

# Ginninderra Waterwatch

## *From Monitoring to Action!*



Waterwatch is a national community water quality monitoring network that encourages all Australians to get involved in the management, protection and improvement of their local waterways. Volunteers from the Ginninderra Catchment Group have been conducting Waterwatch, Frogwatch and other monitoring at sites around the catchment since 1999.

The way we manage our landscapes and use our natural resources has an impact on the health of our environment and is reflected in the water quality of our creeks and ponds and in the biodiversity that exists there. Our

monitoring brings together information about landscape features, water quality, aquatic macro-invertebrate diversity and frog species diversity. We use this information to make decisions about issues to focus on and areas to target for restoration and protection.

This fact sheet summarises our results from 7 years of monitoring, and highlights the action we are taking to improve our local environment.



## Our results tell us about ...

### ***Soil erosion***

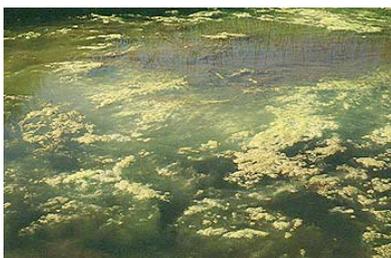
Soil erosion is happening in many parts of the catchment, especially where urban construction is taking place. When it rains, exposed soil is washed into our stormwater drains and can end up in Ginninderra Creek, creating turbidity, bringing attached nutrient pollution and smothering in-stream habitats.



### ***Changed water flows***

Most of the issues highlighted here are related to the altered hydrological regime in the Ginninderra catchment, resulting from land clearing, farming practices and urbanisation.

Increased amount and power of stormwater, and decreased groundwater infiltration has incised the creek channel and caused more frequent and severe flooding events, increased erosion and compromised aquatic habitat and water quality.



### ***Nutrient pollution***

Large amounts of nutrients wash into Ginninderra Creek and can cause excessive weed and algae growth and decrease dissolved oxygen levels.

### ***Litter***

Litter and dumping is a problem throughout the catchment. Much of this waste ends up in Ginninderra Creek, which is unsightly, expensive to clean up and damaging to the stream environment.



### ***Aquatic habitat***

The diversity and structure of aquatic macroinvertebrate (bug) populations indicate that there are high nutrient levels and pollution in our stream. Large sediment and nutrient loads, low dissolved oxygen and other factors contribute to a degraded aquatic habitat for macro-invertebrate populations. The aquatic habitat has also been impacted by changed hydrological regimes and removal of vegetation throughout the catchment.

### ***Salinity***

The salinity of surface water is very high in Gooromon Ponds Creek, compared to other sites along Ginninderra Creek. We need to find out more about the geology, hydrology and land management practices in this area.

### ***Amphibian habitat***

Sites providing high quality habitat for frog populations were highlighted including numerous dams in the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, and in the dam at the Dunlop Grasslands Nature Reserve.

# What we are doing ...

## ***Creating urban and rural habitat***

- We are developing urban wetlands to slow water flows, capture pollution and generate high quality aquatic and riparian habitat. We are working with government, industry, school groups and the community to identify sites for consideration, promote their construction, and assist with planting, maintenance and community education.



- Our strong network of Landcare volunteers are working to replant native trees, shrubs and grasses, remove weed species and create strategic habitat corridors in our nature reserves and public spaces. We are always looking for new volunteers and can help you to create great native habitats in your own backyard, school ground or work place.

## ***Educating our communities***

- We regularly conduct education and community engagement activities to encourage Canberrans to create habitat and be water smart in their own backyards, school grounds or work places.
- We are initiating collaborative partnerships with key bodies such as ACTPLA, EPA and building industry bodies, with a view to developing and implementing a comprehensive education campaign directed at developers, builders and contractors involved in the construction industry.
- We conduct engaging and educational activities with local school groups to enhance awareness and understanding of environmental issues and foster positive behavior change.



## ***Supporting rural landowners***

- We are supporting local landowners to implement whole farm management strategies on their properties, to implement fencing, revegetation and other works to protect riparian areas on their properties from degradation and associated erosion.

## ***Influencing government policy and programs***

We believe that our partnerships are key to creating a sustainable Ginninderra catchment. We actively seek opportunities to work with key bodies and individuals from government, industry and the community to:

- Support and encourage initiatives to incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design and sustainability principles into urban planning and land management.
- Encourage the implementation of a comprehensive education campaign directed at developers, builders and contractors involved in the construction industry.
- Advocate for more resources to be directed at enforcement of construction industry environmental protection measures.
- Continue to identify and advocate for the protection and improved management of areas of significant environmental value in the Ginninderra catchment.

**YOU can help us to make a difference! Contact the Ginninderra Catchment Group**  
6278 3309 [waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au) [www.ginninderralandcare.org.au](http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au)

