



Media Release

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Rare platypus sighting confirms Nepean River health

A rare sighting of a platypus has been captured on film by a Council employee who spotted the native animal in the Nepean River in the Camden area.

The brief encounter with the platypus is evidence of the environmental health of the area's waterways.

"The platypus forms part of Council's logo as a symbol of the priority we place on protecting and sustaining the area's natural biodiversity," said Mayor Lara Symkowiak.

"Platypus are only found in parts of Australia's east coast and have been seen in the Nepean River on occasion during the past 100 years," Cr Symkowiak said.

"This sighting is encouraging that the collaborative efforts of the community, government agencies and Council in sustaining the habitat of the native wildlife in our region," she said.

"It is also a reminder that we need to remain vigilant in waste and weed management that can harm the flow of waterways," she said.

Platypus need to eat up to a third of their body weight in water bugs each day, and the healthier a waterway, the more water bugs on offer.

The biggest threat to the platypus is the loss of habitat, especially land clearing and dams that disrupt the natural water flow, and predation.

Entanglement in litter, especially discarded fishing line, and yabby traps cause many drowning deaths of platypus.

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