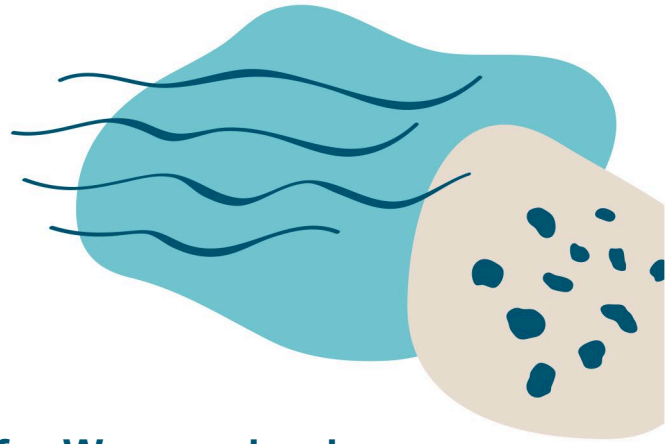


Media Release



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Platypus refuge demonstration site for Warrnambool

Warrnambool's Merri River will become a demonstration site for platypus with a new project being delivered by Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

The project will install habitat such as logs and rocks into the waterway to promote invertebrates like yabbies and waterbugs which are important food for platypus.

The \$80,000 project will begin in coming months, with the installation work to be completed by June 2024.

"We know the Merri River is home to platypus and this project will encourage them to build their population even more by establishing areas for their food source to be more readily available," Glenelg Hopkins CMA CEO, Adam Bester, said.

The waterways around Warrnambool have been a focus of work for the CMA, Warrnambool City Council and key community groups like Mad for the Merri, with the CMA currently undertaking the Rivers of Warrnambool Flagship project on the Merri and Hopkins Rivers and their tributaries.

"This platypus habitat project is a bonus addition to the Rivers of Warrnambool project work now underway and complements our Bromfield Street weir removal project, both of which have a clear focus to support the platypus population of Warrnambool."

The project will help highlight the importance of platypus in Victoria and the need for appropriate management of our urban rivers and is funded through the Victorian Government's investment in restoration works at key platypus habitat sites.

The new project builds on the successful platypus projects delivered by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, including Platycam – the world's only livestream of platypus in their natural habitat – on Hamilton's Grange Burn waterway, launched in 2023.

Mr Bester said the project will involve the community and likely involve some platypus interpretation signage and a community event later in the year.

"We encourage the local community to stay in touch with the CMA and look out for project updates and opportunities via our social media channels and website," he said.

Find the CMA online at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au and on social media channels.

ENDS



CAPTION: Warrnambool's Merri River will become a demonstration site for platypus refuge. IMAGE: *Peter Menkhorst.*

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