

## Project achievements 2012-20

**271ha** revegetated with native plants  **87km** riparian fencing installed 

**52%** of river protected with fencing  **398ha** weeds controlled 

**9** Victorian Landcare Program Landcare groups/networks involved  **60** offstream watering troughs installed 

**146** participating landholders  **30** Project Reference Group meetings  **9** River Detectives schools 

**9** interpretive signs installed  **3** secondary schools involved  **3** higher education institutions engaged 

**3** town-based community groups involved  **3** angling groups involved  **5** town river walks enhanced 

**3629** people attended **34** community events

**5** supporting local governments  **3** Traditional Owner groups involved  **4** supporting partner organisations 

### Further information

Please visit our website [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au) or contact the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124.



## Leveraging funding

The North Central CMA was approached in 2016 by Coliban Water to implement a catchment health project with river landholders upstream of Coliban Water's Kyneton Water Reclamation Plant.

Before major upgrade works due to be completed in December 2020, the plant had struggled to store the treated water it produces when there isn't a demand for irrigation water or when there aren't sufficient flows to release water to the Campaspe River.

The aim of the catchment health project is to have a positive impact on the overall water quality and catchment health upstream of the plant. This was achieved by removing willow trees and other weeds from 14 kilometres of river frontage, and planting native trees in their place, and installing fencing to prevent livestock entering the waterways.

Coliban Water is investing \$2.1M for the delivery of the project and monitoring of the waterways over five years.

For more information, visit Projects at [www.coliban.com.au](http://www.coliban.com.au)



## Water for the environment

Since the 1964 construction of Lake Eppalock natural river flows have significantly changed. The storage captures rainfall run-off and reduces natural winter and spring flows, which is then released as increased flows over summer and autumn. Higher flows in summer can mean less suitable habitat for juvenile fish. The North Central CMA has been working cooperatively to achieve a better balance for all.

This results in water deliveries to downstream users having as little negative environmental effect as possible, while rehabilitating the Campaspe River's highly valued river red gum communities, native fish and platypus populations and connection to the Murray. The Caring for the Campaspe project complements these objectives by protecting the banks, vegetation and water quality from the impacts of grazing stock and weeds.



## Traditional Owner involvement

The project sought to work more closely with the three Traditional Owner groups along the river, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Yorta Yorta. Over three years (2017-19), 100 Traditional Owners came together with project staff and guest speaker scientists for the annual River TOur event. This was an opportunity to



spend time together on Country, sharing, understanding perspectives and traditional ecological knowledge around waterway management. Participants described being on Country as "deadly good time, fun, inspiring, an honour, strengthening...manamith-gotj-gotj (nice)."

Mutual understanding and respect grew around the common goal of healing Country. Traditional Owners are becoming more involved in measuring river health, developing cultural flow objectives, planning waterway projects and delivering fencing, weed control and revegetation works in line with Country Plans.

## Community engagement



# Caring for the Campaspe

Working towards a healthier river

## 2012-20 Achievements



Environment, Land, Water and Planning



The North Central CMA acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country. We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal people and organisations in land and natural resource management.

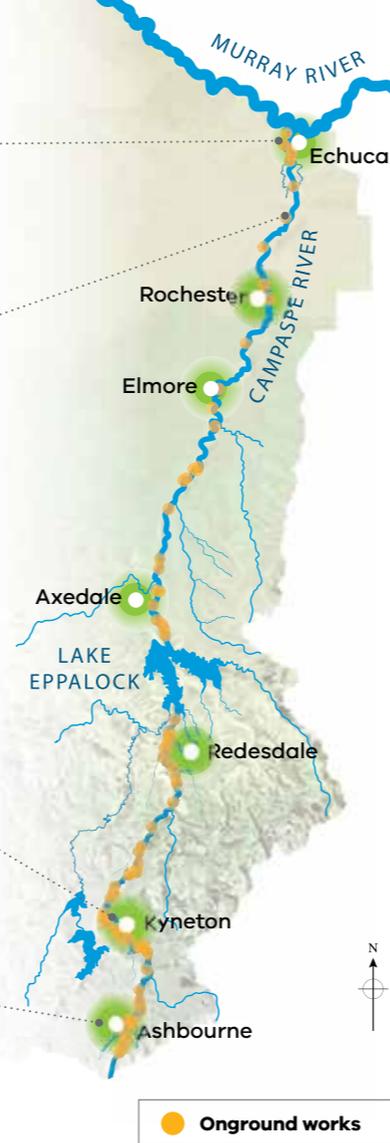
# About the project

The Caring for the Campaspe project is working with the community to improve the condition of the riparian land – the land along the river’s banks – which is critical to the health of waterways.

