Preparation of a Drainage Management Plan (DMP) is one of the actions listed within the National Recovery Plan for the Oxleyan pygmy perch (*Nannoperca oxleyana*) (OPP). These small, native fish are listed as 'endangered'\(^1\) and as such the occurrence of these fish within, upstream and downstream of drains poses legal and management issues. A DMP can guide development and maintenance activities. It also shows how minimising threats associated with OPP populations can also benefit native fish in general.

A DMP will usually be one of a suite of management tools that a Council or other management authority can use to protect native fish populations. Other tools can include:

- Stormwater Management Plan
- Estuary Management Plan
- Development Control Plans
- Asset Management Plan
- controls placed on individual developments
- projects relating to on-ground rehabilitation, community education and staff training.

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1. ‘Endangered’ under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994*.
Identify options for existing drainage schemes

- Identify options for retrofitting source reduction at individual lot level and/or treatment trains to whole or parts of the drainage system.
- Identify options specific to fish habitat ‘hot spots’.

Review other fish habitat issues

- Other issues affecting fish habitat that are relevant to drainage management include road crossings, bank vegetation and flow control devices that might impede fish migration.

Develop education & awareness raising strategies

- Identify key stakeholders and develop strategies to raise awareness about OPP and fish habitat in stormwater drains in general, and about Council’s regulatory responsibilities.

Develop a monitoring program

- Ensure monitoring activities are consistent with routine maintenance activities wherever possible.
- Identify other agencies who do monitoring or otherwise have data that can be used and organise agreements for access to this data.

Engage with Council staff, government agencies, affected landholders and the general community

- The DMP needs to become normal business for people whose activities impact upon or who are affected by the drainage system.

For more information and technical advice, contact:

Industry and Investment NSW
Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture Branch
Wollongbar Primary Industries Institute
Telephone: 02 6626 1200

These factsheets are part of ongoing commitment to improving the aquatic habitat values of stormwater drainage systems and to assist with the implementation of the Recovery Plan for the Oxleyan pygmy perch by Richmond Valley Council and Industry and Investment NSW, supported by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.