

# CARING FOR THE CAMPASPE

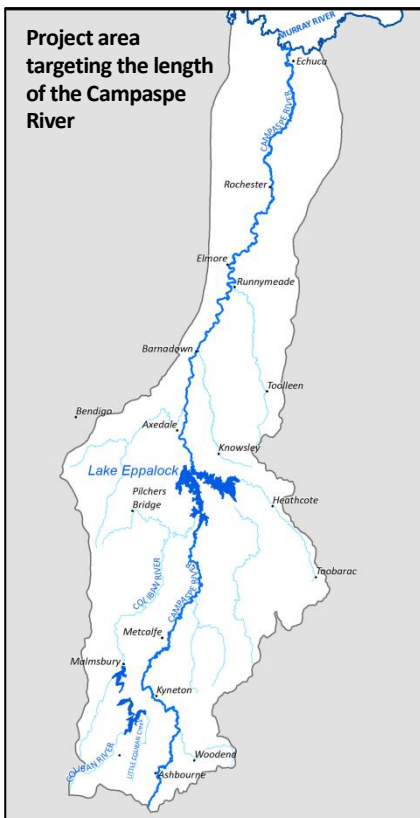
## THE CAMPASPE RIVER

The Campaspe River extends 250km from the Great Dividing Range near Ashbourne to Echuca on the Murray River.

Containing many threatened flora and fauna, the river is highly valued for the social and economic benefits it provides to adjacent landholders, towns and surrounding communities.

The health of the river is directly linked to the health of the fringing (riparian) vegetation.

Since 2012, the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) protected and enhanced 457ha of riparian vegetation with funding from the Victorian Government.



## PROJECT GOALS

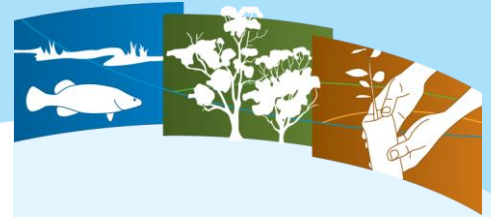
In 2016, the North Central CMA secured a further \$3M over four years through the Victorian Government's Regional Riparian Action Plan to continue this project and build on the strong working relationships with landholders and public land managers.

This project aims to complement the river health improvements to be gained through the delivery of environmental flows (downstream of Lake Eppalock).

The riparian (streamside) vegetation plays an important role in the health of the river. A diversity of native trees, shrubs and grasses shade (cool) the water, hold the banks together and filter runoff from adjacent farmland. It provides a source of food and shelter for both terrestrial and aquatic fauna, including Murray Cod, Platypus and threatened terrestrial species.



Endangered Small Scurf-pea (*Cullen parvum*)



## ON-GROUND WORKS

More than 650 landholders along the river have been given the opportunity to get involved in the project, with 100 involved to date. This may be directly through the uptake of incentives for their river frontage or involvement in community engagement activities.

The 2016-20 project has been funded to deliver the following on-ground outputs:

- 52km of riparian fencing
- Reducing stock access to 150ha of riparian land
- 14 offstream watering systems to continue to provide access for stock to water
- 53ha of willow, gorse, hawthorn and blackberry weed control
- 55ha of revegetation
- Engage with over 1,000 community members to raise awareness of the Campaspe River and how we can all better manage it

*"The North Central CMA has done a first class job in clearing the Campaspe (of willows) to our eastern border. The staff involved showed excellent planning, execution and communication."*

Steve Marriott, Carlsruhe landholder



Kyneton Secondary College students replaced willows with native plants, November 2016 (Photo: Sandy Scheltema)



# CARING FOR THE CAMPASPE

## PROJECT REFERENCE GROUP

Given the broad geographic area through which the river winds, a Project Reference Group guides the planning of community engagement activities, prioritisation of on-ground works and future project funding opportunities.

*"This project is a fantastic opportunity for Campaspe River landholders and adjoining communities to implement and support significant on-ground works."*

*"These on-ground works will improve river health and water quality with an increased awareness of the Campaspe River's values."*

*"The support of communities and the adoption of the works program by landholders have been very impressive and significant riparian planting and fencing as well as willow and woody weed control has been achieved."*

Colin Smith, Project Reference Group Chair and CCC member

The group meets quarterly and involves representatives from the community, local government, investor Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, Goulburn-Murray Water and the following Aboriginal corporations:

- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans
- Taungurung Clans
- Yorta Yorta Nations



Onground works team members of Dja Dja Wurrung and Yorta Yorta Nations with DELWP representatives at a Project Reference Group meeting, November 2014

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Increasing the awareness and understanding of the river's values, threats and management is a key objective of the project

Information and advice is provided on-site to landholders managing river frontages and topic-based events, e.g. cultural heritage, environmental flows.

The broader community is also engaged through project promotion at the Elmore Field Days, Kyneton Agricultural Show, Campaspe Carp Catch and other events.



Discovering the river's waterbugs at the Kids by the Campaspe event, November 2016

The project has also supported the delivery of the Waterwatch River Detectives program to more than eight schools along its length. About 150 students are involved in collecting and sharing monthly water-quality data.

To hear more about the experiences of participating landholders, school children and community groups, visit [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)

## A SUCCESS STORY

The Campaspe River and Land Management Group at Kyneton has been working to improve the river environment along the 3.5km river walk through the town for many years.

Since 2013, the project has worked collaboratively with the Group to remove willows and revegetate the riverbanks along the public land.



Willow infestation and uncontrolled cattle access opposite the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, March 2016

The project has also worked with several landholders on the opposite bank to complete the work.



The river at Kyneton after the removal of willows, fencing to exclude cattle and revegetation with native plants, July 2016

*"We thought all our work was going to fall apart ...they have been fundamental in clearing the other side of the river. The other side was just as infested as this side...so they're doing the other half and it looks great."*

Don and Jessie Smith, Campaspe River and Land Management Group