

Capacity building

LEP23_036_LLC2_6

Protecting platypus in Flowerdale Lagoon

Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare Group



A creative educational campaign on the impacts of litter on local waterways

The issue

Platypus have been seen in the Flowerdale Lagoon in Wagga Wagga. The lagoon receives stormwater from the suburbs of Glenfield Park, Ashmont and LLOYD. Litter dropped in the streets of these suburbs can wash into the lagoon, threatening its biodiversity and water quality. Most people aren't aware that their actions upstream are harming sensitive downstream habitats.

The solution

Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare Group engaged Ashmont Primary School students to learn about the issue through drain spotting, lagoon visits and creating artwork. A professional signwriter used their designs to create a stencil that was then painted on 175 drains with slogans like "Keep it clean, platypus downstream," raising awareness in a fun, visible way.

The impact

The permanent stencil on street drains now reminds residents to stop littering. With local media coverage, a council display, and promotion through environmental networks, the project has inspired pride and education within the community. The reusable stencils and artwork ensure this project will have a legacy.

Learnings

Youth engagement and creative communication are powerful tools in environmental education. By involving students and celebrating their work publicly, the project not only informed but empowered the next generation of environmental stewards.



Key facts

- 175 pit drains stencilled
- Year 5/6 students from Ashmont Public School involved

Project Partners



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.