



North Central Waterwatch- Community Stream Sampling Program

COMMUNITY STREAM SAMPLING and SALINITY MAPPING in the Murray

Darling Basin

North Central Waterwatch has recently received funding through the Australian Government's "Community Stream Sampling and Salinity Mapping Project—in the Murray Darling Basin". This project will run over two years and is funded under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP). The overall project being managed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) and delivers on the 2004 election commitment of the Australian Government to commit \$20 million to identify and manage underground salt deposits in the Murray Darling Basin.

The main objectives of this program are to:

- build on existing salinity data with the acquisition of new stream sampling and salinity mapping data;
- provide communities within the MDB with the means to identify areas of high salinity risk; and
- prioritise investments for future salinity management by providing comprehensive, comparable data.

COMMUNITY STREAM SAMPLING

The community based stream sampling aspect of this project is designed to strategically monitor salinity, stream flow and temperature within the



Testing for salinity

Murray Darling Basin over a two year period. This project relies on the efforts of the community to undertake surface and shallow water monitoring to provide information which will be used by catchment management

authorities and community groups to plan and target salinity and water management programs. The project will also provide a consistent database on salinity levels across the Murray Darling Basin to assist with setting priorities for future salinity investment.

A web-based database and mapping tool will be developed to allow community groups to enter, access and analyse data. The data will also be collated at the catchment and basin level to provide maps identifying sub-catchment trends.



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Bureau of Rural Sciences

Department of the Environment and Heritage



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COMMUNITY STREAM SAMPLING IN NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA

North Central Waterwatch has recently obtained funding through the Community Stream Sampling and Salinity Mapping program that will build on its existing community monitoring program.

Efforts will be focussed on recruiting and training new and current community monitors to collect salinity data at strategic locations along waterways and shallow water courses. North Central Waterwatch have developed a range of supporting documents, including a data confidence plan, interpretation and methods manual and regional monitoring plan to assist community monitors in gathering superior water quality data.

The North Central Community Stream Sampling program only requires monitors to test for electrical conductivity (salinity), temperature and stream flow. However, there are a range of other parameters community monitors can monitor by participating in the existing North Central Waterwatch program in conjunction with this new program.

Water quality monitoring is performed on a monthly basis to ensure that a comprehensive dataset is created, from which reliable trends can be extrapolated. Strategic monitoring sites, chosen by Waterwatch staff, are allocated to community monitors depending on the individual's/group's interest and location.

Salinity information gathered through this program will be of great use to the community, government agencies and other land managers

within the North Central region, as well as contributing to the overall dataset collected across all regions within the Murray Darling Basin.

We need YOUR help

We are seeking new community monitors across the North Central region to collect water quality information along currently unmonitored sections of waterways. As a Community Stream Sampling monitor you receive training in correct water quality testing and sampling procedures, water quality testing equipment and a sampling extension pole. If you are interested in water quality along a particular section of a waterway near you, get in contact with us and we will set you up as a monitor. A wide range of possible waterbody types can be monitored, including: rivers, creeks, lakes, dams, bores, wetlands, channels, springs, reservoirs and drains.



Electrical Conductivity (salinity) meter

North Central Waterwatch will supply all training and water quality testing equipment FREE of charge, and all we ask for in return is a copy of your monthly results!

To find out more about this program please contact Leigh Mitchell, Regional Waterwatch Coordinator, on 54401829 or email leigh.mitchell@nccma.vic.gov.au.