

Why Source Water Protection Matters

Clean water is life.

The waterways that supply Canberra, Cooma, Yass and our villages flow past thousands of small properties just like yours.

What happens on your patch flows into the waterways we all depend on. Small choices make a big difference to keep water clean for everyone.

Caring for your patch protects your community and helps our precious waterways.

Becoming a steward for your water source makes your land healthier, retains more water on your block, saves you time and money, increases your wellbeing, and connects you with others who care for our catchment, wildlife and people.

We are all connected through waterways.



Caring for your patch cares for us all

Small Things That Make a BIG Difference

Join in. Caring for creeks is easier together, and more fun! Volunteering with Waterwatch or Landcare is a chance to meet neighbours, share stories and protect the places you love.

Plant and protect. Every tree, shrub and tussock makes a difference. Buffer strips with local natives hold soil, slow rainfall so it soaks in, shelter wildlife and keep waterways clean.

Keep water clean. Compost green waste, maintain your septic system, use less fertiliser and handle chemicals with care. Everything flows downstream and into the waterways which your neighbours may rely on for their water supply.

Keep stock out of waterways. Stock proof fencing, providing troughs and planting natives to hold banks means healthy animals and healthy waterways.


Be water wise. Collect rainwater, put in a raingarden and use water efficient methods to ensure your ongoing water supply and make the most of water on your block.

To learn more about our wonderful waterways visit www.act.waterwatch.org.au

Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch is supported by the ACT Government and Icon Water



Your Patch, Our Rivers



Caring for your patch helps our communities thrive and protects our water supply

Caring for your land year round protects water supplies, helps your environment and your community **thrive**.

SUMMER

Discover waterbugs Platypus eat at least 40,000 of them a day! Join a Waterbug Survey to see what these tiny critters tell us about the health of the creek.

Keep weeds in check Tackling weeds before they go to seed saves you and your neighbours a headache, reducing chemical use keeps rivers clear.

Protect groundcover Strong roots hold soil tight, will help water seep in the ground and stop muddy runoff from reaching creeks during summer storms.

SPRING

Store and dispose of chemicals safely Dispose of unwanted chemicals at Council's Chemical CleanOut days and keep poisons out of our catchments.

Plant and protect Spring weeds spread fast, but local natives planted early grow strong and create safe habitat corridors.

Prepare for summer with care Clear around your home for fire safety while keeping creek lines shaded, with good groundcover and local natives for wildlife.



AUTUMN

Compost your waste Farm, garden and household waste makes great compost. Compost improves soil, acts as a fertiliser and keeps nutrients out of rivers.

Plant local natives Trees, shrubs and grasses filter water, steady banks and give shade and shelter to birds, insects and wildlife.

Treat autumn weeds Controlling weeds now means fewer invaders later, less chemical and effort and healthier catchments for everyone.

WINTER

Repair erosion early Every gully starts small. Fixing ruts in winter saves soil, saves money and protects rivers.

Go platypus spotting These shy creatures are most active at dawn and dusk. Report sightings on the Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch platypus portal to help protect them and their habitat.

Fence stock out of creeks Animals churn up banks and muddy the water. Fencing keeps stock healthy and rivers clean. Buffer strips on waterways can be planted with natives to improve biodiversity.

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