

## **What is a Catchment?**

A catchment is an area of land bounded by natural features such as hills or mountains, from which all runoff water flows to a low point - like rain on a roof flowing to a downpipe. In the case of a catchment, low points include any body of water such as a creek, river, lake, estuary, wetland, sea or ocean.

Catchments may also be referred to as a catchment area; drainage, river or water basin; or a watershed.

Catchments vary in size. Large catchments may be bound by mountain ranges and include a large network of many creeks and rivers. These networks can be broken up into smaller sub-catchments, bound by lower hills and ridges and drained by smaller creeks or gullies. The Pine Rivers Catchment Map shows the entire catchment and the smaller sub-catchments.

How each of these sub-catchments are managed affects the overall larger catchment, as what occurs upslope affects areas downslope and what occurs upstream can affect what goes on downstream and vice versa.