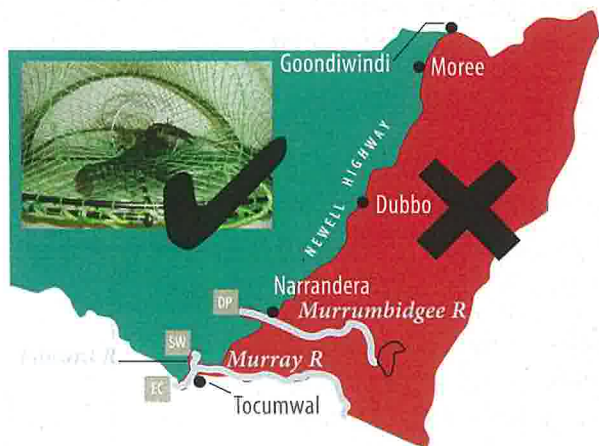


Yabby traps are **banned** in NSW waters where platypus are found

Platypus are found in river systems in NSW east of the Newell Highway which runs from Goondiwindi in the north to Tocumwal in the south. Platypus are also found in the Murrumbidgee River downstream to Darlington Point, in the Edward River downstream to Stevens Weir and in the Murray River downstream to Echuca. **Yabby traps are banned in all public waters (rivers, creeks, lakes) in these areas.**

If you want to catch yabbies in these waters, use lift nets where they are permitted. If you have permission to access farm dams, use your **modified yabby traps** there—but be careful as platypus are sometimes found in larger farm dams with vegetated banks.

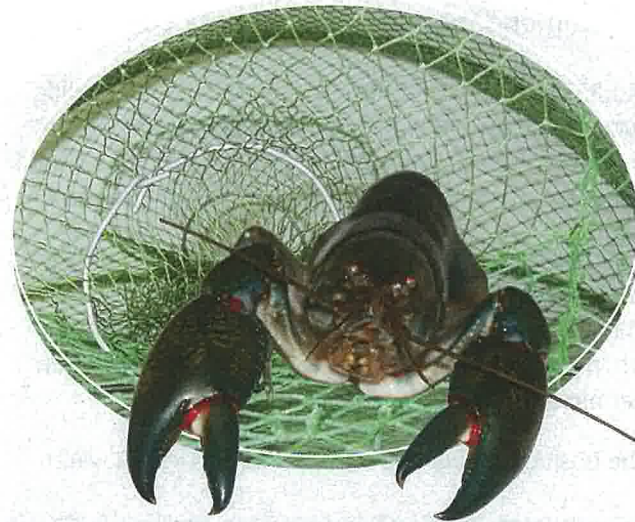
Remember, all traps and nets are illegal in notified trout water except for the use of lift nets to take yabbies in Lakes Eucumbene and Jindabyne.



DP Darlington Point
SW Stevens Weir
EC Echuca

✓ Modified traps permitted in this area
✗ Yabby traps banned in this area.
Lift/hoop nets permitted in some areas.

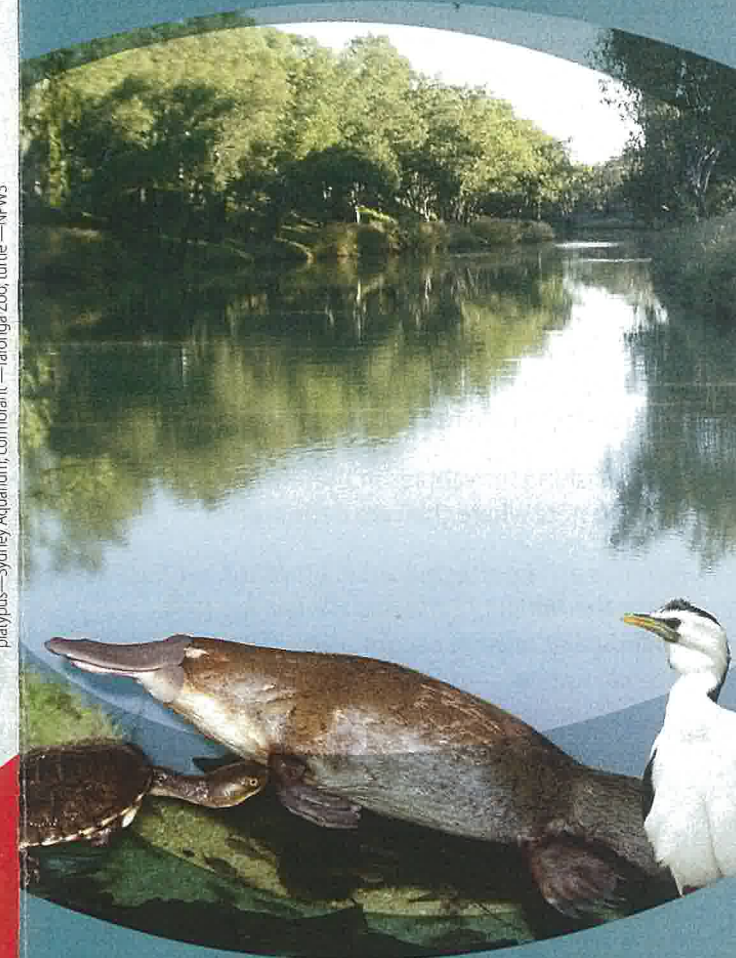
Three ways you can help reduce wildlife drowning in yabby traps



- 1 Modify your traps to minimise harm to other wildlife.
- 2 Don't use yabby traps where platypus are found—(see map).
- 3 Check your traps regularly—don't leave them unchecked for more than 24 hours.

