

## SACTCG WATERWATCH BULLETIN AUGUST 2021

Hi,

I hope this bulletin finds you well. The pandemic situation in NSW and ACT cut short the Platypus Month surveys as well as several group activities last weekend. It all happened so suddenly. It has also put Waterwatch monitoring for August in a pickle. It looks very like that monitoring this month will be cancelled 😞 unless your group have already done it 😊. A link to the latest ACT Gov COVID information I've received is at the end of this bulletin too, along with news and newsletter links.

Take care,

Martin Lind

Waterwatch Coordinator.



**Anthony Cory; Tidbinbilla Volunteer Assist Waterwatch leader since 2016**



Tony checking his kit at a QA/QC event.

*Best experience or memory of Waterwatching – Engaging with the kids and their parents out at Tidbinbilla where I do most of my testing. Seeing the kids enthusiasm when I get them to assist me with some of the tests.*

*Funniest and worst experience while Waterwatching – Falling in the Tidbinbilla river one day when my foot slipped out from under me.*

*What so you love most about your site/s? - The steady flow of visitors passing my Tidbinbilla sites whilst I undertake the tests and their general inquisitiveness about what we are doing and then their thanks for doing it.*

*Your motivation for continuing to Waterwatching – Love of working with the environment and hoping to assist with improving its general health.*

*Anything else you would love to share about you and/or your group? – Combine the community engagement whilst undertaking the water testing with the macro Invertebrate survey that we do out at Tidbinbilla and sometimes helping the coordinators is so enjoyable and rewarding.*

Cheers, Tony

**Southern ACT Catchment Group news and events;**  
Head to [SACTCG Calendar/News](#) for the latest on the SACTCG website.



**Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch news and events;**



- From Anke Maria Hoefer's desk, ACT & Region Frogwatch Coordinator; [ABC News Article on unexpected frog deaths.](#)
- From Tom Nilsen, Platypus watch volunteer; [Wildcare rakali released back into the river c/- RiotACT](#)

**ACT Government Waterway updates;**



[Waterway closures.](#)

[Recreational Water Quality](#)

[Bacteria alerts](#)

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

## Icon Water Eflow releases;



Below is a summary of water releases from Icon Water dams in the Southern ACT, courtesy of Sarah McLaren, Sewer Network Technical Officer, Icon Water. This data is operational information and subject to change.

### Bendora

Currently overflowing. Flow below Bendora Dam approximately 520 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:

18 August 140.8 – 146.9 MLD 1.22 – 1.23 m 25 August 45 – 48.6 MLD 0.38 – 0.39 m

*Licence requirements:* 18 August 145.5 MLD 25 August 48.5 MLD

### Corin

Currently overflowing. Flow below Corin Dam approximately 400 ML/d. Release currently at licence requirements:

19 August 91 – 98.9 MLD 0.48 – 0.49 m 26 August 29.9 – 32.9 MLD 0.92 – 0.93 m

*Licence requirements:* 19 August 93 MLD 26 August 31.0

### Cotter

Currently overflowing. Current flow approximately 700 ML/d below dam. Current release is approximately 15 ML/d from the dam. *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.

## Other newsletters and links;

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.



### Murray Darling Basin Authority

- **Yarrawonga Weir crossing to close in October 2021** The Yarrawonga Weir bridge will be permanently closed to public vehicle traffic from 15 October 2021. [Read more](#)
- **MDBA starts small releases from Hume Dam as storage reaches 90 per cent** The Murray–Darling Basin Authority has started releasing a small volume of water from Hume Dam to maintain airspace for the inflows expected from rain forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology over the coming months. [Read more](#)
- **Wet winter provides positive operating outlook for the Murray in 2021-22** Rising dam levels in the River Murray system are providing a positive start to the water year according to the MDBA's 2021-22 Annual Operating Outlook released today. [Read more](#)
- **Reporting on Basin Plan water limits begins** The Murray–Darling Basin Authority has examined water use across the Murray–Darling Basin catchments for the 2019–20 water year and found a 97 percent compliance rate across Queensland, New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria and South Australia. [Read more](#)
- **MDBA launches comprehensive water quality study to better understand trends** The Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has launched a study to better understand water quality trends in the Murray River. [Read more](#)

### Murrumbidgee Landcare [Newsletter](#)



### Canberra Environment Centre [Newsletter: Who are your environmental heroes?](#)



### [Newsletter: Plastic Free July](#)

### CSIRO [ECOS enewsletter](#)

### [Snapshot Newsletter](#)

### ECOS



### [Fadden Pond Park](#)



# COVID-19 Update



**The ACT is in lockdown**

Only leave your home for  
essential reasons



covid19.act.gov.au