

Hi all

Many of you I have spoken with over the phone in recent weeks, so will not be surprised to learn you are part of the newly formed email network for the Goulburn Broken CMA's Hughes Creek Project. For those of you I haven't contacted directly, my apologies, as I have taken the liberty of adding you to the mail out list to receive updates on progression of the Hughes Creek Project.

The intent of this network is to enable interested parties to contribute ideas, provide feedback and overall improve delivery through a more integrated approach between agencies and the community. Your participation in this network is greatly appreciated and is not anticipated to be onerous, however if you would at any time not wish to be included or want to suggest an alternative contact, please feel free to let me know.

This Project aims to enhance and extend suitable habitat and ideally the range of the Macquarie Perch population within the Hughes Creek. As a threatened species, Macquarie Perch are a focus of this project, however the likely habitat enhancement activities to be undertaken will benefit all aquatic and terrestrial species that utilise the waterway.

The first steps in this project plan are to inform adjoining landholders of the project, to encourage active involvement in river protection and enhancement works. A geomorphic investigation of the Hughes Creek will be funded to occur in the early part of 2014, which will provide clear direction on what and where works would be most effective. The recommendations derived from this investigation will help to define our works program on the Hughes Creek.

The GBCMA is working with DEPI, Arthur Rylah Institute, to proceed with a broader fish study on the Goulburn River around Trawool, to determine the viability of the Goulburn being utilised as a drought refuge and potential link to reconnect the isolated populations of Macquarie Perch that remain within the King Parrot Creek, Yea River and Hughes Creek. This study will enable both agencies to collectively formulate a strategy for the development of a resilience knowledge gap plan for Macquarie Perch across the catchment. Further fish surveys on the Hughes Creek may therefore be best planned for 2015, when we will be able to utilise this plan and outcomes of the geomorphic study to more clearly define remaining data needs.

Through this network I will keep up to date on project progression and encourage you to share your thoughts on the evolving project plan as it unfolds.

I thank you for your involvement and assistance with delivery of this project, with which we aim to improve the situation of the Hughes Creek Macquarie Perch population.

Kind regards

Christine Glassford
River Health Officer