



Throw your traps near weed and structure where yabbies like to hide



If you want to catch commercial quantities use no ring traps



Trapping Yabbies with Opera House Traps

Opera house traps are the quickest, easiest and cheapest way to catch large numbers of yabbies.

Opera House Yabby traps come in two types - with ring and without ring.

With rings are designed with a steel ring in the entrance to keep out animals like platypus and turtles that can drown in the trap. They will still catch eels and fish but with a large permanent opening most eels and fish will eventually find the exit and escape. These type traps generally have a 90mm diameter ring at their entrance and are the normal type you would use for recreational yabby fishing. They catch yabbies readily and most commercial yabby farmers will also use these traps for “quick catch”. As they have a permanent opening they will actually catch yabbies faster than those traps without a ring. As a rule you need to check these traps every few hours so the yabbies don’t have time to feed and then escape. With all yabby traps for use in Public Waters there are rules and regulations governing their use in each state – check with your relevant State fisheries authority for

current regulations relating to fishing gear. Check where you can use them and how many you can use.

Without rings are not allowed in public waters, these are special traps for commercial farmers or for use in your own private farm dams. You cannot use these traps in the wild as native animals can drown in these type traps. These traps have a material flap entrance that sits flat, the yabbies must push and slide through to enter. Once it’s entered the exit sits flat again behind it so it’s very hard for the yabbies to find their way out. These traps will take a bit longer to catch yabbies but those that are captured will have great difficulty in escaping. These are a special commercial trap that can be set overnight and just checked in the morning.

Each trap has a bait bag and it is important to use good bait to attract yabbies. Just about anything will catch a yabby but some baits are far more attractive to them than other baits. The best and easiest baits are fish baits, those that you would use for saltwater fishing. We invariably use pilchards. You

can purchase a 2kg frozen block of pilchards, keep it in the freezer and just pry off 2 or 3 pilchards to stuff into the bait bag that comes with the trap. Pilchards are great, they send out a scent trail that the yabbies can follow back to the trap. Typically, commercial yabby farmers use dried dog food. It’s very convenient as you can keep a big bag in your car and just grab a handful as required.