



I'm happy to be able to inform you we have proceeded with the habitat works over a 2km stretch of stream below the gorge as proposed in the last update. Following undertaking the physical surveys, I and other CMA staff had an informal training day with Prof Robert Keller on site, which enabled us to learn more about scour creation. These learning guided us in the design and placement of instream structures to enhance habitat, in particular with reestablishment of depth.

Around 50 structures were installed throughout the three work trial sites, including an additional two log jam constrictions created between sites 1 and 2. Large boulders and logs (including some of the timber sourced from Creighton's Creek fire stockpiles) were placed in various configurations throughout each site to induce scour, protect/stabilise areas of deposition and increase shelter. In each instance we worked with the streams natural preference for position of primary flow or meander within the channel. My thanks to CMA colleague, Collin Tate, and the contractor, Chad Parker, for their great work.

Early next week we will have the site flown with a drone to capture high quality aerial imagery that we can overlay with other spatial data, including the pre work physical survey. This will be very useful for recording and monitoring purposes, in addition to having a great way to display the works undertaken to an audience. Prof Bob Keller has offered to return to site for a post works assessment and each of the pre works assessments (physical, fish and macro invertebrate surveys) will be repeated, ideally in a 12 month period, following some high flow events.

We recently received the summary results for the fish survey work undertaken on the Hughes Creek, which I have attached. The results have been consistently good across all Macquarie perch waterways monitored, reflecting successful spawning the past two seasons. Important to note, Macquarie perch were found within each of the three works trial sites, despite the habitat being considered sub optimal prior to works, so we will hope the habitat enhancement undertaken will better support these fish within this stretch of stream.

Hughes Creek Project Update

The two Macquarie perch signs have been installed. One is near the Old Hume bridge in Avenel and the other is located at a day visitor area off Hughes Creek Road. Pictured below. Note: these sign frames are designed to rust, which has just started to occur.

On another front we have made some changes and progress with the proposed Fish Circus / Catch a Carp event. The date has been set for Saturday 12th September and the venue selected. With access from Aerodrome Road, the Steers family have generously made available their Hughes Creek frontage for the event. The primary change in the event plan has been the reduction of the fishing competition to a carp catching demonstration with encouraged participation. I am still aiming to promote involvement with some mystery prizes made available for carp caught. The key messages remain the same, as do the participating presenter topics. A rough draft plan for the event is attached, but I will certainly keep you posted of developments when contributors are confirmed.

Till the next update.

Kind regards,

Christine Glassford
River Health Officer

