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Committed to the Barwon River

Corangamite CMA manages 20 kilometres of the Barwon River, from *Queens Park Bridge* to the *lower breakwater*. We are also responsible for controlling land use within this management area.

Thousands of people use the Barwon River every day for walking, jogging, cycling, picnics, skiing, rowing, boating, fishing and swimming.

Corangamite CMA is committed not just to improving the health of the Barwon, but to improving facilities on river reserves such as paths, seating and signage.

You can help preserve the Barwon River for future generations by picking up after your dog, putting litter in bins, conserving water, disposing of chemicals appropriately and keeping lawn clippings and other pollutants out of drains.



For further information
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Barwon River
through Geelong



WILLOW FACT SHEET

Barwon River through Geelong War against willows

Australia's settlers originally planted willow trees to control erosion along our waterways. They imported the willows from Europe and North America.

But years on we are seeing some of the negative effects this invasive weed has on our waterways, including the Barwon River.

Willows have created a myriad of river health issues that Corangamite CMA is tackling head-on.

Looks can be deceiving

Though they look majestic, willows are "woody weeds" that choke our waterways

- Willows spread fibrous root mats across riverbeds, which can block the stream channel
- During high water flows, willow blockages force fast-moving water onto banks, causing erosion
- Willow root mats prevent the growth of aquatic plants that are vital to the food web

- Willows drop all their leaves in autumn, altering the temperature and oxygen content of the water. In contrast, native trees drop their leaves gradually all year round, providing a continual and balanced source of organic matter to rivers
- Willows provide little food for insects and birds

Tough customers

Willows are invasive and can quickly spread along a waterway. Broken twigs readily take root downstream and seeds also germinate easily.

Corangamite CMA's process for removing willows includes pre-poisoning the tree, then burning all the removed wood. The stump is also poisoned to prevent it from regenerating.



Blue Wren
Listen for its musical trill



Darter
Dries its wings in the sun



Platypus
Can you spot any?



River Red Gum
Picnic beneath a river red gum



Purple Swamphen
Look out for them

Tackling willows

As caretaker of river health, Corangamite CMA is committed to removing willows along the Barwon River and other waterways. We replace the willows with native vegetation suitable for the area, such as river red gums, native grasses, blackwood and black wattle.

Willow removal can dramatically change the appearance of an area. But as native revegetation takes hold, the area will not only return to its original beauty, but become a haven for native birds and animals.

