

Revegetation Fact Sheet

Protect remnants

MURRAY MALLEE



Local Action Planning Association Inc.

Mallee Futures Program

Protecting and enhancing existing vegetation is the most important action in arresting the decline in native vegetation in the Murray Mallee and its associated impacts.

The highest priority areas for protection are areas over 10 hectares and/or areas containing rare or threatened species or plant communities with a high priority for conservation.

It is much, much easier to keep and regenerate remnant vegetation that is already there, than to try and start again. Protecting does not mean just fencing 'locking it up and throwing away the key'! Management of weeds and feral animals will need to be ongoing.

SITE PREPARATION and MAINTENANCE

Grazing management

It is necessary to exclude stock completely, especially if your scrub has a healthy shrub layer and has not been grazed much before. However in remnants that have a history of regular grazing and stock camping, natural regeneration has been achieved with significant reductions in stocking rates by using strategic or rotational grazing. In cases like this, stocking the scrub during winter and spring while excluding them during summer and autumn helps control weeds and improve natural regeneration.

Rabbit and Kangaroo management

Rabbit control is essential - use a coordinated program with baiting plus warren fumigation and ripping or use of explosives. In large numbers, kangaroos may also impact on native vegetation and regeneration, as well as adjacent crops and pasture, so liaise with National Parks and Wildlife Service for their management. Other feral herbivores, such as goats, should be controlled as well.



Southern Cypress Pine (*Callitris gracilis*) in the Ettrick area has been identified as a priority for protection

Fencing

Choose the style of fencing that best suits your needs, that keeps stock out and reduces the movement of kangaroos and rabbits. Where it is necessary to fence on highly erodible sand dunes, avoid sharp corners that may promote wind erosion.

Large areas of remnant vegetation that contain significant species or vegetation may be eligible for a Heritage Agreement. Funding is available to assist landowners with the costs associated with protecting and managing Heritage Agreement areas. Contact Keith Payne, Bush Management Advisor, DEH, ph 8595 2174 for further information.

Firebreaks

Plan and maintain fire breaks and tracks. Consider leaving 5-10 metres of clear ground on the inside of the fence. If possible do this fencing outside the existing vegetation, without unnecessarily clearing any native vegetation. It is likely that the 5-10 metre zone around the vegetation would be unproductive anyway, due to competition from the vegetation. If you need to clear any native vegetation refer to the Native Vegetation Act, 1991 for guidelines.

In the north eastern Mallee, Blue Mallee (*Eucalyptus cyanophylla*) has been targeted for protection

Feral predators

Control feral predators like foxes and cats. This will improve lambing rates and at the same time will improve the habitat value of plantings for a wider range of native birds and animals.

Financial incentives and technical support

Contact the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association Inc for:

- Information about the availability of financial incentives and technical support to assist with the costs of protecting remnants;
- A copy of the Mallee Futures Program Resource Book, which contains additional contact details for further advice about protecting remnants.

Project Planning Checklist

Calculate the fencing distance in kilometres.

Estimate the area of the vegetation to be managed.

Plan a weed and vermin control program.

Although the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association has taken all reasonable care in preparing this information, neither the Association or its officers accept any liability resulting from the interpretation or use of the information.