

Timeline

IMAGINE IF THE **LOWER COTTER CATCHMENT RESERVE** COULD SPEAK.

IT WOULD TELL OF A RICH BUT TURBULENT HISTORY...

OVER 20,000 YEARS AGO - PRESENT



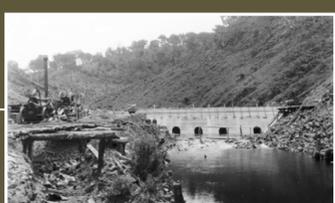
Aboriginal people were the first to recognise the values of this area, utilising its resources and managing it sustainably for tens of thousands of years. Their connection with the land continues today.

EARLY 1800s



Successive waves of rabbit plagues were a feature of the early part of this century. These had a marked effect on vegetation and resulted in massive soil erosion.

1915 - 1918



Construction of the original Cotter Reservoir.

1820 - 1925



European settlers arrived with graziers bringing in sheep and cattle. Native timber was cleared for grazing, and for construction material for local homesteads.

1925 - 1960



Pine plantations were established and came to cover two-thirds of the Lower Cotter Catchment. They were designed to stabilise soils and provide a commercial resource.

1951



The height of the Cotter Dam was raised to 26.8 metres. This dam was the only source of domestic water supply for Canberra at this time.

1938 - 1961



Hardwood logging of native timber supplemented the pine industry. Evidence of old forestry camps, such as Condor Hut, Laurel Camp and Blue Range Hut, remains today.

1958 - 1961



Construction of Bendora Dam provided an alternate water source for Canberra.

1966 - 1968



Construction of Corin Dam, the highest Dam in the Cotter Catchment, further secured Canberra's water supply.

2003



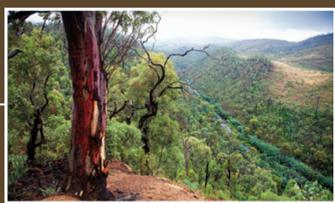
The devastating wildfire of 2003 destroyed most of the plantations and left large parts of the Lower Cotter Catchment devoid of all vegetation.

2003 - 2013



ACT Parks and Conservation Service, ICON Water, Greening Australia and the community formed partnerships to revegetate the fire devastated landscape.

2014



The *Nature Conservation Act 2014* meant that the Lower Cotter Catchment was formally declared a Reserve, giving the ACT Government the power to better protect it.

2015



Small plantations of pine continue to be managed. However, once harvested, these areas will be returned to native vegetation.

2016 - ONWARDS



ACT Parks and Conservation Service is working to restore the native ecology of the Lower Cotter Catchment Reserve and in doing so is securing the future water supply of Canberra.