

# Murray Mallee Biodiversity Plan

Managing wildlife areas in the Murray Mallee



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# Contents

- ii List of figures
- iii List of tables
- iii Abbreviations used in this Plan
- iv Strategic statement
- iv Acknowledgments
  
- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 3 How to use this Plan
  
- 5 SECTION ONE: MURRAY MALLEE LOCAL ACTION PLANNING AREA**
- 6 WHERE?**
- 6 Physical description
- 6 Land use
  - 7 Agriculture
  - 7 Conservation
  - 9 Mining
  
- 10 WHAT?**
- 10 Key conservation assets
  - 10 Threatened fauna, flora and vegetation communities
- 14 Flagship species and communities
- 21 High Value Habitat areas
- 21 Ngarkat and Billiatt
- 22 Bakara–Mantung–Maggea
- 22 Forster–Chesson
- 24 Ettrick and surrounds
- 25 Aboriginal cultural areas
  
- 26 WHY?**
- 26 What is biodiversity and why is it important?
- 27 Remnant native vegetation: Why is it significant?
- 28 Wildlife habitat: Why should we protect and manage it?
- 31 Wildlife corridors: Why should we connect remnants?
- 32 Roadside vegetation: Why is it important?
  
- 33 What are the major threats to biodiversity in the Murray Mallee?
  - 33 Grazing
  - 34 Environmental weeds
  - 37 Fragmentation and isolation of native vegetation communities
  - 37 Erosion
  - 38 Feral animals
  - 38 Problem native animals
  
- 42 HOW?**
- 42 What can be done to conserve native vegetation and protect local biodiversity?
  - 42 Protection and enhancement of remnants
- 44 Revegetation
  
- 47 SECTION TWO: LAND UNITS**
- 50 Key Threatening Processes
- 52 Bandon
- 54 Billiatt
- 57 Blanchetown
- 60 Holder
- 63 Karoonda
- 66 Kunlara
- 68 Lower Murray
- 70 Moorlands
- 72 Murtho
- 74 Pata
- 77 Pinnaroo
- 80 Renmark
- 83 The Big Desert
  
- 87 REGIONAL CONTACTS**
  
- 91 REFERENCES**

>> *continued overleaf* >>

## CONTENTS

### 95 APPENDICES

- 96 Appendix 1: Weed species and associated management techniques within the MMLAP area
- 100 Appendix 2: Methods of weed control (broad methodologies of weed removal)
- 104 Appendix 3: Plant lists for typical vegetation communities within the MMLAP area
- 116 Appendix 4: Methods of feral animal control and monitoring of effectiveness
  - 116 Goats
  - 119 Foxes
  - 122 Rabbits
  - 126 Feral cats
- 129 Appendix 5: Conservation ratings and priorities.

