

# My Profile

## Murray Cod

I am 6 years old.

I was born in the **Campaspe River**, in the spring of 2012.

I was caught in the **Campaspe River** near Rochester on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 by **xx**.

I have grown to be **66 cm** long.

I spent all my life in the Campaspe River.

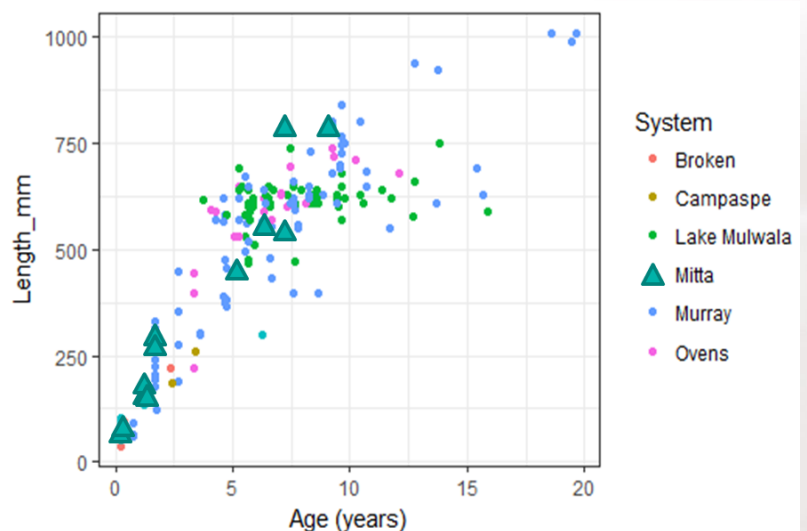
The Campaspe River provided access to plenty of food, which resulted in my fast growth and large size for my age. If you're interested in how my growth compares with other Murray Cod, here's a graph which brings together information from fish from many surveys over the last 10 years.

Environmental water (also called 'water for the environment') is being used to maintain suitable water quality, available habitat and food for native fish. It also enhances the survival of stocked Golden Perch and Murray Cod.

Check out the most recent summary of how fish in northern Victorian rivers have been responding to environmental water releases (VEFMAP [fact sheet](#)).

For more info on how water for the environment is managed in the Campaspe, check out: <https://www.vewh.vic.gov.au/rivers-and-wetlands/northern-region/campaspe-river>

Murray Cod, *Maccullochella peelii*



## What Do Murray Cod Like?

### Murray Cod:

- live in many different habitats (from slow to fast flowing rivers and streams, to lakes and billabongs), although prefer main river channel habitats and floodplain channels during high water flows.
- love structural habitats like snags, large rocks, undercut banks and overhanging vegetation. They particularly like woody habitats in deep parts of the river close to riverbanks.
- are an apex predator, mainly eating fish and large crustaceans.
- are long-lived - up to almost 50 years!
- start breeding at about five years old and form a breeding pair.
- females lay sticky eggs on hard surfaces in spring when temperatures reach 15°C.
- can grow to over 50kg and 1400mm in maximum size. Growth can vary a lot and depends on river conditions including how much food is around.
- females are mature at 500mm and can produce up to 100,000 eggs.
- eggs are guarded by the male fish. Larvae hatch after hatch after 5-13 days and often drift downstream before settling in the main river channel.
- Can be highly territorial
- usually breed every year, although recruitment success varies, and is affected by water temperatures and river flows.
- young fish often hang out in river channels
- vary in how far they move. Many tend to stay in just one area for much of their lives, while others can move hundreds of kilometres along the Murray River and its tributaries.

*Monitoring of fishways along the Murray River has found that one fish moved between Lock 1 to Lock 9, a distance of nearly 500 km! Others moved approximately 340 km between Lock 3 and Lock 9.*

- like to move/migrate in spring and summer, often during spawning, and when water levels rise and fall.

For more info on how Murray Cod respond to water for the environment, see the results of the VEFMAP (Victorian Environmental Flow Monitoring and Assessment Program): <https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/research/rivers-and-estuaries/assessing-benefits-of-environmental-watering>