

Annual Waterways Report

Port Davey Catchment

Water Assessment Branch

2009

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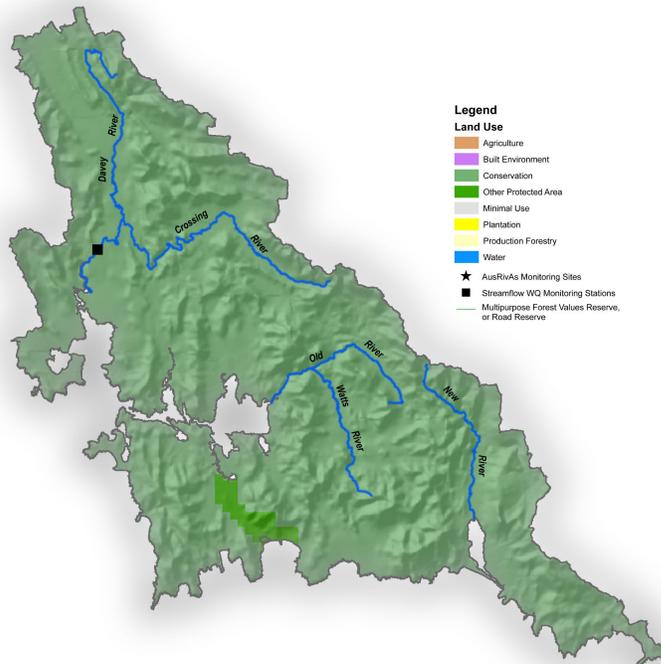
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Port Davey Catchment

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1. About the catchment

The Port Davey catchment has an area of 2,840 km² and is located on the very south-west of Tasmania. The catchment lies entirely within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, with the exception of 128 hectares south of Melaleuca Inlet that is held under a mining lease. The area is a pristine, windswept landscape of lowland buttongrass plains surrounded by Precambrian-aged mountain ranges. As well as the strong winds of the Roaring Forties that buffet the region, the area is wet, with an average annual rainfall (as recorded at Port Davey) that exceeds 2,200 mm.

The only human-related activity within the catchment that has impacted to any degree on environmental condition is alluvial tin mining in the Melaleuca area, which commenced in 1936 and continues at a low level to the present day. The majority of the area is used primarily for tourism, with bushwalkers entering via the South Coast walking track and other tourists flying into Bathurst Harbour and Melaleuca from Hobart.

2008 Waterways Monitoring Report

2. Streamflow

Streamflow

There is one streamflow monitoring station maintained in the Port Davey catchment as part of the DPIW state-wide monitoring network. This station is:

- Davey River downstream Crossing River (473).

Data from this station should be viewed with some caution as very few high flow gaugings have been collected to establish and verify discharge (ML/day) at high flows.

Streamflow in the Davey downstream of Crossing River experienced a fairly consistent pattern of high flows throughout the year. Lowest flows occurred in January, and highest flows in winter and spring. The minimum flow recorded during the year was 179 ML/day (Jan), and the maximum 20,988 ML/day (Jun).

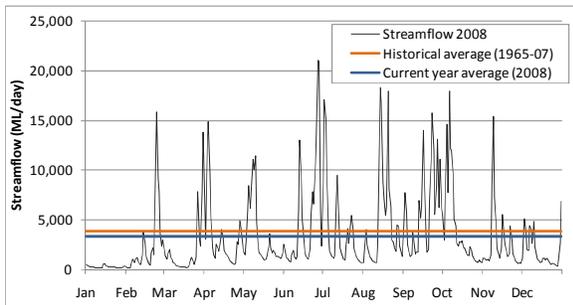


Fig: Time series of in 2008 streamflow in the Davey River downstream Crossing River (station 473), plus a comparison of current year average flow with the historical.

Monthly discharges were above historical averages in February, June, and September, and significantly less than the average in January.

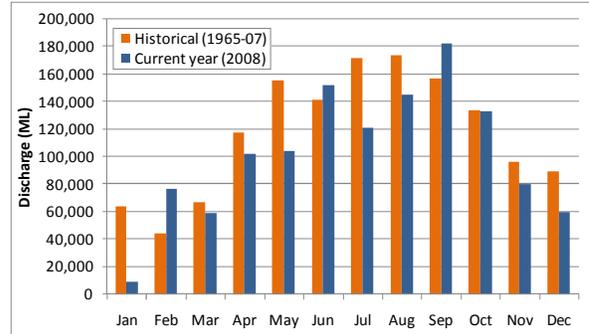


Fig: Comparison of total monthly discharge with the historical average for the Davey River downstream Crossing River (station 473).

Water Allocation

The Port Davey catchment had no licensed allocations in 2008.

Water Use Restrictions

There are no water restriction triggers in existence for the Port Davey catchment.



Fig: Davey River streamflow monitoring station.