## LIST OF FIGURES

- 2 Figure 1: Land Units in the MMLAP area
- 6 Figure 2: The Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Area
- 8 Figure 3: Reserve locations across the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning area
- 9 Figure 4: Heritage Agreements across the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning area
- 15 Figure 5: Malleefowl building nest mound
- 17 Figure 6: Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
- 18 Figure 7: Streaked Wattle
- 19 Figure 8: Native Pine (*Callitris gracilis*) and Mallee Cypress Pine (*Callitris verrucosa*) cones
- 19 Figure 9: Southern Cypress Pine community
- 20 Figure 10: Blue-leaf Mallee community
- 21 Figure 11: High Value Habitat areas across the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning area
- 25 Figure 12: Native well in the Mantung area
- 28 Figure 13: Hollow formed in mallee eucalypt
- 28 Figure 14: Poaching damage to tree branch
- 31 Figure 15: Three-year-old revegetation of a wildlife corridor linking two blocks in the Pata region
- 31 Figure 16: Continuous wildlife corridors and stepping stones
- 32 Figure 17: Roadside vegetation providing a wildlife corridor between remnant blocks
- 33 Figure 18: Cryptogams
- 34 Figure 19: Boneseed Bush at Halidon and large infestation on a dune near Mindarie
- 35 Figure 20: Infestations on roadsides
- 35 Figure 21: Red Eyed Wattle seeds
- 36 Figure 22: Typical Bridal Creeper infestation in native vegetation
- 36 Figure 23: Fountain Grass on roadside near Murray Bridge
- 37 Figure 24: Examples of wind erosion in mallee dune areas
- 38 Figure 25: Rabbit warren
- 42 Figure 26: Edge effects on different-shaped remnant blocks (block and linear)
- 44 Figure 27: Buffering remnants can significantly reduce edge effects such as weed invasion
- 45 Figure 28: Newly-planted wildlife corridor
- 49 Figure 29: Land Units (environmental associations) across the Murray Mallee LAP area
- 52 Figure 30: Bandon locality map
- 54 Figure 31: Billiatt locality map
- 57 Figure 32: Blanchetown locality map
- 60 Figure 33: Holder locality map
- 63 Figure 34: Karoonda locality map
- 66 Figure 35: Kunlara locality map
- 68 Figure 36: Lower Murray locality map
- 70 Figure 37: Moorlands locality map
- 72 Figure 38: Murtho locality map
- 74 Figure 39: Pata locality map
- 77 Figure 40: Pinnaroo locality map
- 80 Figure 41: Renmark locality map
- 83 Figure 42: The Big Desert locality map



## LIST OF TABLES

- 4 Table 1: Summary of the key objectives, management actions and outcomes for the MMLAP area
- 11 Table 2: Threatened fauna of the MMLAP area
- 12 Table 3: Threatened flora of the MMLAP area
- 13 Table 4: Threatened vegetation communities of the MMLAP area
- 23 Table 5: Threatened fauna species and other species of significance recorded within the High Value Habitat areas
- 29 Table 6: Bird species that inhabit hollows
- 51 Table 7: Summary of the recommended management strategies for the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning area
- 96 Table 8: Weed species and management techniques within the MMLAP area

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS PLAN

- APCB** Animal and Plant Control Board
- BGEA** Biodiversity Group, Environment Australia
- CP** Conservation Park
- CSIRO** Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
- (DEH) NPWSA** Department for Environment and Heritage National Parks and Wildlife South Australia
- DEH SA** Department for Environment and Heritage South Australia
- EPA** Environment Protection Authority
- GIS** Geographical Information System
- IS** Investment Strategy (specifically the NRM strategy for the SA Murray-Darling Basin)
- MMLAP** Murray Mallee Local Action Planning (Area or Association, depending on context)
- NP** National Park
- NRM** Natural Resources Management
- RCD** Rabbit Calicivirus Disease
- SAMDB NRM Board** South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (formerly the Animal and Plant Control Commission, Soil Board and River Murray Catchment Water Management Board)
- sp.** Species
- ssp.** Subspecies

## STRATEGIC STATEMENT

### VISION

To assist in identifying, protecting and enhancing the region's conservation assets, whilst raising community awareness.

### PURPOSE

To provide practical information to the community and land managers to assist in achieving biodiversity conservation while enabling the strategic direction of resources to the highest priority actions.

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# Introduction



Photograph: Ben Simon / MMLAP

## Introduction

How to use this Plan



# Introduction

**The Murray Mallee Biodiversity Plan is designed to identify areas with significant flora and fauna within the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning area (see Figure 2). This Plan will assist active protection, management and extension, and provide strategic information for land managers to be used when making biodiversity conservation decisions. The Plan is further aimed at providing the community with information to assist with property-based projects, particularly regarding protection, restoration and enhancement of important natural habitat on their properties. A regional contact list for the Murray Mallee LAP area is also provided for more information and/or further assistance (see Regional Contacts, page 87).**

In addition, the Plan aims to assist in achieving the following goals identified in the *Murray Mallee Local Action Plan* (2002), particularly with respect to Goals 1 and 7. The plan provides information and contacts to inform landholders and community members alike, regarding some of the main issues existing within the local area. Equipped with a greater level of local information, the community have the opportunity to direct on-ground action and resources that focus on local issues according to identified priorities and are in a better position to assist in protecting and enhancing the region's natural conservation assets.

