

FLOOD INFORMATION FOR **WOOLSHED CREEK**

OVERVIEW

Woolshed 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.

The Woolshed Creek catchment is in Canberra's north-east. It extends from the NSW border in the north to the Molonglo River near the Canberra International Airport in the south, and from Mount Ainslie in the west to Sutton Road in the east. The catchment covers approximately 65 square kilometres and spans approximately 9 kilometres north-south and 7.5 kilometres east-west.

The catchment remains largely undeveloped and consists primarily of broadacre agricultural land use with some cultivation. The southern fringes of the catchment contain parts of Canberra International Airport and its associated business centres. The catchment is not zoned for residential development.

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







FLOOD INFORMATION

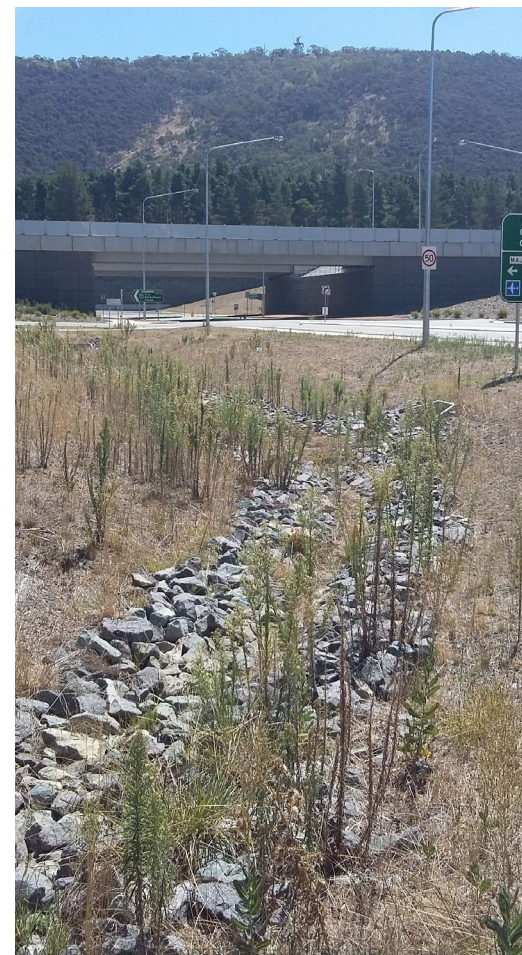
Every catchment has its own character, which determines how water flows. This is critical during storms that may lead to flooding. The ACT Government has re-assessed predicted flood paths and flood levels for catchments in the ACT using flood studies based on current industry standards.

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 Woolshed Creek catchment has not experienced any significant flood events since 1996. This can be attributed to catchment topography and the absence of significant urban development. Flooding within the catchment has limited potential impact on residential and commercial developments. Prolonged, high intensity rainfall is required to cause flooding within this catchment.





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 maps show the predicted extent, depth and hazard potential of a 1% AEP flood event. Modelling undertaken as part of the Woolshed Creek Flood Study indicates that the 1% AEP flood event is generally not contained by the Woolshed Creek channel. Flooding of the creek line and surrounding floodplain would be extensive, with depths between 0.25 metres and 0.5 metres across the broader landscape. Flood depths could exceed 3 metres in some places close to the main channel.

Due to the low number of residences, potential impacts on existing properties would be limited. However, floods would be hazardous in places due to depths and fast flowing water, and caution would need to be exercised in and around these areas.

For the 1% AEP flood event, there is the potential of flooding along some sections of the Majura Road between the Canberra International Airport and the Majura Parkway and around the AFP training area.

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

MITIGATION WORKS

The recently completed Majura Parkway and Ikea store were constructed to be above the 1% AEP flood event.

There will be some localised impacts on roads. More detailed consultation with landholders will be required to better determine the effects of potential flooding on rural properties before planning for mitigation works can be undertaken.

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.