

Seine netting

Water Quality Management Plan 2011

July 2011

What is a seine net?

A seine net is a long net that has weights along the bottom edge and floats attached along the top edge. The net is then dragged through the water by hand to capture fish like carp.



Melbourne Water's maintenance team seine netting the lakes in 2007

Why do we do seine netting in the Quiet Lakes?

Seine netting in the Quiet Lakes is an effective way of capturing and removing carp from the lakes. Because the net extends across the width of the lake in most places, there is a much higher chance of capturing carp. Once they are captured, they are easy to remove.

Have we done seine netting in the Quiet Lakes before?

Yes, Melbourne Water has done seine netting in the Quiet Lakes numerous times over the past 20 years to keep down the numbers of carp. Melbourne Water has run a netting program every two years for the past 10 years to address the carp problem.

Will we do seine netting in all three of the Quiet Lakes?

Seine netting will only take place in lakes Illawong and Legana.

Seine netting is not recommended in Lake Carramar, due to the vegetation which interferes with the netting process.

Melbourne Water has implemented other techniques of catching the carp in Lake Carramar such as Fyke nets and electro-fishing. This will compare the efficiency of these techniques to the seine netting, which does not efficiently remove small carp from the waterway.

How old is our seine net?

Melbourne Water has replaced the old net with a brand new, 55m seine net that has been custom-made for the Quiet Lakes to ensure we can effectively seine net the lakes into the future.

Who is doing the seine netting in the Quiet Lakes?

Melbourne Water's maintenance team does the seine netting, assisted by John McGuckin (Streamline Research) who is an expert in this field.

How long does it take to do the Quiet Lakes?

It normally takes two days in total to seine net both lakes Illawong and Legana.



Melbourne Water's maintenance team doing seine netting at Lake Illawong in 2008.

What happens to the carp after they're captured?

The carp are humanely euthanised and disposed of in accordance with EPA guidelines.

What if other fish are captured in the seine net?

If native fish happen to be caught in the seine net, they will be placed in holding pens in the water until the netting is finished, then returned safely into the lakes.