Our Local Action Plan goals are to:

1. Raise awareness in the Murray Mallee community of the need for change.
2. Increase gross margins of Mallee farming systems within land capability.
3. Reduce the erosion of topsoil caused by wind.
4. Ensure sustainable use of the groundwater resources of the Murray Mallee.
5. Increase the water use efficiency on farms in the Murray Mallee.
6. Minimise the impacts of irrigation drainage in the Murray Mallee.
7. Protect and enhance native vegetation communities in the Murray Mallee and the species they support.

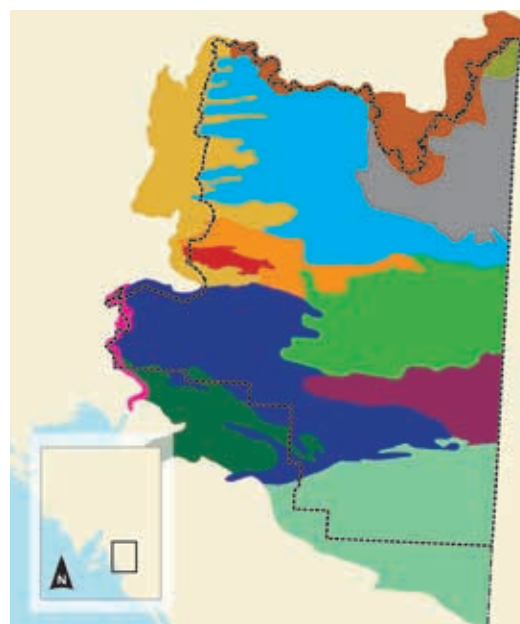


Figure 1. Land Units in the MMLAP area.

Map Illustration: Ecocreative

For a larger, more detailed version of this map, please refer to page 49.



## HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

### STEP 1

Go to Section 1 of the Plan to obtain regional information specific to the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning area. This section will allow you to find out:

- **WHERE** the MMLAP area is located and which major land uses are active in the region
- **WHAT** are the important conservation assets within the region
- **WHY** they need to be protected
- **HOW** to implement strategies to assist in their protection.

Section 1 primarily aims to equip land managers, project officers and interested community members with the information they require to prioritise on-ground works and enable appropriate targeting of resources across the region.

### STEP 2

After reading about the regional issues, identify which Land Unit you are interested in and go to Section 2 where each Land Unit is colour-coded. Figures 1 and 29 will assist you in selecting the appropriate Land Unit. The Land Units are listed below with their corresponding colours:

 Bandon	 Moorlands
 Billiatt	 Murtho
 Blanchetown	 Pata
 Holder	 Pinnaroo
 Karoonda	 Renmark
 Kunlara	 The Big Desert
 Lower Murray	

Section 2 delivers more specific information relating to the primary biodiversity issues within the individual Land Units across the region. Land Units represent the environmental associations, which have been identified based on factors such as land form, vegetation and soil types. For each Land Unit, the main conservation assets, active threatening processes and suggested mitigation measures are highlighted. It is the intention of Section 2 to identify priority areas which require greater levels of investment, while strategically improving biodiversity across the greater region. It also aims to provide landholders with the practical information and contacts they may need to assist in the planning and implementation of on-ground works.

### STEP 3

Information provided under each Land Unit section may direct you to the Appendices where further information can be obtained to assist in planning and implementation. This information includes:

- Appendix 1: Weed species and associated management techniques within the MMLAP area
- Appendix 2: Methods of weed control (broad methodologies of weed removal)
- Appendix 3: Plant lists for typical vegetation communities within the MMLAP area
- Appendix 4: Methods of feral animal control and monitoring of effectiveness
- Appendix 5: Conservation ratings and priorities.

Both Sections of the Plan include broad objectives and management actions at both regional and Land Unit level to assist in prioritising investment for the protection, restoration and recovery of priority habitat areas for threatened species in the Murray Mallee LAP area.

