

# QUEENSLAND PLATYPUS ALLIANCE

The Queensland Alliance for Platypus has been formed off the back of the success of the Victorian Alliance for Platypus Safe Yabby Traps. The Victorian success in banning enclosed yabby traps across the state has been a push for other states to step up and do the same.

These traps are an animal welfare issue for air-breathing animals, as well as a significant conservation issue for platypuses. Regulations in Queensland are confusing, and we still see horrible deaths of platypuses and rakali in these nets even after the change of regulations in 2015.

A complete ban on the sale, use and possession of these nets will take out the confusion, and alternative wildlife-friendly nets can be used.

## Seed money donation

The Australian Wildlife Society recently made a seeding donation to help establish and fund this new alliance.

With the support of organisations including AWS, the alliance is urging the Queensland Government to follow Victoria's lead and change regulations and for retailers to voluntarily pull them from their shelves and promote alternative, wildlife-safe nets.

The alliance is writing to the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mark Furner, and voicing its concerns as well as contacting retailers to acknowledge the issue and take action to remove the nets.

## How can you help? Sign and share

the change.org campaign at <https://chn.ge/zKzy1jo> and help to educate people about the issue.

## Engage with those who make policy

Contact your local or state politicians, and very politely ask them to support a change in regulations which ban the sale, ownership and use of enclosed yabby traps, and explain why. The minister responsible for both fisheries regulations in Queensland is the Honorable Mark Furner. email: [agricultural@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:agricultural@ministerial.qld.gov.au)



The platypus is a unique Australian species. Along with echidnas, platypuses are grouped in a separate order of mammals known as monotremes, which are distinguished from all other mammals because they lay eggs. When first discovered, the unusual look of a platypus caused considerable confusion and doubt amongst European naturalists and scientists, many of whom believed that the animal was a fake.

## Spread the word

Many people are simply unaware of the regulations (i.e. nets not to be used in Queensland public waterways) or about the risks that these nets pose (i.e. they drown air-breathing animals), so please pass this information on. If you find an enclosed yabby trap being used illegally, immediately report this to the relevant authorities. In Queensland, report to Fishwatch – 1800 017 116.

## Talk to the retailers

If you go into a fishing/outdoor store, ask if they sell enclosed yabby traps such as opera house nets and if the answer is yes, explain the issue to them and then ask them if there is a good reason they won't stop selling them. To find out who sells them, just Google the words "opera house net buy" and you'll get a good idea.

Buy wildlife-friendly nets such as open-top or hoop nets! They catch just as many yabbies!



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