NSWDPI_8342_NOV07. Images courtesy of following organisations: platypus—Sydney Aquarium; cormorant—Taronga Zoo; turtle—NPWS

Help reduce **wildlife drowning** in yabby traps



Phone 1300 550 474
Fishers Watch 1800 043 536
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Illegal yabby traps continue to drown our native animals

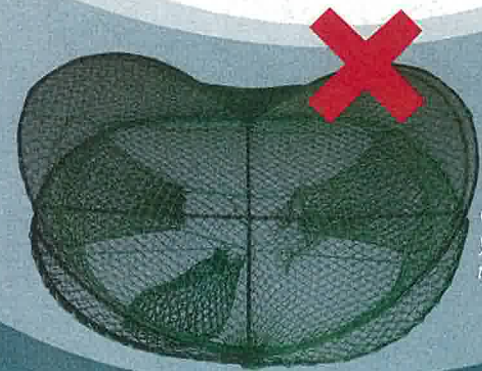
Wildlife such as platypus, turtles and water birds enter traps looking for food, get trapped in opera-house style yabby traps and drown.

Although it's impossible to know how many animals are lost to yabby traps each year, the death of just one platypus is too many. The platypus is one of Australia's most iconic species and it's important that it is offered the highest level of protection. Platypus are under threat Australia wide from pollution, erosion and human development.

This is why **yabby traps** are banned in rivers, creeks and lakes, east of the Newell Highway, which runs from Goondiwindi in the north, to Tocumwal in the south.

People fishing for yabbies in these waters can use **lift or hoop nets** where they are permitted.

Platypus are a protected animal throughout Australia under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Additionally, anyone caught using illegal traps can face heavy fines.



Illegal opera-house style yabby trap—note no metal entrance rings

You can protect native wildlife and prevent them from drowning

Please help minimise this unnecessary damage to our unique wildlife, by following recommendations 1-3, on the back cover.

Modifying your trap by fitting rings will restrict wildlife such as platypus, turtles and cormorants from getting into the traps. You will not lose your bait from the traps as often, and good sized yabbies will still get through.

Platypus are mostly nocturnal and very shy creatures so are rarely seen in our waterways. When yabbying try to only set the traps during the brighter parts of the day when platypuses are less likely to be about, and only in permitted waters.

The position of any trap must be marked above water

by a stake or buoy. Each trap must also be tagged with the owner's name plus residential address and/or boat registration number. Unless otherwise specified, five traps may be set, used, or in your possession.

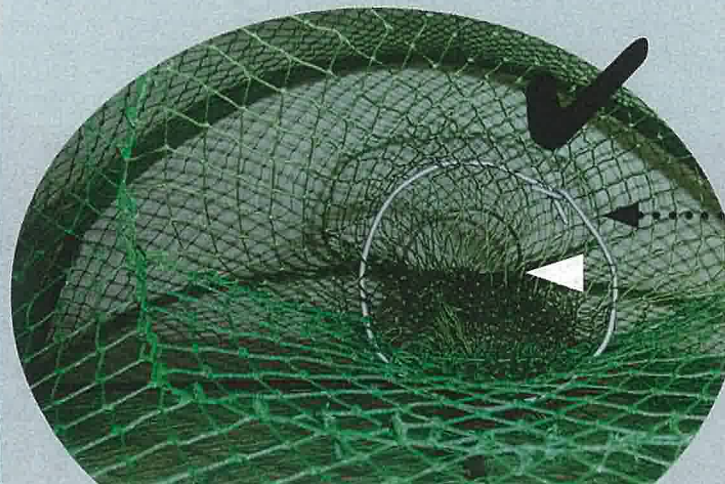
Abandoned traps may continue to catch animals entering the trap to feed on the remains of other trapped animals.

If you find an abandoned trap, call your local NSW DPI Fisheries Office or the NSW DPI Fishers Watch phone line on 1800 043 536.

Information on freshwater fishing rules, including yabby traps is available in the NSW DPI Recreational Freshwater Fishing Guide, from NSW DPI Fisheries offices and website, and most places where NSW recreational fishing fee receipts are sold.

How to modify your yabby traps

All entrance funnels must be fitted with a 9 cm rigid ring. If your traps don't have rigid metal or plastic rings on the entrance funnels, fit rings as described.

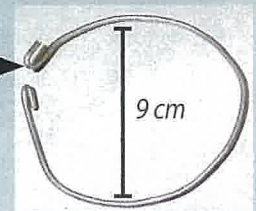


Fitting the rings

Cut a 30 cm length of coat hanger wire, bend the ends back approx 2 cm to form a hook.

Bend the wire into a circle and thread through the mesh of the yabby trap entrance funnel about halfway along the funnel to form a vertical ring around the funnel.

Hook the two ends of the wire together and crimp down the ends with pliers. Do the same thing with both funnels.



This trap, with fitted rings at both entrances is now less harmful.