

30 April 2012

Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: INQUIRY INTO CURRENT AND POTENTIAL ECO TOURISM OF
THE ACT AND REGION**

At its meeting of 26 April 2012, Queanbeyan City Council resolved to make a submission to the ACT Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water on the potential for promoting the Queanbeyan River's platypus population as an eco-tourism activity.

Queanbeyan has recently completed a new Queanbeyan River Corridor Plan of Management which incorporates a Platypus Awareness and Conservation Strategy. This document can be found on our website at: <http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au/Growing-Our-City/Sustainability/Catchment-Management>

It is reported by the Australian Platypus Conservancy (APC) that the Queanbeyan River hosts a healthy population which is quite unique for an urban environment. Platypus and water-rats are frequently seen in easily accessible locations along the Queanbeyan River, which is a rare phenomenon in South Eastern Australia. The APC have volunteers actively monitoring and keep excellent records of sightings. They have encouraged Council to promote Queanbeyan as a destination for spotting platypus and water-rats in the wild. Notwithstanding the status of Bombala as "Platypus Country", observers along the Queanbeyan River record excellent results for sightings in a very public and open area. (See attachment)

Queanbeyan will be working to improve conditions for platypus. The new Plan of Management makes recommendations to improve access and community promotion of platypus. This includes installing viewing platforms, native planting buffers and educational signage.

Platypus are significant 'flagship species' for environmental conservation and sustainability. It is suggested that The Standing Committee consider the current and potential ecotourism opportunities of platypus spotting within our region.

2.

Information on the APC monitoring program can be found at:
<http://www.platypus.asn.au>

Please do not hesitate to contact Natasha Abbott on if you require further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G Chapman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Gary Chapman
General Manager

Attachment:

**Platypus sightings in the Queanbeyan River
May 2009 – February 2011**

