

Open access to Australia's water data



Water Data Online (WDO) services are now available through web-based geospatial explorers, ensuring that more users have timely access to the best available water information for Australia.

New ways to access Water Data Online

WDO provides free access to nationally consistent water information collected by the Bureau of Meteorology under the Water Regulations (2008). Until recently, national data were only available through the WDO portal. Through a collaboration between the Bureau of Meteorology, Data 61 and the National Environmental Information Infrastructure programme (NEII) water data are now available as NEII-conforming open data through related portals including the NEII viewer. This is the first release of such a rich time series of environmental data through a standards-based architecture in Australia. It provides users with access to the best available national water data to support the needs of government, industry and research sectors.

About Water Data Online

Watercourse level and discharge time series data collected from approximately 4000 measurement stations from 17 organisations across Australia are currently available through Water Data Online. The Bureau will continue to expand the number of water information categories and water monitoring stations presented. Water data are now available through an NEII-conforming Sensor Observation Service standard returning data in WaterML2 format. The standard was developed by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) to support the delivery of time-series environmental observations.

A National Environmental Information Infrastructure

The Bureau has been leading the development of a National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII) to improve discovery, access and re-use of national environmental data. Central to the philosophy of NEII is that data remain curated and stored at-source where the domain expertise lies. Through the adoption of standards it can then be made accessible and re-useable beyond its intended purpose. The WDO SOS2 release is the first NEII-conforming release of environmental observations (time-series data) adding to the portfolio of other data services available from partner organisations including Geoscience Australia and the Department of the Environment. These are all accessible at www.neii.gov.au/viewer.

Terria: federated spatial data exploration by Data61

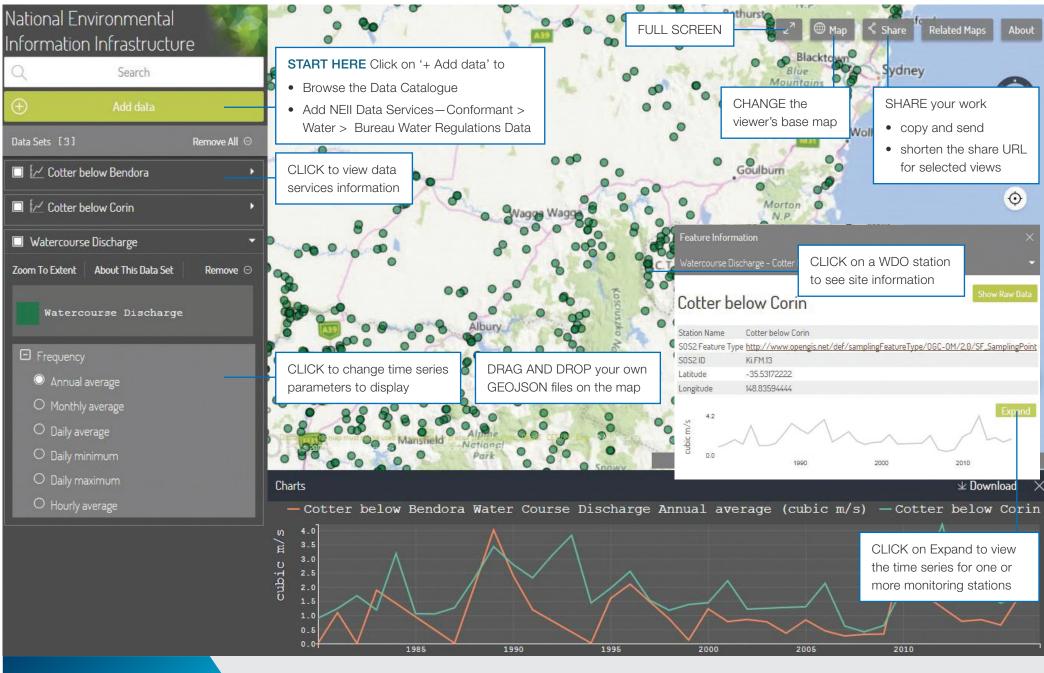
Terria technology has been developed by Data61 to support deployment of federated spatial data explorers. Terria maps use the TerriaJS software to provide access to a larger number of spatial data services directly from the custodian, allowing users to search, explore, share and integrate data. Terria maps are being used for policy development, decision support and research.

Future activities

As new WDO datasets are made available they will be released through the NEII viewer and related Terria portals. In parallel, Data61 are implementing enhancements to improve the user experience of discovering and using environmental data such as WDO.







FIND OUT MORE

To access Water Data Online in your systems or to leverage TerriaJS capabilities to build new applications with water information please contact: Data61 Terria—info@terria.io, NEII—environment@bom.gov.au or Bureau of Meteorology Water Information—waterinfo@bom.gov.au.