



ACT Water Report

2006–2007

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Front cover photos:

Top: Corin Dam, February 2007 (EPA)
Middle: Egret at Stranger Pond, Bonython (EPA)
Bottom: Pump at Gold Creek Country Club (EPA)

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Ministerial Foreword ACT Water Report 2006–2007



The successful management of the water resources in the ACT is vital to the sustainability of the ACT's waterways and the prosperity of the Canberra region.

The **ACT Water Report 2006–2007** provides important information about our waterways and the impact of the urban, rural, forestry and conservation land practices in the ACT.

The report provides comment on the way in which we use our waterways, from recreation to irrigation. Water allocations and licences to take water for the period 2006–2007 are recorded in the report.

This year the report continues an examination of the way our catchments and waterways are responding to the ongoing impacts of drought and recovery following fire damage. Ongoing stewardship in line with *Think Water Act Water* is the responsibility of us all. Nevertheless the quality of water leaving the Territory is at least as good as that entering it.

Water quality and biological monitoring indicates the health of streams is affected by concentration of pollutants and nutrients, particularly in urban areas. The inflation of key water quality figures following not only the storm on New Year's Eve but also the early winter rains demonstrates the fragile nature of all our riparian systems and the combined pressures placed on them by the on-going drought and urban development. Consequent stormwater discharge can have dramatic effects.

In non-urban areas, streams that deteriorated post-bushfire are showing signs of improvement while riparian vegetation slowly recovers but remains fragile. In the Cotter River, the recovery has included the successful recruitment of Macquarie Perch above the fish-way at Vanity's Crossing.

In addition to the monitoring undertaken by the government, many community organisations are making significant contributions to care of our waterways. Community monitoring programs focus on water quality, and assess aquatic fauna, such as frogs and macroinvertebrates, and riparian condition. Such community groups should be commended for their ongoing dedication to our precious waterways.

Think Water Act Water now shapes the format of the report. The report provides data to demonstrate that water quality in the region is meeting acceptable standards, and there is on-going efficient use of that resource. The report recognises the need for cross-border water management, and includes information on waterway health in relation to the demands of both the local and downstream users. The data presented in the report commends the efforts towards Water Sustainable Urban Design where such planning delivers improved data for urban waterways.

I welcome this Report and look forward to following the continued improvement of our catchments and waterways as they recover from the difficulties of drought and storms.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment, Water and
Climate Change

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