



Lagoon Keepers

Restoring waterways in Wagga for culture, custodianship and conservation

What is this project about?

This project will restore Wollundry and Flowerdale Lagoons, which are two highly visible urban riparian areas of Wiradjuri significance in Wagga.

Murrumbidgee Landcare and Wagga Wagga City Council will manage the project. The work is being led by Murrumbidgee Landcare's two First Nations *Lagoon Keepers*. Arya and Rosheen will be working with the local community to undertake collaborative work towards the restoration of these local waterways that are significant both for their ecological value and their Wiradjuri cultural heritage value.

What other projects have been running in the area?

This project builds on a complementary project run in recent years by Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare, which focused on educating the community about the fate of litter in the residential catchment areas which feed into the lagoons.

The two projects together aim to help educate the community about the value of the lagoons, motivate people to reduce litter in order to maintain the quality of the lagoons, and encourage greater use of the lagoons for recreation.

What work will be completed?

- Weed removal
- Revegetation with native seedlings
- Installation of supplementary habitat structures - turtle islands, nesting boxes and frog hollows

How big is the project area?

We are working across over five hectares at Flowerdale Lagoon, and approximately 1.5 hectares at Wollundry Lagoon.



What supplementary habitat will be added?

- 20 nesting boxes for water and woodland birds and arboreal mammals
- 5 turtle islands, to protect eggs of Eastern Long-necked Turtles from introduced predators such as foxes and cats
- 20 frog hollows, to provide habitat for numerous frog species found in and around the lagoons

What species will benefit from the project?

Species to benefit from improved habitat include:

Nine threatened bird species -

- Brown Treecreeper
- Diamond Firetail
- Gang-gang Cockatoo
- Grey Falcon
- Regent Honeyeater
- South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
- South-eastern Hooded Robin
- Superb Parrot
- Swift Parrot

Two threatened mammal species -

- Corben's Long-eared Bat
- Grey-headed Flying-fox

One threatened amphibian -

- SouthernBell Frog.

In addition to these threatened species, Flowerdale Lagoon is also known to support Platypus and Rakali, with traces of both species detected in recent eDNA testing in the Lagoon.

Were the lagoons formed naturally?

The lagoon in Tony Ireland Park is part of Wollundry Lagoon, and was formerly connected to the Murrumbidgee River, before Tarcutta Street was constructed. Flowerdale Lagoon was also formerly connected to the Murrumbidgee River.



What weeds will be removed?

Weeds include phalaris, perennial ryegrass, lippia, vetch, melon and cudweed. There are also extensive stands of Chinese Privet, Tree of Heaven and Desert Ash at Flowerdale Lagoon. These will be progressively removed.

What will be planted?

Native tree, shrub and groundcover vegetation will be progressively planted in the area, with the ultimate removal of dead non-native species as the natives establish.

The species chosen will help diversify food abundance for native species.

Is there an education component in the project?

Yes, community education are an important part of the project. We hope to engage the community in the stories of the two lagoons, including their position as areas of Wiradjuri significance and threatened species habitat.

The final stage of the project will include the installation of interpretive signage at the two lagoons. Our Lagoon Keepers will work with community to develop signs which share stories of the two lagoons in relation to their cultural and ecological significance.

These activities will raise the profile of the two Lagoons, and encourage the community to make greater use of these areas as places of valuable and accessible spaces for community activities.



Australian Government



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