



Saving our Species project 2015-16 annual report card

Malleefowl

Species attributes

Scientific name:	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>
NSW status:	Endangered
Commonwealth status:	Vulnerable
Management stream:	Iconic



Photographer: M. Irvin.

Key management sites: Goonoo
Central Mallee
Tarawi Nature Reserve
Mallee Cliffs National Park

Project partners:

Office of Environment and Heritage
Dubbo Field Naturalist and Conservation Society
Invasive Animals CRC
National Malleefowl Recovery Group
Western Local Land Services

Riverina Local Land Services
Central West Local Land Services
Australian Wildlife Conservancy
Taronga Western Plains Zoo
NSW Land & Property Information

Summary of outcomes:

An aerial survey has been conducted in the central mallee, Mallee Cliffs National Park, and Tarawi Nature Reserve in order to census the breeding population in these areas. Malleefowl mound monitoring with camera traps continues at five active mounds in the central mallee and four in Mallee Cliffs National Park. Community engagement activities that enable the public to contribute to ongoing monitoring of Malleefowl mounds in the Goonoo National Park and State Conservation Area near Dubbo have also continued.

Remote sensing of potential Malleefowl habitat in the Goonoo region using a technique known as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) has been initiated. The LiDAR data have been captured and analysed to identify Malleefowl mounds in the landscape; results are expected in late 2016.

Office of Environment and Heritage expenditure: \$566,620

Additional volunteer and in-kind contributions: \$6,370



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Project objectives (from National Recovery Plan)

- Secure existing populations across the species' range.
- Achieve de-listing of Malleefowl under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act within 20 years.

Management Site Outcomes

Site	Expenditure	Key outcomes
Goonoo	\$191,750	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 182 volunteer hours contributed across three days in September and October 2015.• Training refresher for volunteers in the National Malleefowl Monitoring System lead by members of the National Malleefowl Recovery Group.• All known mounds assessed (19 mounds) with data collected in accordance with the National Malleefowl Monitoring System.• 1002 baits deployed over 2015/16 at 400 bait stations across the site.• Two shooting operations were carried out in 2015/16 removing 35 feral goats.• Long term average fox activity over five years is 22%, which is above the objective of 15%. However, there is evidence of a declining trend in activity over the five5 year monitoring period.• Faecal pellet transects throughout the site and transects located at water points both show low goat activity.
Central Mallee	\$261,104	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 388 baits deployed across Yathong Nature Reserve in 2015/16.• Canid pest ejectors established across the site. 99 ejector triggers in 2015/16.• Aerial bait runs conducted in Sept 15 and April 16. Baits changed to red meat baits and drying time reduce to increase palatability.• Two ground shooting operations were conducted in 2015/16 both included spotlight operations targeting foxes and cats. 7 foxes, 23 feral cats and 1329 goats were removed.• Fox activity declined to its lowest point following the introduction of canid pest ejectors to Yathong Nature Reserve in 2014 However, fox activity increased again in 2015 to levels comparable with Round Hill Nature Reserve, where ejectors were not in use.• There was an 80% reduction the number of goats recorded on daylight transects after the commencement of mustering commenced.

Management Site Outcomes (cont.)

Site	Expenditure	Key outcomes
Tarawi	\$56,487	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerial survey was undertaken in November 2015 with the support of staff from National Parks and Wildlife Service Far West Region.• All mounds were assessed for breeding activity, with two mounds determined as active.• Three Baiting runs occurred in 2015/16 deploying approx. 245 baits.• 22 ejector triggers were recorded in 2015/16 out of approximately 400 station visits.• Sand pad monitoring indicated an increasing trend in fox activity since 2007. Yearly and long-term fox activity is greater than the objective of 5%.
Mallee Cliffs National Park	\$57,279	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerial survey was undertaken in November 2015 with the support of staff from National Parks and Wildlife Service Far West Region.• All mounds were assessed for breeding activity, with two mounds determined as active.• Three baiting operation occurred in 2015/16 deploying approx. 350 baits.• 57 triggers were recorded in 2015/16 out of approximately 790 station visits.• Due to low replication of transects and low detection of foxes spotlight transects are not ideal for detecting small changes in activity. There is some evidence that fox activity has increased since 2007 but the scale of this increase is unknown.