

CARING FOR OUR WATERWAYS

Our lakes and waterways help to make Canberra one of the world's most liveable cities. They are popular places for recreation and relaxation, and they add to the scenic beauty of our landscape. Importantly, they also play a vital role in protecting the health of the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo rivers by reducing the impact of stormwater and trapping sediment and other pollutants.

Unfortunately urban development, past land and water management regimes, poor community awareness around water polluting behaviours and the threat of climate change are placing pressure on our lakes and rivers. In turn, these affect the quality of water flowing out of the ACT into the Murray–Darling Basin.

The ACT Basin Priority Project recognises the importance of reducing these effects, improving water quality and protecting our waterways for future generations.

Announced in 2014, the project is a joint initiative of the Australian and ACT Government which have allocated up to \$93.5 million over five years.

It will focus on six priority catchments – [Yarralumla Creek](#), [Fyshwick](#), [Lake Tuggeranong](#), [Upper Molonglo](#), [Lower Molonglo](#), and [West Belconnen](#)). The ACT Basin Priority Project will be hosting Open House forums in each of the six priority catchments from 28 July through to 6 August (see table below).

The Open House forums have been designed to give community members the opportunity to explore and discuss options for water quality infrastructure development in each of the catchments. This is also an opportunity to meet the project team and for us to capture any additional ideas for water quality infrastructure and feedback on the options presented. We would appreciate you sharing this information with your networks and to this end we will send material for inclusion on websites and newsletters in the next day.

If your organisation would like to have information available for the public at the Open Houses, please let Kate know so that we can allow sufficient space for this to happen.

Open House Forum dates and Venues

Date	Catchment	Sessions	Venue	Consultant
Tuesday 28 July	Lake Tuggeranong	2 – 4 pm 6-8 pm	Tuggeranong Arts Centre	Alluvium and Hydronumerics
Wednesday 29 July	Yarralumla Creek/Woden	2 – 4 pm 6 – 8 pm	Hughes Community Centre	Alluvium
Thursday 30 July	Jerrabomberra Creek/Fyshwick	2 – 4 pm 6 – 8 pm	Jerrabomberra Wetlands Trust Office	AECOM
Tuesday 4th Aug	Lower Molonglo	2 – 4 pm 6 – 8 pm	Weston Creek community centre	Alluvium
Wednesday 5th Aug	Upper Molonglo	2 – 4 pm 6 – 8 pm	Queanbeyan Conference Centre	Alluvium
Thursday 6th Aug	West Belconnen	2 – 4 pm 6 – 8 pm	Riverview Office Kippax	AECOM