

# Chapter 8: Tharwa Catchment

## 8.1 Catchment profile

### Location

Murrumbidgee River; Junction with Gudgenby River to junction with Tuggeranong Creek

### Area

8,055 ha

### Landuse

60% Rural, 30% Urban, 10% Conservation

### Environmental values

Primary: Conservation  
Secondary: Domestic water supply, irrigation and stock water, recreation—swimming and boating, waterscape, aquatic habitat, discharge stormwater.

### Pre-fire general description

The topography is characterised by steep upper slopes, more gentle lower slopes and river flats along the Murrumbidgee River. Land management practices on some agricultural land has resulted in soil erosion, soil compaction and decline in soil structure.

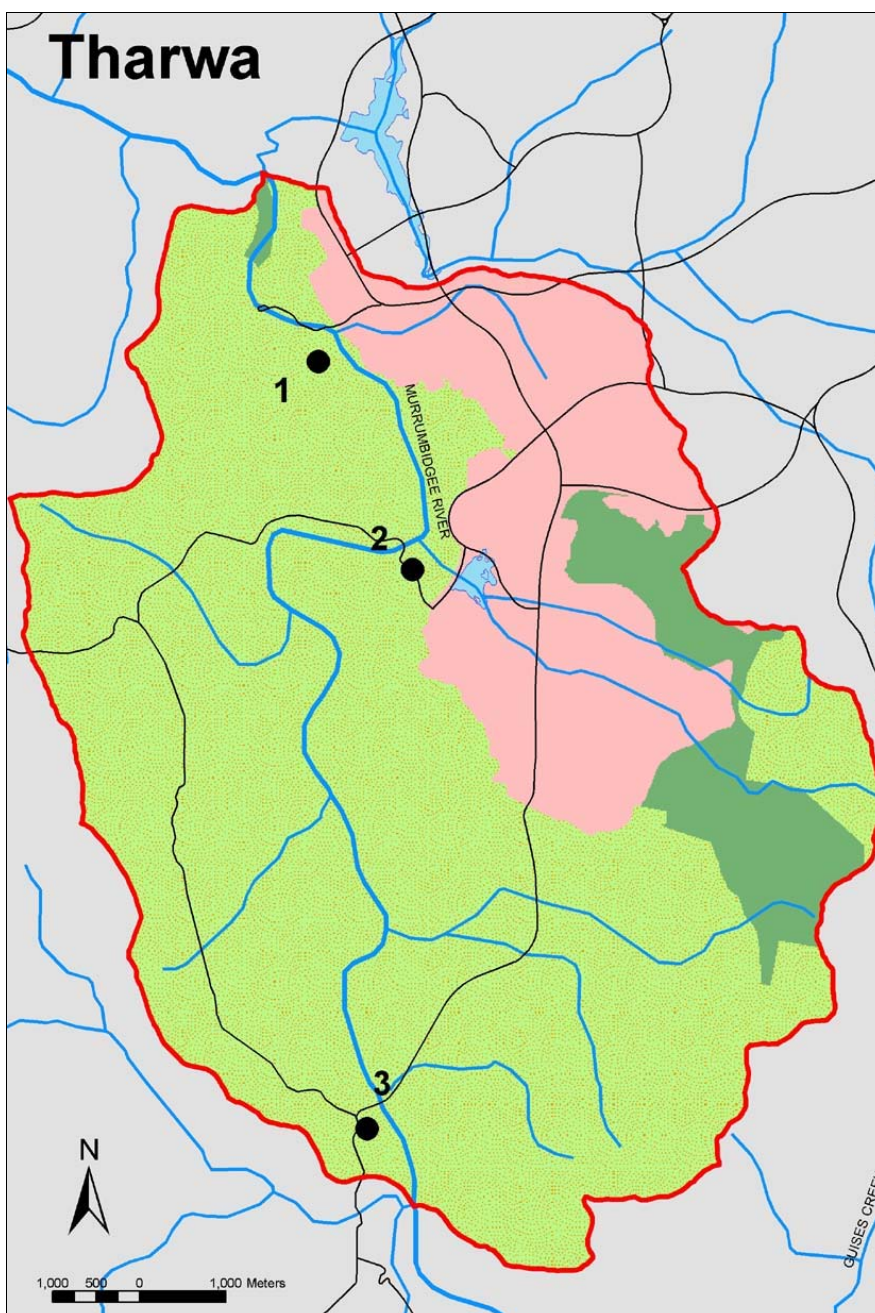
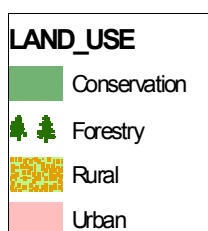
\* Think water act water Volume 3 November 2003

