at licence requirements:

18 June	13.4 – 14.8 MLD	0.23 – 0.24 m
22 June	155 – 166 MLD	0.55 – 0.56 m
25 June	41.3 – 45.0 MLD	0.37 – 0.38 m

Licence requirements:

18 June	14.0 MLD
22 June	150 MLD 3 day riffle release
25 June	42.0 MLD

Cotter

Currently not overflowing. Current flow 45 ML/d via M2C.

Licence release requirements:

Base release flow of >15 ML/d, with bi-monthly riffle release of >100 ML/d for >24 hours. [OR](#)

Flow requirements as described in M2C section of the Water Abstraction EMP.

Click on these links to go to the latest newsletters or events;

Some of the icons below are hyperlinked to online newsletters if there is no adjacent article.

The views expressed in some media releases and opinion pieces are not necessarily the same as SACTCG or UMWW. But they make interesting reading and all sites linked to here are bonafide.



[Basin Plan Report Card reveals steady progress, with more to do](#)

[Murray-Darling Basin Authority Communique](#)

[Audit report released on water metering in key SA irrigation district](#)

[New water year brings downstream trade opportunities for Barmah Choke](#)



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