

# WIND DOWN THE WILLOWS

FOR THE YANCO CREEK SYSTEM

## 95%

OF WILLOWS REMOVED FROM YANCO CREEK SYSTEM

Let's remove the last 5%

### YANCO CREEK SYSTEM



Willows are amongst Australia's worst weeds because they are invasive, readily spread, and are detrimental to the environment and economy.

Willows have invaded many waterways and wetlands of temperate Australia, and most willow species are considered Weeds of National Significance (WoNS).



In the Yanco Creek System (YCS) willows were traditionally planted at weir sites and homesteads. Over time they spread extensively. The main willow in YCS is *Salix babylonica* which reproduces vegetatively via roots, twigs or branches. Once deposited in moist soil twigs etc. will propagate readily.



Through an extensive and collaborative willow eradication program beginning in 2005 the vast majority of these invasive pest trees have been removed from the entire YCS.

\*Early detection & control is vital to prevent new infestations.



### Best practice management of willows

- 1 Identify site/s & seek expert advice
- 2 Plan for restoration & revegetation
- 3 Chemical control (stem injection, spray leaves/stems)  
OR mechanical control (excavator - last resort)
- 4 Revegetate & plant/direct-seed understorey species
- 5 Ongoing maintenance & removal of willow residue

### Why removing willows helps YCS:

- 1 Enhances native riparian vegetation & biodiversity
- 2 Improves water flow & water quality
- 3 Improves waterway access
- 4 Prevents further infestations from occurring

This project is supported by YACTAC through funding from the Australian Government.

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Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers – an Australian Government initiative.



Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council Inc.



# RESTORING YANCO CREEK SYSTEM

**5%** 

**LET'S LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS TO MINIMISE YCS WILLOWS**

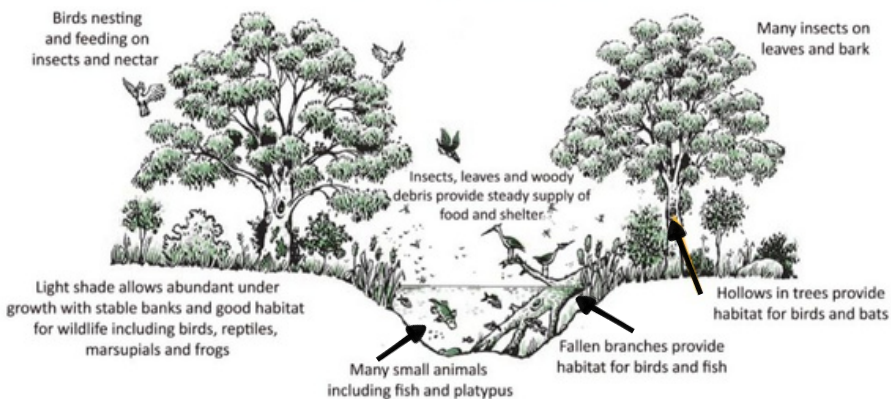
**Have a willow project? call us**

**YACTAC CAN HELP WITH ADVICE, SOURCING FUNDING, CONTRACTORS & LONG TERM OPTIONS**

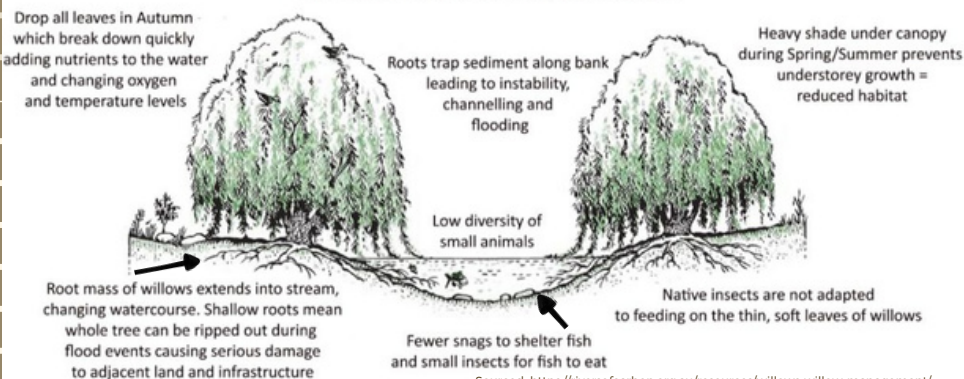
For more information on 'Wind Down the Willows' & other YACTAC projects & events use the QR code.



## NATIVE WATERCOURSE



## WILLOW CHOKED WATERCOURSE



Sourced: <https://riversofcarbon.org.au/resources/willows-willow-management/>



Excavating 200m of willows, June 2022

Photo A Buckingham



School volunteers planting understorey tubestock, Sept 2022

Photos A Mitchell unless otherwise stated

## WIND DOWN THE WILLOWS PROJECT AIMS:

- Improved health and ecological condition of waterways and wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin
- Improved community involvement in restoring the environmental health of the Murray Darling Basin
- Increased economic activity through restoration works

## YACTAC FOCUS - STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2030

YACTAC will actively protect our wetlands and creek environments from impacts of threatening processes, and lead the restoration of a complex, connected and resilient natural environment.

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