



The Hobart Rivulet Platypus's Pete Walsh has won a Canon grant to continue making a second documentary on two female platypuses. Picture: Hobart Rivulet Platypus

Tip rubbish contaminates platypus area

Tia Ewen

A significant amount of rubbish has been washed into Hobart Rivulet in the same area that has previously killed or injured local platypuses.

After wild weather and flash flooding over the weekend, the rubbish had been carried through the outfalls behind Degraives St in South Hobart from the site of a Hobart tip.

While there have been no reports of injured platypuses, Hobart Rivulet Platypus Facebook page manager and Platypus Guardian documentary maker Pete Walsh said this was not the first time the tip had discharged into the rivulet.

"Previously, three platypuses got tangled in rubbish in the same section of the water way from the city tip (which leaked rubbish) directly into the platypus' habitat," he said. "The platypus has died or gotten injured because of that."

"It's heartbreaking to see an animal, a local platypus, injured because of our inability to manage rubbish. It's really upsetting, and even when you are able to rescue an entangled platypus, you have to release it

back into that same waterway that you know will be polluted with rubbish again."

While no platypuses have been reported as injured, Mr Walsh said it was too early to tell. "Litter is more of an insidious problem," he said.

"It dumped all of this fresh rubbish into the waterway and some of that is going to settle down in the cracks of the rocks. However long, weeks or months later, there will be a platypus that is coming along and disturbing that rubbish."

"Community clean-ups along the bank is a great thing to do after a flood, but in a way it's too late because the rubbish that causes the problem for platypuses is already in the waterway. The solution is to prevent the rubbish entering in the first place and that's the city's responsibility."

In a joint state statement, Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds and council's city water committee chairman Ben Lohberger said the amount of plastic that ended up in the rivulet was "not acceptable".

"While blown soft plastics can come from all directions

during extreme weather, the council-owned landfill at McRobies Gully tip was likely to be the major source of this plastic pollution," they said. "We're concerned that the current operational practices and protocols at McRobies Gully are not sufficient to prevent the release of plastic into the rivulet or that we have clear enough arrangements for the clean up."

The pair are calling on the acting chief executive to investigate how much plastic went into the river, consider possible infrastructure improvements and to organise clean-ups after extreme weather events.

Hobart City Council acting city life director Karen Abey said McRobies Waste Management Centre had several strategies to mitigate loose plastic. "These strategies were implemented in advance of the severe weather event that occurred on Saturday night," she said. "A permanent step to prevent plastic escaping from the landfill is to close it permanently. This is being done in a systematic way as part of the ongoing closure of the McRobies landfill by 2030."

Woman hopping mad over frog

Duncan Evans

A young Australian woman has had the culinary shock of her life after allegedly discovering a dead frog inside a bag of spinach she bought from Woolworths.

Simone Baker took to TikTok to show off the gross find, with a dead frog heaped on the top of her spinach pasta dish.

"Woolies the fresh food people, quite literally a fresh frog in

my spinach," she said. "Can't get much fresher than that."

Ms Baker said she was "traumatised" by the frog-in-spinach surprise.

"Never been so excited to eat dinner in my life until I saw that," she said.

One commenter noted the frog already had sauce mixed over it, suggesting Ms Baker had swirled the frog around in the dish before taking the video. There is no footage of

the frog inside the spinach bag.

Other commentators took a lighthearted view of the apparent health hazard.

"That is a delicacy in France," a fellow Tiktokker said. "Can you drop the recipe? Already have the frog," another stated.

A Woolworths spokeswoman said the supermarket behemoth had investigated the incident with the supplier and Ms Baker.

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