

# MALLEE

## KEY EVENTS AND INSIGHTS

- **TARGETED ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS**  
Over 420,000 ha of targeted environmental works were undertaken in 2020-21 to protect the region's priority natural, cultural and productive landscapes. Key achievements included:

Delivering 39,776 ML of environmental water to 40 regional waterways, inundating 9,915 ha of priority floodplain habitat. Eleven of the 18 lakes within Hattah Kulkyne National Park were watered as part of this program; promoting further improvements in the ecological character of this internationally recognised site and providing critical water refuges that are supporting a high abundance and diversity of waterbirds. Undertaking 16,786 ha of pest plant and animal control works within the Hattah Ramsar site to maintain key invasive species (e.g. foxes, rabbits, goats, pigs) below critical thresholds is helping ensure that the environmental benefits of watering can be fully realised.

Supporting the recovery of 23 priority threatened species and communities by delivering 390,000 ha of invasive species control works within terrestrial habitat critical to their persistence. These targeted biodiversity works also included revegetating 210 ha of public and private land to reconnect isolated

Malleefowl populations with core habitat; and the re-establishment of key canopy and understory species across 92 ha of degraded Buloke Woodland remnants.

- **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**  
Effective partnerships with community are integral to the success of these on-ground activities, with 40 individual funding grants provided to eight community groups and 32 private land managers in 2020-21 to support environmental and capacity building outcomes.
- **WORKING FOR VICTORIA**  
Annual works programs were also enhanced this year by activities delivered through two employment initiatives. The Working for Victoria and Drought Employment Programs collectively supported 69 participants to undertake a broad range of environmental and agricultural works across the region. This included revegetation, pest plant and animal control, fencing and rubbish removal and delivering against the priorities of local stakeholders. The outputs achieved by these works represent a large proportion of the areas etc. delivered that were in addition to 2020-21 targets (rubbish removal, fencing).
- **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**  
While COVID-19 restrictions impacted the number and type of engagement activities undertaken throughout the year, employing a combination of in-person and virtual approaches supported 6,275 stakeholders to participate in 501 individual events. Collectively, the field trips, citizen science programs, and forums Mallee CMA delivered continued

OUTPUT	TARGET	ACTUAL			TOTAL
		STATE	FED	OTHER	
<b>1. STRUCTURAL WORKS</b>					
1.4 Irrigation infrastructure (ha)	57	90		39	159
1.6 Terrestrial structure (no.)	1	1			1
1.7 Terrestrial feature (no.)		2			2
1.8 Monitoring structure (no.)	24	10	2		12
1.9 Fence (km)	53	121			121
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)	9	13			13
1.11 Road (km)		1			1
<b>2. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	669	226	495		721
2.2 Weed control (ha)	109,495	105,107	18,232		123,339
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	283,201	222,983	71,519		294,502
2.9 Rubbish removal (ha)		3,047			3,047
<b>3. MANAGEMENT SERVICES</b>					
3.3 Water (no.)	46	48			48
<b>4. PLANNING AND REGULATION</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	101	102		10	112
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	47	39	8		47
4.3 Assessment (no.)	485	374	134	10	518
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	3,971	3,518	2,473	284	6,275
4.5 Partnership (no.)	95	73	23	3	99
4.6 Plan (no.)	113	77	27	2	106
4.7 Publication (no.)	288	230	75	22	327
4.8 Information management system (no.)	20	16	8	1	25

to receive positive feedback; with 66% of participants rating their overall delivery as 'excellent' and a further 32% as 'good'. A series of Talk Water and Cultural Values events held with Traditional Owners at key waterway sites to share knowledge and inform future environmental water planning is a key example of the approaches employed throughout the year to effectively engage with our communities.

- **REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY RENEWAL**  
Renewal and release of key regional strategic documents in 2020-21 (i.e. Victorian Mallee Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan and the Mallee Indigenous Participation Plan) represents ongoing advances in the planning, delivery and evaluation of both NRM and governance (i.e. organisational) focused activities.