

The COLIBAN RIVER'S JOURNEY

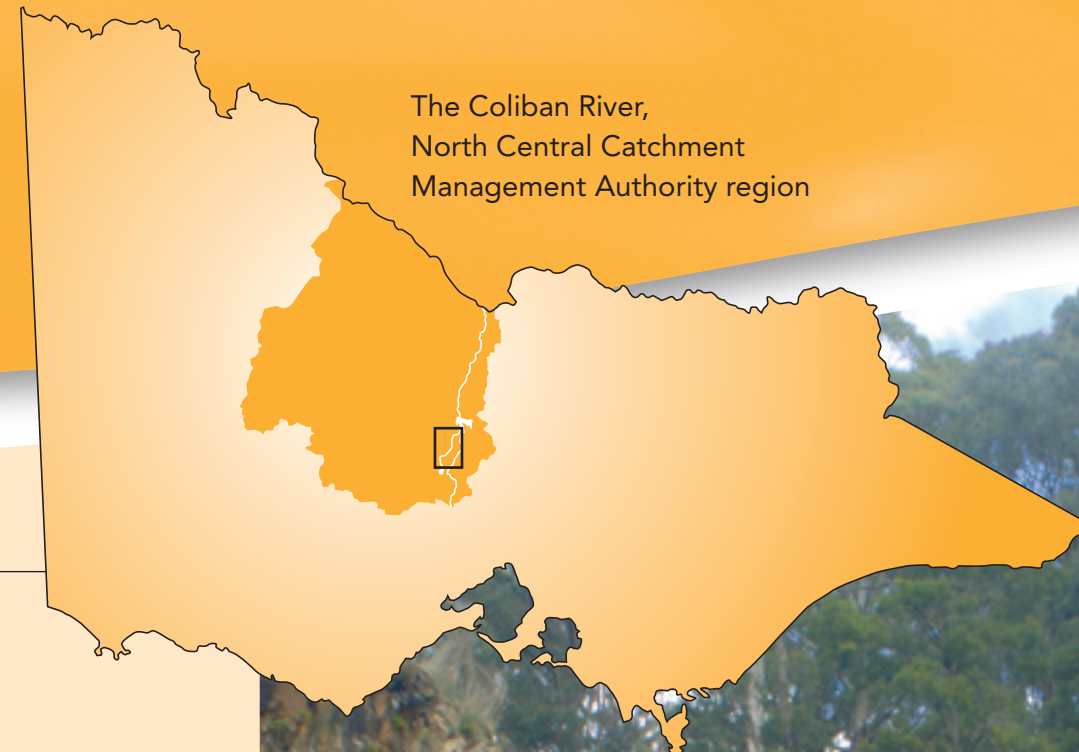
The Campaspe River is an important tributary of the River Murray with a catchment area of 4,000km². With its headwaters near Woodend, the north-flowing Campaspe is met by the Coliban River at Lake Eppalock and enters the River Murray at Echuca.

Coliban River

The Coliban River is the major tributary of the Campaspe River. It flows 80km from the Great Dividing Range near Trentham to Lake Eppalock. It features a number of waterfalls and rapids, including Trentham Falls which plunges 32m – the highest single drop of any waterfall in Central Victoria.

The forested headwaters of the Coliban River are shaded by Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Manna Gum, and a diversity of wattles and ferns. River Red Gums and a mix of native and introduced shrubs grow along the riverbanks downstream of Malmsbury. As well as platypus, a variety of fish species inhabit the river, including the critically endangered Trout Cod and the endangered Macquarie Perch. The riverbank vegetation is also home to many threatened fauna, including the vulnerable Speckled Warbler and Brush-tailed Phascogale.

The Coliban River has been a vital part of the water supply for North Central Victorians since the 1850s. The Upper Coliban, Lauriston and Malmsbury reservoirs on the Coliban River form part of the Coliban Supply System that provides water to domestic and rural users in the Campaspe and Loddon catchments, including Bendigo.



The Coliban River,
North Central Catchment
Management Authority region



Trentham Falls,
Coliban River near Trentham



Coliban River,
near Redesdale



Speckled Warbler Photo: Robinson/Viridans Images

Speckled Warblers inhabit woodlands with a grassy understorey, often on ridges or gullies. The species is sedentary, living in pairs or trios and nest on the ground in grass tussocks, dense litter and fallen branches. They forage on the ground and in the understorey for beetles and seeds.



Perrons Tree Frog Photo: Lydia Fucsko/frogs.org.au

Adults of this species grow to between 50–60mm in length. Their eyes have a distinctive cross-shaped pupil. They are usually found in low vegetation in areas near waterways. They prefer to breed in summer, in water-holding depressions in the ground.



Brush-tailed Phascogale Photo: Jerry Alexander

The Brush-tailed Phascogale, or Tuan, is a small, nocturnal, arboreal, carnivorous marsupial. They nest in as many as 30 different sites each year in hollows in dead or live trees, under flaking bark, or in tree stumps. Mating occurs in early winter and most males die after the breeding season at an age of 11–12 months.



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority

