Chapter 6: Uriarra Catchment

6.1 Catchment profile

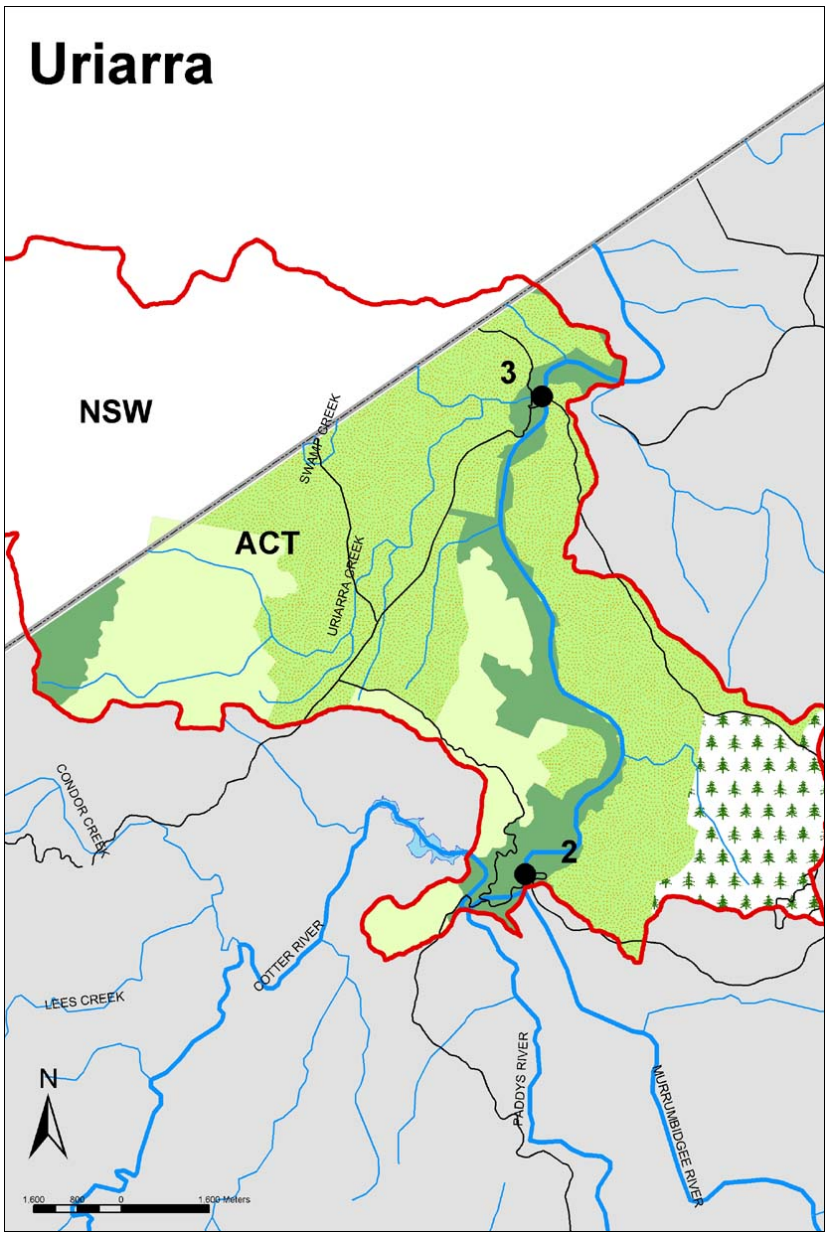
Location Murrumbidgee River; Cotter River to junction with Molonglo River

Area Total—12,282 ha ACT 7,992 ha

Landuse Incomplete information

Environmental values NSW component—no information
ACT component
Primary: Conservation
Secondary: Domestic water supply, irrigation and stock water, recreation—swimming and boating, waterscape, aquatic habitat, discharge—stormwater.

Pre-fire general description:
Small pools and rapids characterise this section of the Murrumbidgee, as it flows through Stony Creek Nature Reserve. Diverse aquatic habitats support populations of native fish and platypus. Steep forested slopes border a wide river channel with extensive sand and gravel margins. Remnant open forest is found on the steep slopes below Mount McDonald and on Stony Creek. Vegetation in the north of the sub-catchment consists of scattered trees, pasture and tea-trees.
* Think water act water Volume 3 November 2003

