

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

As a result of the active Caring for the Campaspe project, collaboration with Waterwatch has seen the River Detectives program expand from two to nine schools along the river's length since 2012.

Primary and secondary schools undertake monthly river monitoring and curriculum-based river health activities to learn and share information about the Campaspe River. To learn more about this inspiring program, go to http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Water/Rivers/Campaspe_River/index.aspx.



CARING FOR THE CAMPASPE

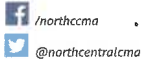
Working towards a healthier river



2012-16 ACHIEVEMENTS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS 2012-16

41 km
riparian fencing installed

126 ha
revegetated with native plants

457 ha of river protected and enhanced

292 ha
weeds controlled



9 Landcare groups/
networks involved

20 off-stream watering systems provided



100 participating landholders
15 Project Reference Group meetings

9 River Detectives schools

4

interpretive signs installed

5

town river walks enhanced

2 secondary schools involved

3 higher education institutions engaged

1791 people attended 13 community events

5 supporting local governments

3 Traditional Owner groups involved

4 supporting partner organisations

WHY DOES THE RIVER NEED FENCING?

Stock access is a key threat to the condition of riparian vegetation and the aquatic environment. Fencing waterways and controlling stock access promotes:

- > improved water quality through reduced input of faecal nutrients and sediments
- > improved aquatic habitat for fish and other species
- > improved natural growth and regeneration of native plants
- > bank stability by preventing slumping and erosion
- > reduced stock loss from bogging and drowning.

Fences should be placed at least 10-20m from the top of bank to allow for erosion and continued access for maintenance, however this is negotiated with each landholder considering their land-use practices. The further away the fence is placed the straighter it can be and the less prone it will be to flood damage. A minimum width of 30-50m is recommended to provide quality habitat for wildlife.



land, particularly due to concerns about the build-up of weeds. However, the North Central CMA supports controlled grazing which limits stocking rates and restricts the timing, duration and conditions under which grazing takes place on riparian land.

WHY NATIVE PLANTS?

Native birds, animals, fish and platypus prefer native vegetation for the food, shelter and habitat it provides along a river. These species have evolved with the filtered light and sporadic leaf, branch and blossom fall of native riparian plants that feeds the carbon cycling in the river ecosystem. Dense weed infestations of willow, gorse and blackberry out-compete native plants. A recent CSIRO research

ABOUT THE PROJECT

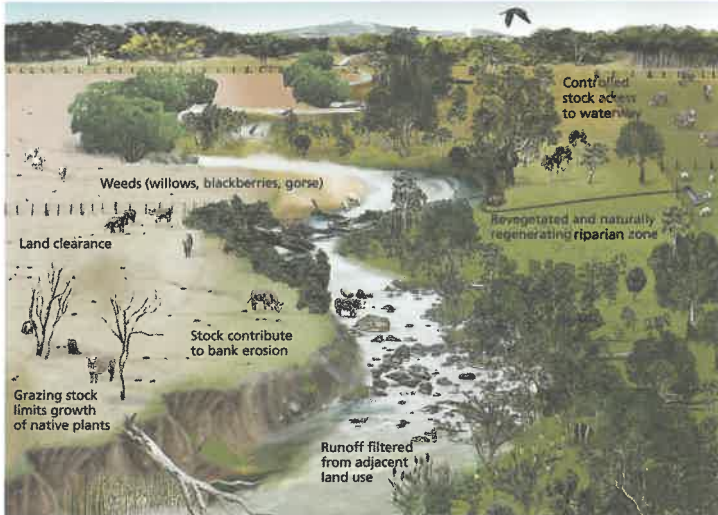
The Caring for the Campaspe project is working with the community to improve the condition of the riparian land – the land along the river’s banks – which is critical to the health of waterways.

Funded by the Victorian Government since 2012, 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.



Good riparian management practices have a direct impact on the health of a waterway and its broader catchment



A LONG-TERM 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.

The river is currently in a period of intensive on-ground works by the North Central CMA in partnership with the community and other agencies. These works will restore the river, addressing issues until it is healthier and more resilient.

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.



“The removal of the willows has made a tremendous difference in the way the Axedale river reserve looks and can now be used. Clearing of the willows opened up river bank access, revealed the beauty of the glorious river red gums and natural landscape that we trust will attract native species.”

Yvonne Wrigglesworth, Axedale Our Town – Our Future

