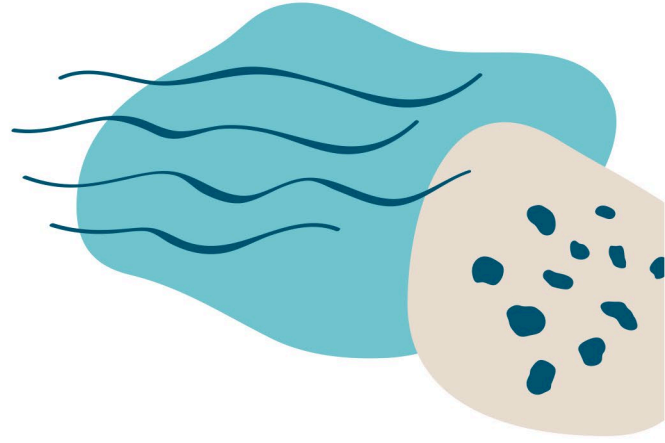


# Media Release



17 June 2024

## **\$1.6m PLATYPUS PROJECTS BEGIN IN WARRNAMBOOL**

\$1.6million of works to support, create and protect platypus habitat are now underway on, in and around the Merri and Hopkins Rivers in Warrnambool.

The projects are part of the statewide Platy Patch project and will be delivered by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and project partners at four sites around Warrnambool.

A total of almost \$1,652,000 will be invested in the projects locally, with funding from both the Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program and Victorian Government through the Rivers of Warrnambool Flagship Waterways Project.

“There has been a lot of planning going on in the background for these projects for a long period of time, and it’s exciting these projects are underway in our local area,” Glenelg Hopkins CMA CEO Adam Bester said.

The first of these project has completed platypus habitat installation at Jubilee Park at Woodford recently.

“There’s growing concern over the plight of the Platypus, and a well-planned, coordinated and effective program is needed to help improve their status,” Mr Bester said.

“Having these four projects on the major waterways of Warrnambool completed over the next four years goes a long way to supporting the species survival for generations in that coordinated way,” he said.

Platypus are difficult creatures to study, since they are secretive and mainly active at night, dusk and dawn. Whilst they are found across much of Victoria, they need reliable surface water and flows, stable banks to burrow, intact streamside vegetation, instream woody habitat and sufficient invertebrate food.

These types of works will occur in the Warrnambool projects and build on the significant works the CMA has already undertaken to support the rivers around Warrnambool, including fish habitat works, riverbank woody weed removal, and stream connectivity over the last 20 years.

These four projects will be undertaken by Glenelg Hopkins CMA in partnership with a variety of stakeholders including private landholders, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Warrnambool City Council and local angling and community groups.

These four projects are in addition to other platypus projects the CMA is already undertaking locally and comes after the highly successful 2022 launch of Platycam in Hamilton, the world’s only livestream of platypus in the wild.

The landmark \$24 million Platy Patch project, jointly funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, the Victorian Government and One Tree Planted, will work to improve critical habitat at 14 sites across Victoria over the next four years under the guidance of Victoria's leading ecological research centre, the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI).

Catchment Management Authorities, Melbourne Water, Coliban Water, One Tree Planted, Zoos Victoria, the Australian Platypus Conservancy, various local governments, Parks Victoria, Landcare and DEECA will work together with ARI on the restorative project.

## ENDS

### Media notes:

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Platycam livestream can be viewed at [www.platycam.com.au](http://www.platycam.com.au)

Details about the wider Platy Patch project can be found online at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/conservation/urban-rivers-catchments-program#victoria> 3



*CAPTION: The Platypus habitat installation works recently completed at Jubilee Park is just one of the four projects being undertaken around Warrnambool.*