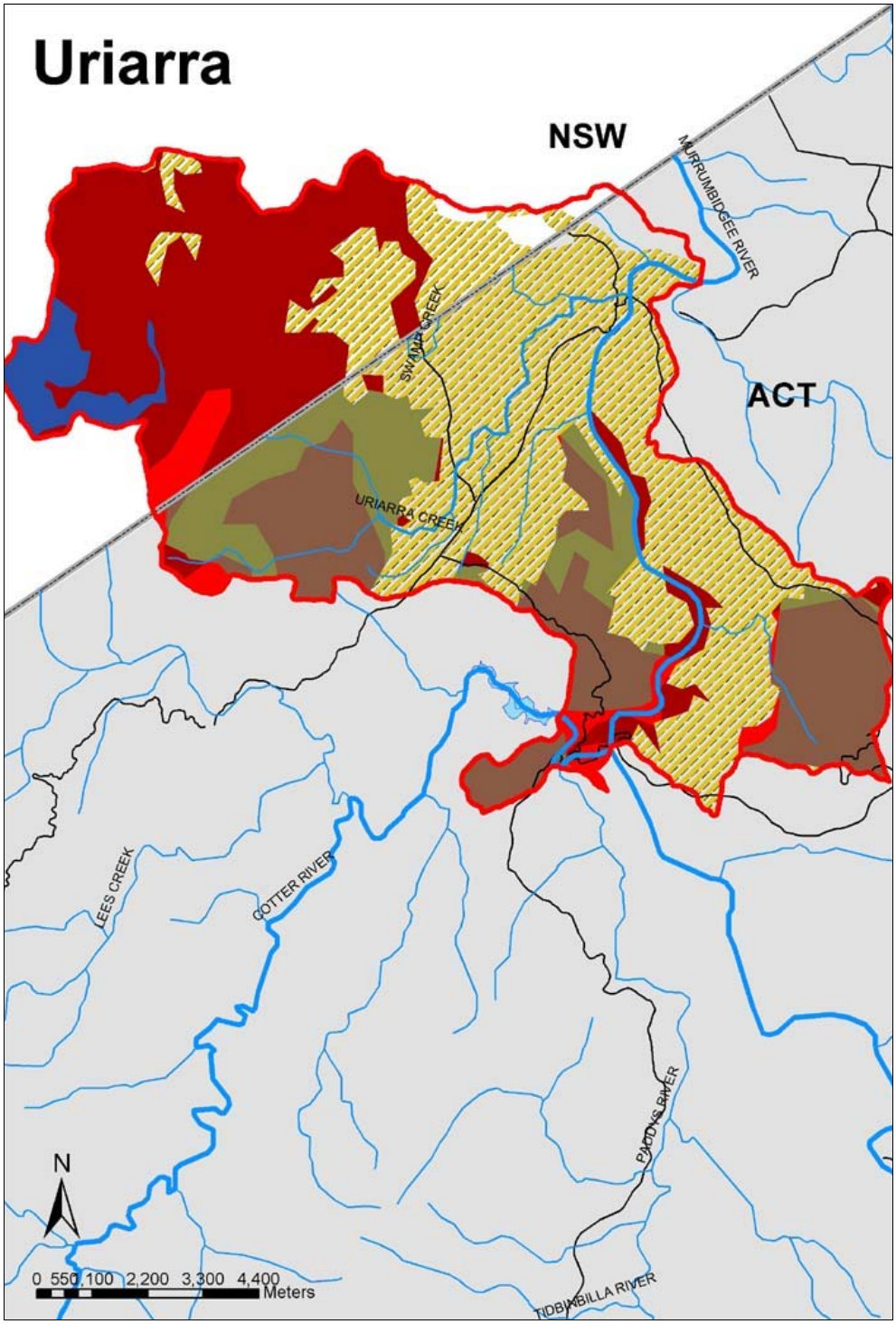


6.2 Monitoring sites

2. Casuarina Sands—Murrumbidgee River
Northing 60893409
Easting 677280

3. Uriarra Crossing—Murrumbidgee River
Northing 6098165
Easting 677612

6.3 Uriarra bushfire severity



Monthly average flow

Month	Avg Flow (ML)
January	1,116
February	794
March	738
April	1,421
May	826
June	916
July	2,069
August	2,152
September	2,095
October	2,154
November	1,537
December	1,191
Total	**17,009**

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- Crownfire
- Crownfire—pines
- Primary grassfire
- Variable — mostly crown scorch
- Variable — mostly crown scorch pines

Extensive crown and crown scorch fire burnt through much of the area surrounding Casuarina Sands and along the Murrumbidgee River corridor. Information collected at Casuarina Sands has been important in assessing the influence of the Paddys and Cotter catchment on the Murrumbidgee River.

The Uriarra monitoring site has provided an indication of water quality as the Murrumbidgee River flow out of bushfire-affected areas and into the rural catchments of NSW.

Results reveal that the water from the Cotter and Paddys Rivers regularly have a detrimental impact on the Murrumbidgee River.