Delivered by the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA), the Victorian government has invested \$6.73M in the project since 2012 as one of 10 Flagship Waterways across the state. The project has supported private landholders through incentives and advice to promote protection of their river frontages from adjoining land uses.

Through cooperative partnerships, the North Central CMA negotiates the delivery of riparian fencing, off-stream watering, weed control and revegetation activities with interested landholders and public land managers in both rural and urban areas along the river’s 250km length.

To meet the long-term goal for the river, the North Central CMA also engages the community through events and educational material to raise awareness, knowledge and skills in good riparian management practices.



● Onground works

# A long-term, joint effort

The Campaspe River has been subject to the cumulative impacts of the gold rush, human settlement and urban growth, agriculture and water demand over the past 180 years. The Caring for the Campaspe project aims to achieve the healthiest possible river in the current context acknowledging that it will take time to recover.

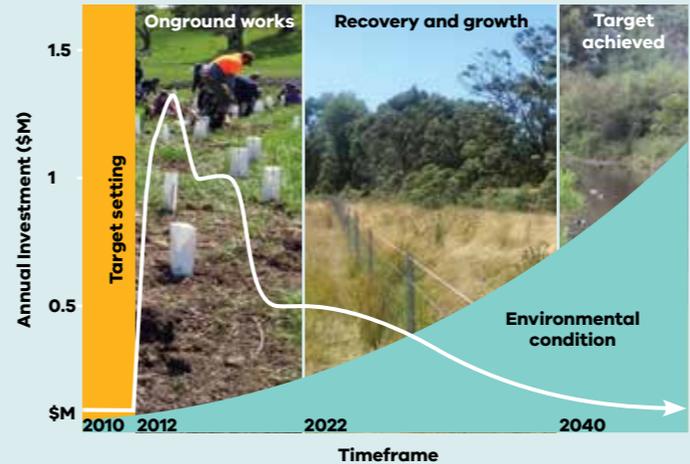
Since 2012, the river has been in a period of intensive onground works by the North Central CMA in partnership with the community and other agencies. These works aim to set the riverbank vegetation on a trajectory of environmental improvement, changing landholder practices and reducing weeds to a manageable level.

Following this period, the river will enter a phase of recovery and growth for many years.

The response of the system is dependent on other factors, including ongoing maintenance of onground works by landholders and the frequency of floods or fires.

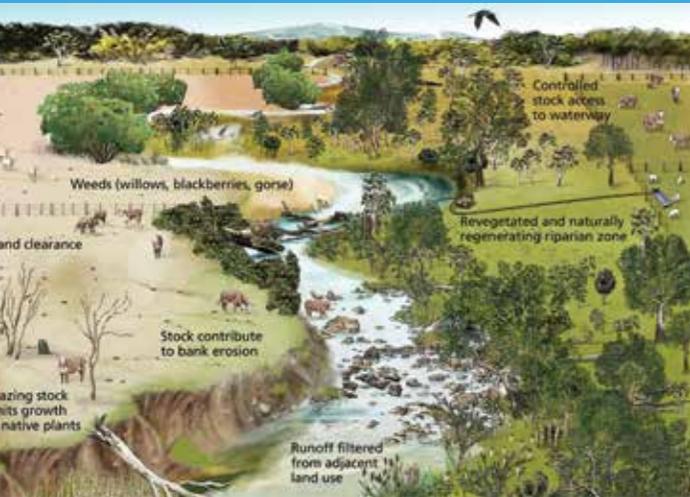
After a period of recovery and growth the river will be resilient, provide community value and be self-sustaining in terms of regeneration of native plants and natural recruitment of healthy native fish and platypus populations. The ecosystem will be more intact and better placed to withstand the effects of climate change. Progression to this phase will mean the target condition and outcomes for the Campaspe River has been achieved.

Monitor progress over time at five sites or visit <http://www.flukerpost.com/>



*“And then Caring for the Campaspe came (in), just at the right time. They’ve been fantastic... being instrumental in clearing the other side of the river (of willows). We were only working on one side of the river, so you (Caring for the Campaspe) are doing the other half.”* Don and Jessie Smith, Campaspe River and Land Management Group, Kyneton (<https://youtu.be/ggwxBqGjDUY>)

Learn about the project from the perspective of community members at [www.nccma.vic.gov.au/projects/rivers-and-wetlands#node-122](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/projects/rivers-and-wetlands#node-122)



Managing a riverbank well improves the health of a waterway and its wider catchment