

FLOOD INFORMATION FOR **WESTON CREEK**

OVERVIEW

Weston Creek is one of eight main water catchments in the ACT. Catchments are areas, usually bounded by hills, where the rain drains into the soil and streams and feeds into a river, creek or drainage line. In Canberra's past, many natural waterways were converted into the familiar concrete storm drain channels as new areas of the city were developed.

Weston Creek is a small catchment in Canberra's south-western suburbs. It extends from Cooleman Ridge Nature Reserve and flows northwards to the Molonglo River, just downstream of Scrivener Dam. The catchment covers approximately 17.3 square kilometres and spans approximately 5 kilometres north-south and 4 kilometres east-west. The catchment is almost fully urbanised, with some rural and forested areas on the southern and western fringes.

The catchment covers the Weston Creek district and includes a mixture of residential subdivisions and the Cooleman Court shopping centre. Residential development began in the late 1960s and was largely complete by the mid to late 1970s. However, substantial infill and redevelopment have taken place over the last 30 years.

This information sheet outlines information about past and potential flooding for the Weston Creek Catchment and what is being done to mitigate the risk of flooding. The risk of flooding in Canberra is low.

TRASH RACK AND LINED CHANNEL, DIXON DRIVE







ARMoured CHANNEL, STREETON DRIVE

FLOOD INFORMATION

Every catchment has its own character, which determines how water flows. This is critical during storms that may lead to flooding. The ACT Government has re-assessed predicted flood paths and flood levels for catchments in the ACT using flood studies based on current industry standards.

Flood maps have been developed for each catchment and reviewed by independent experts for accuracy. The maps highlight flow paths, flood depth and the potential hazard posed by floodwaters arising from Canberra's channels, creeks and rivers. This mapping is complemented by this information sheet and a list of questions and answers web link. The updated maps show the areas which could be affected by flooding from waterways in Canberra during a major flood event, known as a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood. This means that in any given year there is a 1% chance of this type of flood occurring.

See the maps and accompanying information at the ACT Government's ACTmapi website: www.actmapi.act.gov.au.

FLOOD HISTORY

The Weston Creek catchment has flooded relatively frequently over the last ten years, with minor events in 2005, 2007, 2011 and 2014. The catchment topography, density of urban development and relatively small catchment area leave it prone to localised flooding. Such flooding occurs in response to intense, short duration storms; the resulting flooding can be characterised by fast flowing water in and around the creek channel. These events allow minimal warning time, often less than one hour between the onset of rainfall and the arrival of the flood peak.

