

Turtle sightings needed

Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch would like you to tell us about any turtles you see, so we can better understand turtle distribution in the Upper Murrumbidgee catchment and beyond!

We are looking for **turtle sightings throughout Canberra and region** including Yass, Queanbeyan, Cooma and even as far as Adaminaby, Jindabyne and the alpine areas beyond.

Two main types of turtle

The more common species in the region is the Eastern Long-necked Turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*), which inhabits rivers, urban wetlands and farm ponds. It is usually found on 'walkabout' during Spring and Summer, especially after rain. This behaviour is not only related to reproduction, as they are also in search of different wetlands to take advantage of food abundance, as they had been in dormancy during Winter. So you are probably going to encounter males, females and juveniles on the move. Our Eastern long-necked Turtles are also affectionately called 'Stinkers', as they tend to release a smelling fluid if they feel threatened.

Another species is the Murray River Turtle (*Emydura macquarii*), which is a short-necked turtle that is mainly found in rivers. Different from the Eastern Long-necked Turtle, Murray River Turtles do not 'walkabout', so they can mainly be seen along the river channels.



Eastern long-necked turtle



Murray River turtle

Reporting your sightings

Reporting your turtle sightings will enable us to better understand the distribution of both species throughout the ACT region and beyond, and to help to mitigate the impacts of urbanisation, such as road mortalities. Please help us with any turtle sightings this year (live or dead).

You can upload your records and photos in two websites (whichever you'd prefer):

- Canberra Nature Map (<http://canberra.naturemapr.org/>), or
- Turtle Sat (<https://www.turtlesat.org.au>), or
- email your sightings to waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au

Injured turtles

In addition, if you find any turtle injured, you can contact

- ACT Wildlife (<http://actwildlife.net/>) in the ACT, or
- Wildcare (6299 1966) in the Queanbeyan Region or
- LAOKO (6456 1313) south of Bredbo.

Thanks.

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