



Media Statement

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Snapshot gathers big picture of Hotham and Williams salinity

The health of the Hotham and Williams rivers systems will get their annual check up with the Salinity Snapshot on August 14.

The Annual Hotham-Williams Rivers Salinity Snapshot is an important yearly event that helps investigate the extent of salinity in the waterways of the Williams and Hotham rivers and their tributaries in the Peel-Harvey Catchment.

Sponsored by Worsley Alumina, the results of the Salinity Snapshot are important for informing projects such as the Hotham-Williams-Murray Rivers Salinity Recovery Project, undertaken by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, GHD Pty Ltd and the Department of Water.

“The Salinity Snapshot is made distinctive by its successful partnership approach,” Department of Water Ribbons of Blue coordinator Catherine Johnstone said.

“Since its conception the event has been conducted as a collaborative initiative between industry, government, community and environmental and catchment representatives.

The Salinity Snapshot gathers research to assess the salinity levels of the Hotham and Williams rivers and their tributaries, and measures whether they have increased or decreased.

“Within this, the intention is also to understand the levels, trends and impacts of land-use changes on the interrelated parameters of pH, total nitrogen, total phosphorous and TSS,” Ms Johnstone said.

“It also serves to raise awareness among the local community about water quality in their catchment, and encourage remedial action/protection of the waterways.”

Results will be used to identify actions that can be taken to reduce the effects of salinity and other land use impacts, as well as potential acid sulphate soils.

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