# Section One: Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Area

**Table 1: Summary of the key objectives, management actions and outcomes for the MMLAP area**

Actions and links to Investment Strategy*		Murray Mallee Local Action Plan objectives		Primary responsibility (see Regional Contacts, page 87)	
ACTIVITY	TASK	OBJECTIVES	WHAT IT ACHIEVES		
Habitat protection and recovery to improve biodiversity and protect areas of conservation significance (IS 9.1)	Protect existing resources through covenant, reserves and Heritage Agreements (IS 9.1.1)	Promote the protection of remnant vegetation using conservation programs, such as Heritage Agreements and Land for Wildlife (IS 13.1)	Widespread awareness of Heritage Agreements and other conservation options.	Department for Environment and Heritage South Australia (DEH SA) Bushcare Greening Australia Trees for Life Nature Conservation Society Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association Inc. (MMLAP Association)	
	Increasing knowledge on remnant vegetation management and habitat re-establishment (IS 9.1.2)		Increases total area of formal protection (Heritage Agreements) over remnant areas		
			Raise awareness with all landholders with remnant native vegetation on their properties of the benefits of the Heritage Agreement scheme		
	Implement on-ground actions to retain natural habitat, re-establish threatened habitat areas, revegetate buffer areas, link blocks of remnant vegetation and encourage natural regeneration of degraded areas (IS 9.1.3)	Promote the protection of remnant vegetation using incentive programs (IS 13.2)	Raises awareness of landholders of the incentive payment programs (Mallee Futures Program)	MMLAP Association Bushcare Greening Australia Trees for Life Nature Conservation Society DEH SA Local government SAMBD NRM Board Authorised Officers	
			Increases total area of protected remnant areas		
			Ensure knowledge of benefits of native vegetation and wildlife		
	Identification and extension of climate change impacts on biodiversity (IS 9.1.4)	Increase the total area of remnant vegetation protected in the Murray Mallee (IS 13.3)	Increases size of core areas	MMLAP Association Bushcare Greening Australia Trees for Life DEH SA Nature Conservation Society State Government agencies	
			Improves connectivity		
			Preserves adequate representation of vegetation associations		
			Increases in the total area of protected remnants		
	Recovery of threatened ecological communities and species (IS 9.2)	Develop and implement recovery programs for priority threatened species (IS 9.2.1)	Identify areas with threatened flora and fauna as priorities for protection to prevent further decline in biodiversity (IS 12.3)	Identifies threatened flora and fauna and communities across the Murray Mallee LAP area	MMLAP Association Bushcare Greening Australia Trees for Life DEH SA Nature Conservation Society State Government Agencies
				Increases total area of formal protection (ha) over remnant areas containing significant biodiversity	
Identifies key habitat areas					
Ensures knowledge of benefits of native vegetation and wildlife					
Support community groups to increase capacity to improve biodiversity across the SAMDB (IS 9.3)	Provide technical support to community groups to re-establish habitat and/or protect threatened species (IS 9.3.1)	Provide a link for landholders with the SAMDB NRM Board (formerly Animal and Plant Control Board (APCB)) to assist with information exchange (IS 14.2)	Promotes activities of the Board	MMLAP Association SAMBD NRM Board Authorised Officers Local government Greening Australia Trees for Life DEH SA Nature Conservation Society	
			Raises awareness of feral animals and exotic plants across the region		
			Greater availability of technical support and information		
			Provides links to landholders to info and SAMBD NRM Board Authorised Officers		
	Promote the eradication of feral animal and weed populations in remnant vegetation on farms using best practice control methods (IS 14.1)	Promote the eradication of feral animal and weed populations in remnant vegetation on farms using best practice control methods (IS 14.1)	Raises awareness of best practice methodology for management of feral animals and weeds	SAMBD NRM Board Authorised Officers MMLAP Association DEH SA Trees for Life Bush for Life Greening Australia Nature Conservation Society	
			Provides links to landholders to info and SAMBD NRM Board Authorised Officers		

\* SAMDB NRM Investment Strategy: Program 9—Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement