



20 October 2022

*Residents of Colah Creek, Still Creek, Glenorie Creek & Fiddletown Creek Catchments*

Dear Sir/Madam

Seeking local knowledge or sightings of platypus

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I am pleased to advise that Council in partnership with three community groups (Streamwatch, Still Creek Catchment Landcare & Friends of Berowra Valley) have been successful in receiving \$10,000 for a Sydney Water 'Healthy Waterways' Community Grant and will soon be working on a new project to establish if platypus are living in our local rural creeks.

Platypus were not known to inhabit any waterway within Hornsby Shire. However, in August this year one was sighted and recorded within the Colah Creek catchment. This is very exciting and clearly demonstrates the importance of keeping our waterways as healthy as possible.

But we need your help. Residents of local catchments – between Galston and Forest Glen - are encouraged to notify the project team of any platypus they may have sighted over the last few years to help establish water sampling sites.

Once the sites are established, monitoring for platypus using eDNA – an innovative, non-invasive sampling technique that analyses a small water sample for traces of DNA left by fauna that use the waterbody — will commence to track local population numbers.

The results of the eDNA analysis will allow this pilot project to target educational and habitat restoration programs and build community knowledge for improved environmental awareness and outcomes in the catchment.

To share local knowledge or report platypus sightings please email [platypus@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:platypus@hornsby.nsw.gov.au), or for further information contact Kristy Guise (Environmental Scientist Water) 9847 6874, or visit: [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/platypus](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/platypus)

Yours faithfully

Philip Ruddock

Mayor

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