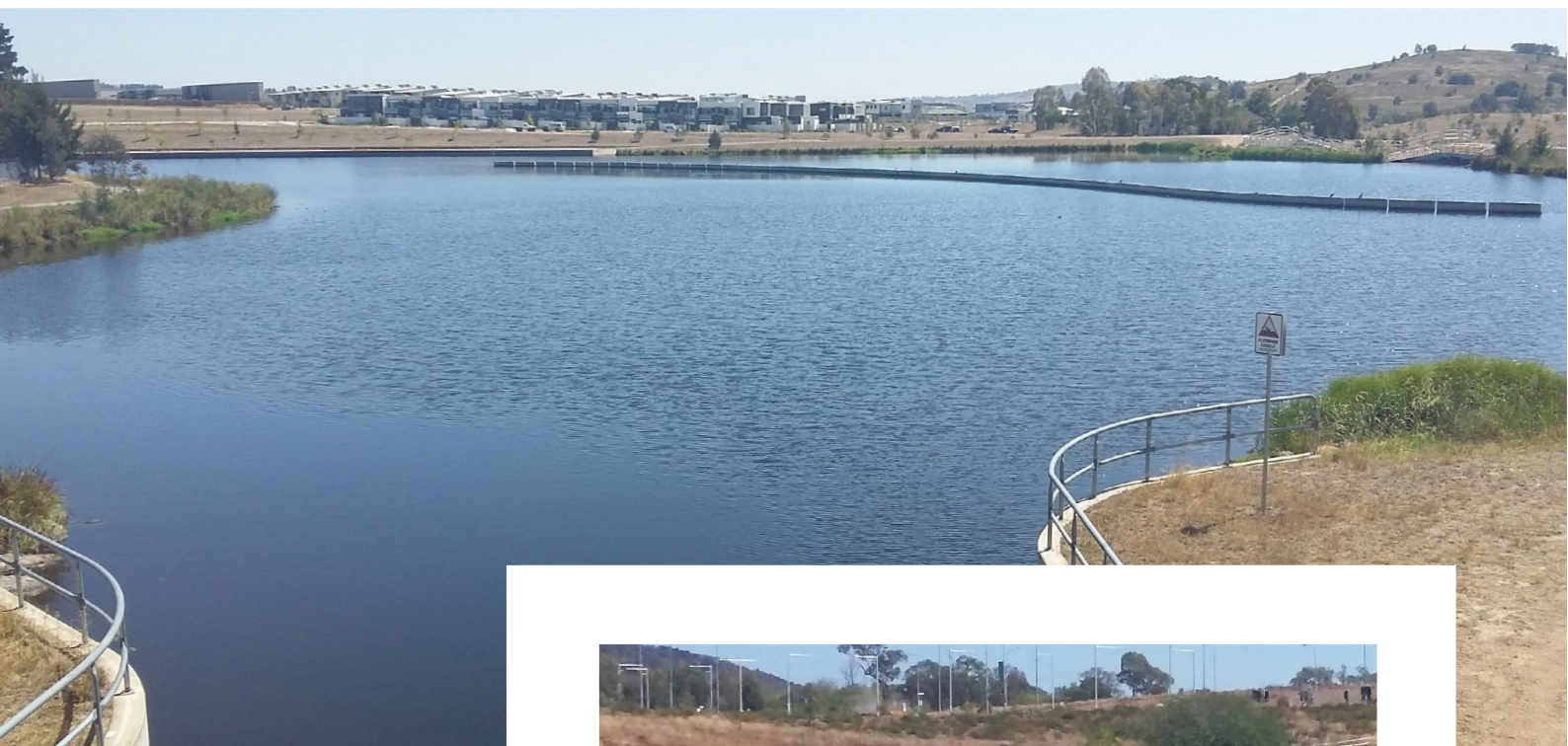
FLOOD MAPS AND AFFECTED AREAS

The new flood maps specifically focus on a potential 1% AEP flood on existing waterways. As explained, there is a 1% chance that such a flood will occur in any given year. The flood maps show the predicted extent, depth and hazard potential of a 1% AEP flood event. Modelling undertaken as part of the Weston Creek Flood Study indicates that the 1% AEP flood event is generally likely to be contained by the channels, culverts and bridges, with limited flooding of surrounding areas. If flooding does occur outside of the channels, flood depths are generally expected to be shallow (below 0.5 metre). However, the maps show that in some places the speed of water flow during a flood would be high, creating potentially hazardous conditions.

Weston Creek is a relatively small catchment and during a 1% AEP flood event, there is the potential of flooding along a small section of Dillon Close.

Please refer to the flood extent map for Molonglo Creek on ACTmapi for the specific details of potential riverine flooding in this catchment.





COOMBS POND

MITIGATION WORKS

The Weston Creek channel and floodway were designed based on information available at the time of construction to accommodate a major flood event without inundating properties or roads. They achieve this except for at the location mentioned above.

Under the Territory Plan, the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) code outlines planning rules for reducing the impact of stormwater through the management of quality and quantity.

The rules are designed so that run-off created by new development does not have an adverse impact on stormwater systems or downstream environments.

In 2013, the North Weston Ponds were constructed on Weston Creek, downstream of Cotter Road, as part of the new Coombs development. These ponds have the capacity to hold some flood waters, which reduces the maximum level of flood events as well as providing water quality benefits.



COOMBS POND

FIND OUT MORE

- For flood maps for this catchment please visit www.actmapi.act.gov.au
- For more information about riverine flooding in Canberra, please visit <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/riverine-flood-maps>
- For information including flood forecasts, road closures and advice on evacuation and property protection, please visit the ACT Emergency Services website at www.esa.act.gov.au.
- For specific information relating to what to do during a flood event or preparing your house for a flood event please call the local ACT SES on 13 22 81.