

## Keeping the Yarrowee Clean

# PROJECT FACTSHEET

### What is planned?

A stormwater litter trap to be built across the Yarrowee River in the Sunnyside Mill precinct, approximately 1.5km downstream of Ballarat's city-center.

It will facilitate the collection and removal of litter and sediment. It's a key project to Keep the Yarrowee Clean.

The litter trap will connect to the end of the bluestone stormwater channel, where flows enter the bushland of the Yarrowee River. The project won't make any changes to the bluestone channel.

### How it could look and be maintained

The project will combine several types of litter trap in the one location. It will ensure that most types of litter are captured, both big and small.

Monthly cleaning is anticipated but can change across seasons. Targeted cleaning might also occur, such as before and after a severe storm.

For more information visit [mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au](https://mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au)

### Why here?

This section of the river has suitable water flows for efficiently capturing litter and sediment.

The area has sufficient space for removing litter and sediments and access for cleaning.



### Why is it needed?

- There are many sources and types of litter in cities. It is estimated that 795 tonnes of litter enter the Yarrowee River downstream of the city-centre each year.
- Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT's) are best-practice devices used worldwide. Tasks like education, enforcement, waste services and community action also have a role to play.



# Benefits



## Cleaner

Estimated 77 per cent of litter will be captured, along with other pollutants, such as sediments



## Healthier

Keep the Yarrowee River, and the Leigh and Barwon Rivers further downstream, healthy and vibrant.



## Enjoyable

Ensure the Yarrowee River is an attractive area to visit and enjoy.



## Effective

Improve the effectiveness of other waterway restoration projects in the Sunnyside Mill precinct and further downstream.

## How will it be constructed?

- Sediments will be scraped from the riverbed and a section of the riverbank excavated.
- Concrete structures will be built on top of the prepared areas.
- Vegetation disturbance will be minimal, and the soils tested and managed accordingly.
- Designed and built to minimise any risks of flooding or streambank erosion.

## Traditional Owner Engagement

- The Yarrowee River (Yaramlok) is a highly significant place on Wadawurrung country for agriculture, fishing, gathering foods and for fresh water.

The City of Ballarat is consulting with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) to ensure that works minimise impacts to Country and cultural heritage values, while delivering maximal benefits downstream.

## Environmental outcomes

Direct benefits to Vulnerable, Threatened or Endangered species that are susceptible to the impacts of litter and other urban pollutants. Examples include:

### Vulnerable or Threatened



**Growling Grass Frog** (*Litoria raniformis*)



**Platypus** (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)



**Yarra Pygmy Perch** (*Nannoperca obscura*)

### Endangered or Critically Endangered



**Western Burrowing Crayfish** (*Engaeus merozetosus*)

For further information about the ecological values of the Yarrowee River visit [Upper Barwon, Yarrowee & Leigh FLOWS study 2021](#)

An on-site interpretation centre is proposed as part of the project. This will explore topics such as stormwater management, environmental values and heritage values across Traditional Owners and the Gold Rush era.

