

Fyke netting

Water Quality Management Plan 2011

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What are Fyke nets and how do they work?

Fyke nets are a series of net barrels with open wings at the entrance to direct Carp into the barrels. The nets is staked at three points to keep it in place and to ensure the wings direct the carp into the barrel. Once the carp have swum into the barrels they are unable to swim back out. The nets are checked daily to remove the trapped Carp and any non carp species can be released safely back into the lake.

Why use fyke nets?

Fyke nets are a low impact method of continuously catching and removing the carp from the system. Seine netting can remove vegetation and is inefficient in areas where there is dense vegetation, whereas Fyke nets will allow carp removal to take place in areas where there is vegetation.

Where should the nets be put first?

The nets will be initially trialled in Lake Carramar due to the size of the lake and amount of vegetation in the lake.

How many nets should be placed in Lake Carramar?

It is proposed to install four pairs of nets back to back in Lake Carramar.

Why are the nets installed back to back?

Carp tend to swim along the edge of the lake in a circular motion, the nets are installed back to back to capture fish swimming in either direction around the lake.

Will Fyke nets be placed into the other lakes as well?

Following the initial trial of the Fyke nets in Lake Carramar we will trial the nets in the Legana and Illawong to determine their success in these lakes.

Will fish other than Carp get trapped in the Fyke nets?

Yes, any fish species can be caught in the Fyke nets but only the carp will be removed from the lake system. All native fish will be returned to the lake unharmed.

What would happen if a turtle swam into the Fyke Net?

The nets are staked at the end to keep it above the water surface this is to allow air breathing species like turtles to breath once captured. They can then be released back into the lake or a more appropriate location.

What should I do if I see a fish or turtle trapped in the Fyke net?

The nets will be checked each day by Melbourne Water staff and any trapped animals removed. Do not try and remove the animal yourself. Please contact Melbourne Water if you see a trapped animal in distress.

How can I help the Fyke nets do their job?

Please do not tie up boats or water craft in the mouth of the Fyke nets and please do not remove the stakes or touch the nets, if you see people tampering with the nets please contact Melbourne Water.

Will they always be in the same position?

The nets are generally set in one place and left however during the trial phase it is possible that the nets may be moved after a couple of weeks to different positions to determine where they are most effective.

Will this be replacing the regular netting of carp?

The Fyke nets are an additional method of carp control that will aid in further reducing their numbers and may help to reduce the frequency of regular netting in the future. It is expected that netting of the Lakes will still occur in the future.

What will we do with the carp?

Once the carp have been removed they are humanely euthanized and disposed of as per the EPA guidelines.

Will the nets be visible?

A portion of the net mainly the wing that is located closest to the beach and the top of the stakes will be visible, the majority of the net will be under water.

Image: Fyke net in a lake



Image courtesy of John McGuckin, Streamline Research.