

# *The Platypus*

Image: Candice Bartlett



# The Platypus (*Ornithorhynus anatinus*)

- Semi-aquatic egg-laying mammal (monotreme).
- Endemic to eastern Australia, including TAS.
  - Image: platypus distribution (shaded area)
- The breeding season October-March in NSW.
- Live in burrows near rivers and creeks.
- Average lifespan of around 7 years.
- Predominantly nocturnal and crepuscular.
- Carnivorous: worms, insect larvae, freshwater shrimps, and yabbies.
- Their bill surfaces are packed with thousands of receptors.

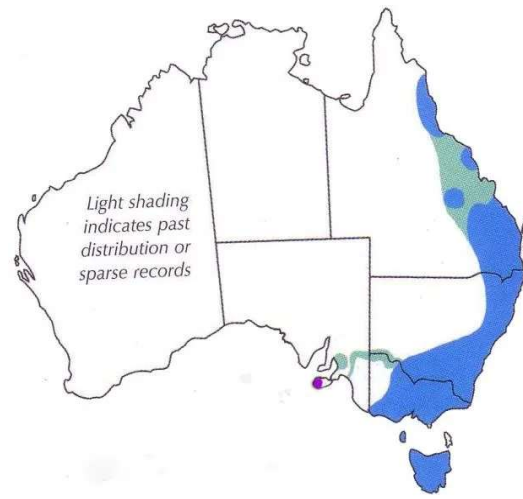


Image: Platypus distribution map.  
Credit: Map adapted from R. Strahan  
and S. van Dyck. (2008). The  
Mammals of Australia, 3rd edition.  
(New Holland: Sydney).

# Ecological Significance

- Freshwater carnivore: keeps the populations of species in lower levels of the food chain in check.
- Ecosystem engineer: construction of burrows increases habitat quality, soil movement, modifies nutrient cycling, and provides refuge for smaller species.



# Threats to Platypus

- Predators: dogs and foxes.
- Flooding and riverbank erosion.
- Reduced river flows due to fire and drought.
- Dams and river regulation.
- Human activities:
  - Habitat destruction from agriculture and urban development.
  - Entanglement in fishing gear such as enclosed yabby traps.
  - Pollution and litter.





# Platypus Alliance



Secret Creek Sanctuary



Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Promoting sustainable fishing

VICTORIAN ALLIANCE FOR PLATYPUS  
SAFE YABBY TRAPS



The voice for nature in NSW



Local Land  
Services  
Greater Sydney



Conserving Australia's Wildlife  
since 1909



WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY





Open-top yabby net



Enclosed yabby trap

Aim to change the rules to protect native wildlife

# Enclosed Yabby Traps

STATE	POSITION	ACTION
ACT	Banned	17 September 2019
TAS	Banned	Prohibitions in place
VIC	Banned	1 July 2019
NSW	Banned	30 April 2021
SA	Not Banned	Predicted mid-2023
NT	Not Banned	TBA
WA	Banned	Prohibitions in place
QLD	Not Banned	Discussions occurring



# Conservation Status

STATE	POSITION
ACT	<b>Protected</b>
TAS	<b>Protected</b>
VIC	<b>Vulnerable</b>
NSW	<b>Protected</b>
SA	<b>Endangered</b>
NT	<i>Not present</i>
WA	<i>Not present</i>
QLD	<b>Protected</b>





# Platypus Conservation Action



- Dispose of litter appropriately.
- Fish responsibly.
- Keep rivers clean and healthy.
- Reduce water consumption.
- Responsible pet ownership.
- Household chemicals.
- Safe use of pumps.
- Educate yourself.
- Sign petitions #SnipRingsforWildlife.
- Report sightings of platypus and entanglements.



This week we launched [iNaturalist Australia](#), the Australian node of iNaturalist, the world's leading global social biodiversity network.

We now encourage you to use [iNaturalist Australia](#) to record your individual plant, animal and fungi sightings. You can still upload sightings using our Record a Sighting function, but we will be phasing it out.



## How to record an observation with iNaturalist Australia

You can record observations with [iNaturalist Australia](#) on your desktop and by using the [iNaturalist app](#) on your iPhone or Android device. Uploading an observation to iNaturalist Australia on your desktop is very similar to using the ALA's Record a Sighting function.

1. First, go to [iNaturalist Australia](#) and click **Sign up** to create an account.
2. Log in to iNaturalist Australia and click **Upload**.
3. Drag and drop your image file or choose the file from your device.
4. Click in the species name box, then select from the list of suggested species.
5. Enter date and location details.
6. Click **Submit 1 observation**.
7. Your record will appear on the **Your observations** page, where you can see all your records in a list or on a map. On this page, you can sort and search your observations by date, taxonomy or location.

All iNaturalist Australia observations are loaded into the ALA regularly.



Home ☐ BioNet

## NSW BioNet

■ gateway to NSW biodiversity information



NSW BioNet is the repository for biodiversity data products managed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

BioNet aims to improve biodiversity outcomes by enabling the community and government to proactively manage and enhance biodiversity in NSW through comprehensive, credible and robust information.

### Getting started

BioNet is made up of a number of data collections. Refer to the links under 'Data collections' for more information. These collections are mostly contained within two core applications; [BioNet Atlas](#) and [BioNet Vegetation Classification](#).

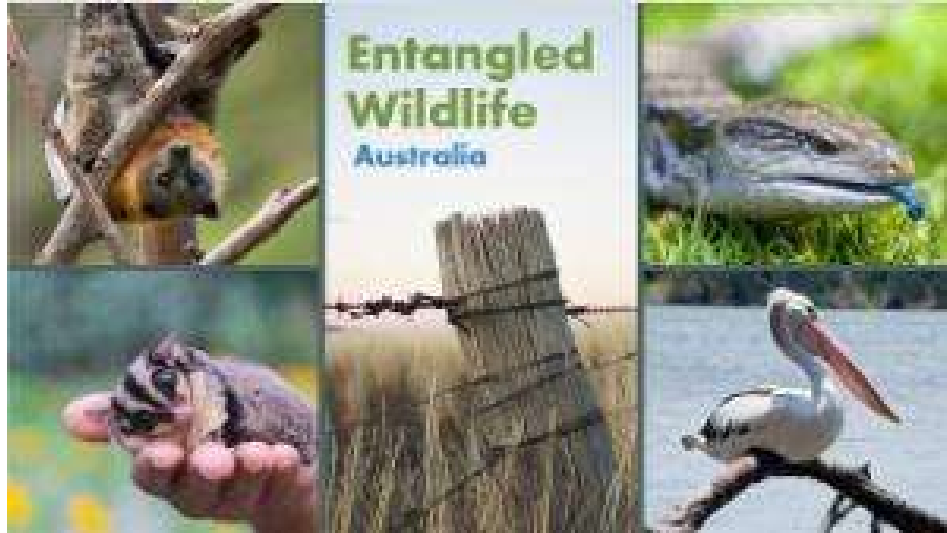
In addition to these applications, biodiversity information can also be accessed via:

- an Open Application Programming Interface (API). [Learn more about BioNet Web Services](#)
- [SEED](#) environmental data portal.

You can submit your own sightings records to BioNet Atlas. [Learn more about contributing](#).

### How to access BioNet Atlas

# Report Sightings of Platypus



## To Access Entangled Wildlife Australia

Please visit [bit.ly/3q1EHPH](https://bit.ly/3q1EHPH),  
scan the QR code, or  
email [entangledwildlifeaustralia@ihug.com.au](mailto:entangledwildlifeaustralia@ihug.com.au)



# Report Sightings of Wildlife Entanglement