

Amazon Frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*) is a freshwater aquatic weed that has been introduced to Australia via the aquarium trade. It closely resembles the invasive water hyacinth, but is significantly more virulent.

In 2016 Mareeba Shire Council Senior Lands Officer Sid Clayton noticed a floating mass of the plant at the Granite Creek weir in Mareeba. Investigating, he tracked the infestation back to a small tributary of Chinaman's Creek at a causeway where someone decided to empty their aquarium into the waterway.

MSC undertook eradication works that year and the year following and reduced the weed to almost nothing. But a lack of persistent funding meant that follow-up work could not be undertaken. By 2019 the original extent of the infestation had completely regrown and worse.

The weed is now firmly established in the Barron from the Granite Creek junction, through Kuranda, to Lake Placid. A parallel outbreak has been identified and partially controlled in a tributary to the Tinaroo Dam. Numerous farm dams near Biboohra carry the weed.

All of these points represent a potential threat to the Mitchell as the weed can be easily transported by people and by waterbirds. In a big Wet, the waters of the Barron and Mitchell commingle at Biboohra. As long as the Barron is infested, the Mitchell is at significant risk.

Together with Mitchell River's contribution we have raised over \$20,000 to power the Sentinel Program through the first year, and have reached half that target for the following 3 years. This is a terrific show of intelligent investment on the part of local land managers.

A hearty thank you to significant supporters of the Sentinel Network and the campaign to remove frogbit:

- Kevin Davies - Deputy Mayor, MSC
- Alan & Karen Pedersen - Karma Waters
- Ann-marie Keating & Family - Mareeba Tribe, Inc
- Muluridji RNTBC
- Craig Cahill - SunWater

Matching funds from donors on the Mitchell

Special thanks to the initial round of donors to the tax-deductible Mitchell River Matching Funds Challenge.



Aiming to resource the new economy for a better tomorrow, EQ operate the Mt Carbine quarry. The Mitchell River is a close neighbour.

CEO: **Kevin MacNeill**



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AWC own and manage the incomparable Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary, straddling the Mitchell. AWC's mission is the effective conservation of all Australian native animal species and the habitats in which they live.

Property Manager: **Andrew Francis**

Southedge Pastoral Company

Southedge hosts the massive waterbody known as Quaid's Dam, which receives the headwaters of the Mitchell River. Southedge are committed to acting as responsible land stewards.

Property Manager: **Lister Pringle**

Make a tax-deductible donation to the Sentinel Network and do your bit to defend the Mitchell against Frogbit!



<https://www.mitchell-river.com.au/donate>

Mitchell River Sentinel Network



Working together to keep Amazon Frogbit out of the Mitchell River Catchment



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Mitchell River
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP

Mitchell River's Amazon Frogbit Sentinel Network

