

# Saltwatch WEEK

21-27 MAY 2017

## North Central Waterwatch

### Annual Salinity Snapshot Report 2017

Salinity is a major issue in waterways across Victoria. By practicing in good land management and participating in monitoring programs the salinity risk can be reduced.



*Become a Citizen Scientist and help protect your local waterway!*

## About Saltwatch Week

Collecting samples from local creeks, rivers or streams provides vital information about the health of the region's precious waterways. Creeks, rivers and streams provide important cultural, recreational and economic benefits to local communities. Their health is important to future users.

Saltwatch is an environmental monitoring program that helps communities understand the salinity problem in our waterways. Saltwatch began in 1987, and is Australia's longest-running community monitoring program.

During Saltwatch Week each year, schools and community groups from all over Victoria learn about the effects of salinity on water quality in their local catchment by collecting water samples and testing them with a salinity meter to determine salt content.

## About Salinity

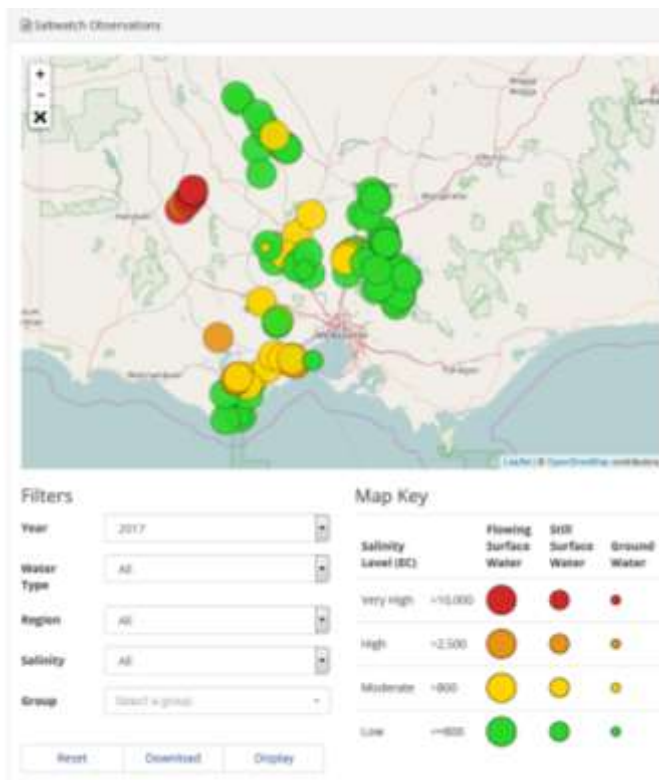
Salinity is a major issue in waterways across Victoria. Land use changes and poor land management such as clearing of native vegetation, removal of riparian vegetation, poor livestock and crop location, and urban development have all had a significant impact on the level of salt in our waterways.

High levels of salinity can severely limit the growth and diversity of vegetation, reduce the capacity and productivity of land, degrade habitats, decrease fauna health and diversity, affect water quality, reduce the value of water and contribute to erosion and damage infrastructure.

## Saltwatch Week 2017 Results

Across Victoria, more than 117 sites were tested by community volunteers or school groups as they actively participated in Saltwatch. In the North Central CMA region, four community groups and four primary schools tested 36 sites.

Overall, most sites were considered to be in the good to moderate range for salinity across Victoria. Five sites were assessed as having high salt content above 2,500Q/cm, one in the Goulburn Broken and seven in the Corangamite CMA region. Tea Tree Creek at Elaine-Morrisons Road Bridge Crossing was reported with highest result of 8290 Q/cm.



A further six sites tested recorded very high readings above 10,000 Q/cm. All these sites were in the North Central CMA region, with Richardson's River at Raseigh's Ford recording a whopping 33,900Q/cm.



## What can be done to reduce the salinity risk?

By practicing good land management, such as protecting ground cover and native vegetation along waterways, developing water-sensitive urban design communities, and working with local communities to understand good crop and livestock locations, we can work towards managing the salinity risk to waterways across Victoria.

## To view the data

If you would like to view the statewide salinity snapshots results go to:

[www.vic.waterwatch.org.au](http://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au)

To view results from the north central region, check out the map down the page. It highlights monitoring points for sites registered in the Saltwatch Week's Salinity Snapshot and are colour coded to represent whether they fall within the Excellent, Good or Degraded ranges.



## How to get involved

Contact your local Waterwatch Coordinator at the North Central CMA

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