



## What is a catchment ... a 'handy' map

### Narrate the following story:

"Your hand is like a map of the catchment. Hold out your hand palm upwards. Make a 'cup shape' with your hand so you can see the lines in the palm of your hand very clearly."

"Your fingers are like our mountain ranges surrounding the ACT. The hills and mountains of the Brindabella and Namadgi Ranges. Now imagine it is starting to rain and you catch some water in your hand.

Imagine the lines in your hand are like the rivers Murrumbidgee River, Queanbeyan River, Molonglo River, that collect the water from the mountains and filling lakes. The large area of land that sends water to the river and its waterways is called a catchment.

When it rains on the mountains and snow melts after winter, the water soaks into the ground. Then water and rain runs off, flowing down the sides of mountains (the lines of your fingers) to form the creeks and rivers.

The Cotter River on the west of ACT. On the south east of Canberra, creeks flow from the Monaro and Tinderry ranges to form the Queanbeyan River. These rivers join the Murrumbidgee River flowing south from the snowys, to the west of the ACT onto its journey to the sea.

Our catchment rivers is where we build the dams to hold our water supply, for our urban cities and towns and houses. In Canberra we have four water supply dams; Corin and Bendora and Cotter Dams and the Googong Reservoir.

Everyone lives in a catchment. Here we build our cities, house and suburbs. Water is sourced from our catchments to our taps that we used every day for the communities health and wellbeing.

Using our water sustainably and taking care of what goes down our drains and by looking after our water supply environments, are important ways we all can help protect our catchments and urban water cycle."

Use the ACT urban water cycle activity to learn and label the parts of the water cycle (natural) and the built features that make up the urban water cycle.

