

Role Description

Platypus Observation Volunteer

Cluster/Agency	The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Department/Agency	Environment and Heritage Group
Division/Branch/Unit	Taronga Conservation Society Australia
Location	Taronga Zoo, Sydney
Kind of Role	Volunteer
Time Commitment	8/9am-12/1pm, 1 day per week or 1 day per fortnight (12-month commitment)
Training Required	eLearning Modules, Volunteer Induction & Observation Training
Date of Approval	September 2026
Agency Website	taronga.org.au

Department/Agency overview

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) brings together the functions from the former Planning and Environment, and Industry Clusters, including the Office of Environment and Heritage. Taronga Conservation Society Australia (Taronga) forms part of the DCCEEW in The Environment and Heritage Group. Taronga's vision is to create a shared future for wildlife and people. Through our efforts we protect endangered species, increase understanding of wildlife and inspire community action.

Primary purpose of the Taronga Volunteer Roles

Taronga volunteers support the Taronga Conservation Society to achieve their vision of Securing a Shared Future for Wildlife and People.

Primary purpose of the role

The Platypus Observation Volunteers assist with observation of animal behaviour, data collection and data entry to support Taronga's teams with Taronga's Platypus breeding program and research

Key accountabilities

- Reviewing CCTV footage to collect animal behaviour data
- Records administration
- Maintain excellent working relationships with team members
- Ability to undertake work autonomously

Key challenges

- Complete important behavioural observations and data input
- Maintain accuracy and motivation with repetitive tasks

Key relationships

Who	Why
Internal	
Employees and other Volunteers	• The position works with Staff to implement agreed activities, strategies and priorities. • May interact with other volunteers whilst on division and out on site.
External	
Guests	• Interactions with Zoo Guests whilst out on site.

Role dimensions

Decision making

This position works under close supervision and direction, deferring any decisions to the Unit Supervisor, Australian Fauna.

Reporting line

Direct reports

There are no positions reporting directly to the Platypus Observation Volunteer

Budget/Expenditure

Nil

Essential requirements

- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Be able to maintain accuracy and motivation with repetitive tasks
- Good observation skills
- Demonstrated written and oral communication skills
- Capacity to read, understand and carefully follow directions
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to establish good working relationships
- Experience with Microsoft Office and ability to use excel at a basic level
- Commitment, punctuality and reliability and a professional, friendly manner

Please note: This volunteer role will have no direct animal contact