

Carp removal from Hughes Creek benefits endangered Macquarie Perch



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In November 2009 over 500 carp were removed from Hughes Creek.

Scientists from the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) caught the carp as part of a program to survey and protect Macquarie Perch (*Macquaria australasica*) – one of Victoria's most endangered freshwater fish.

The focus of this work was carp removal and identifying other locations downstream of Avenel where Macquarie perch could possibly live.

ARI has been monitoring native fish, in particular, Macquarie perch in Hughes Creek over a number of years as part of their Native Fish Recovery Plan.

The removal of carp and other pest species such as Mosquito Fish benefits native fish populations.

Threats to the "macca's" (Macquarie perch) include interactions with alien species, habitat modification such as sedimentation, clearing of riparian vegetation, construction of dams and weirs which act as barriers to migration and recolonisation and flow modification.

In total over 550 carp were removed from 11 sites, with the highest abundance of carp caught at the Hume Highway Bridge in Avenel, which accounted for 68% of the total carp catch. The carp caught at this location were all juveniles. The fish removed were ranging in size from 17mm – 765mm.

Ongoing monitoring of the stream and Macquarie perch populations will continue in Hughes Creek and in King Parrot Creek over the next how long?

Macquarie perch is listed as endangered, under the Victorian *Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act*.

For further information please contact: Wayne Tennant or Mark Turner at the Goulburn Broken CMA office on 03 5820 1100



Carp collected from Hume Highway Bridge at Avenel. Photo: Joanne Kearns Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research)