## 8.2 Monitoring sites

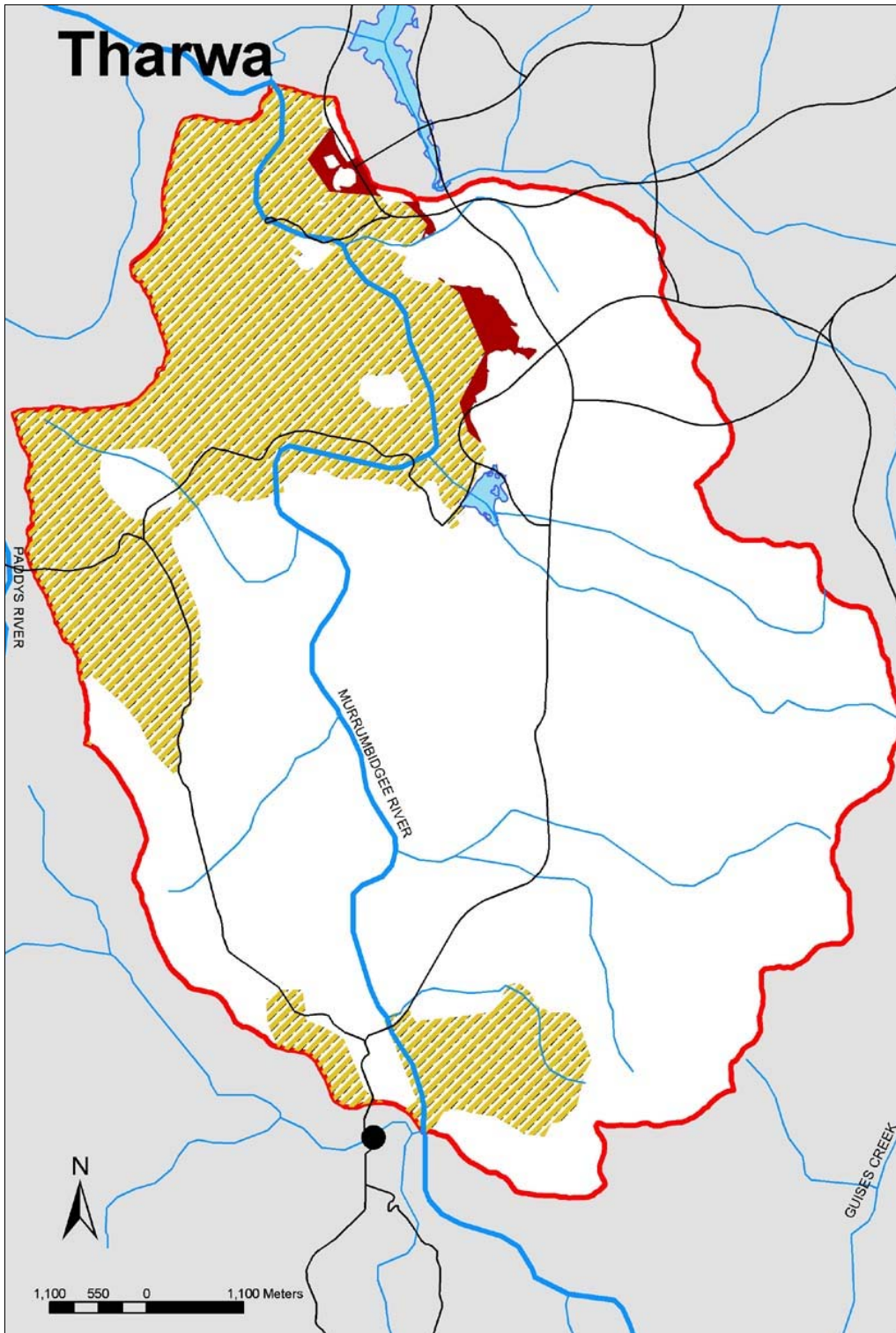
1. Pine Island—  
Murrumbidgee River  
Northing 6076900 Easting 687480

2. Point Hut Crossing—  
Murrumbidgee River  
Northing 6074996 Easting 688230

3. Tharwa Bridge—  
Murrumbidgee River  
Northing 6068682 Easting 687555



### 8.3 Tharwa bushfire severity



#### Monthly average flow

Month Avg Flow (ML)

January 702

February 464

March 510

April 876

May 490

June 530

July 1,239

August 1,126

September 1,154

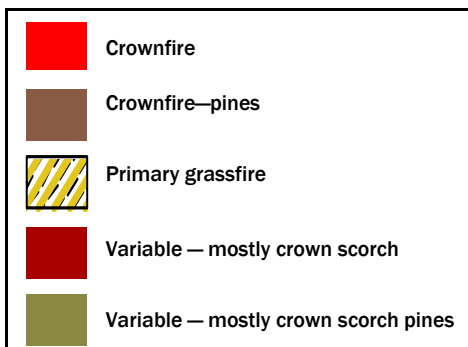
October 1,067

November 816

December 647

**Total 9,622**

Think water act  
water Volume 3  
November 2003



Although the 2003 bushfires only burnt around 30% of this catchment, upstream the badly affected Naas, Orroral and Gudgenby Rivers all drain into the Murrumbidgee River upstream of the Tharwa township.

CAMPFIRE results along this section of the Murrumbidgee River found significant increases in phosphorus particularly after black sticky sediment and mud was washed down from fire affected catchments and left deposited along the rivers edge.