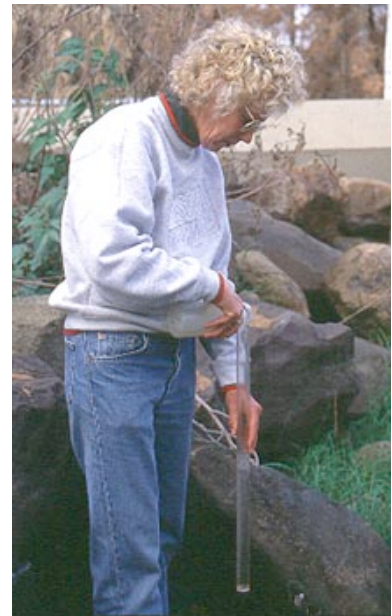


6. Measuring turbidity

1. Collect water sample in a clean bucket or sample bottle.
2. Ensure sample is well mixed before testing.
3. Fill the turbidity tube to the top with sample water.
4. Hold the tube out of direct sunlight, and over a white surface. Then look down through the water column to see the squiggly lines at the bottom of the tube. Hold the tube at arm's length, rather than right up to your eye.
5. If you can see *three distinct lines* while the tube is full to the top, then the turbidity reading is less than 10 NTU (<10 NTU).
6. If you can't see three distinct squiggly lines, then pour out a small amount of water, and have another look.
7. Keep pouring out small amounts until you can distinguish the lines. Stop when you can see *three distinct lines*.
8. Note the reading from the scale on the side of the turbidity tube, to the nearest marking, and record the value onto your Field Data Sheet.
9. If the reading is above 200, dilute the sample 1:1 with distilled water. Repeat the testing procedure and multiply the end result by 2.



Hints, suggestions and techniques

- Do not create turbidity while collecting sample water by disturbing the bottom or sides of the water body or aquatic vegetation. Special care must be taken along concrete channels at low flow.
- For correct maintenance, wash turbidity tube thoroughly with tap water and ensure the tube is kept clean and free from contamination.
- For accurate results, place turbidity tube on a white surface, and look vertically down the tube to see the squiggly lines.
- A second person can help confirm the results.
- Carry out the test in the shade.

ACT Guidelines

At most sites along Ginninderra Creek, the acceptable level of turbidity is <10 NTU. At sites that are designed as sediment retention basins, the acceptable turbidity level is <30 NTU.

Source: Australian Capital Territory, Environment Protection Regulations, Table of Provisions, Water Quality Standards, Ecosystem maintenance 1997.