

Platypus in Colah Creek

In 2022, the first ever confirmed sighting was made of a platypus within Colah Creek. The sighting inspired a grant-funded community project to increase local knowledge, monitor rural creeks for platypus eDNA, and help raise awareness amongst residents and property owners.

Experts now assume platypus are present within Colah Creek in a low density population and are therefore extremely vulnerable to local extinction.



Hornsby Shire Council
working together with:



STILL CREEK LANDCARE



Get in touch if you have seen a platypus or have any questions.



hornsby.nsw.gov.au/platypus



Introducing your special neighbour

THE PLATYPUS



Shy and elusive, platypus make the perfect neighbour.

Find out what YOU can do to be a good neighbour in return.





How to be a good neighbour

PLANT NATIVE PLANTS ALONG THE CREEK

Plant and maintain locally-native, platypus-friendly plants along waterways. This will protect the creek banks and provide areas for the platypus to live. Go to FriendsBerowraValley.org.au/riparian-restoration to find out more.

COVER EXTRACTION PUMP OUTLETS

To prevent platypus and other aquatic wildlife from being sucked into water extraction pumps or water-powered generators, a mesh cover should be fitted at all intake points and checked regularly.

NO OPERA-HOUSE STYLE YABBIE TRAPS

Opera house-style yabbie traps and homemade equivalents are responsible for drowning many creek critters such as platypus, turtles, water birds, and Australian native water rats. These traps are illegal and are no longer permitted in NSW waters.

CONTROL YOUR DOGS AND CATS

Don't let your pets wander unsupervised at night. This will help safeguard both their welfare and local wildlife. Even during the day, uncontrolled dogs and cats can disrupt the natural behaviour of wildlife.

PREVENT SEDIMENT RUN-OFF

When building or disturbing areas make sure no sediment runs off into a stormwater drain or creek.

THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN

Whatever goes down the drains of our stormwater system ends up in the local creek – litter, dog poo, grass clippings, car wash detergent, fertilisers and pesticides.



Platypus are declining across Australia

The future of this extraordinary monotreme (an egg-laying mammal) lies in the balance. Platypus are facing a silent extinction and it is vitally important for all of us to take action to protect them and their habitat.

Healthy waterways and platypus-friendly native vegetation along our creeks are essential for this local population to survive and, over time, to increase and thrive.

Having the only known population of platypus within Hornsby Shire makes Colah Creek a very special place! Care for your environment and think of ways you can help to look after this extraordinary animal.



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