



Malleefowl Management Fund

Woomack, Rownack and Pirro

The Woomack, Rownack and Pirro (WRP) operation consisted of three parallel mineral deposits located approximately 20km from Ouyen. Mining at WRP commenced in 2012 and was completed in the first half of 2015. Rehabilitation activities commenced in June 2015.

Iluka monitors active Malleefowl mounds at WRP via wildlife cameras.



Malleefowl

Malleefowl are large solitary ground dwelling birds which can grow up to 60cm tall. They are notable for their large nesting mounds constructed to incubate their eggs, are found solo when away from the mounds, and in pairs when present at active mounds.

Malleefowl occur in semi-arid and arid zones of temperate Australia, in all states except Queensland. They occupy shrublands and low woodlands that are dominated by mallee vegetation.

The WRP operations impacted upon habitat utilised by the nationally endangered Malleefowl, intercepting a part of the home ranges for two pairs of Malleefowl. In accordance with the Department of Environment's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act) approval, Iluka committed \$700,000 over seven years (\$100,000 per year, from 2010) to fund projects which meet the National Malleefowl Recovery Plan objectives. To manage the financial offset, Iluka Resources convened The Malleefowl Management Committee.

Priorities of the Fund

The Malleefowl Management Committee may approve funding for projects which meet all three of the following criteria:

- the activities proposed in the submission contribute to implementing one or more of the priority actions outlined in the recovery objectives and actions set out in the National Recovery Plan for Malleefowl;
- the project will deliver significant benefits to Malleefowl in the Victorian Mallee region, but not to the exclusion of other areas and other states; and
- a funding submission has been received by the Committee using the application template.

Achievements

To date \$595,000 has been allocated to 27 projects. A number of these projects complement each other and support the work of a research project 'Adaptive Management in Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems'. Initially a three year Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project supported in partnership by the Malleefowl Management Fund, the research project has recently been extended by The University of Melbourne.

Key projects include:

- four year funding towards a new national position hosted by Birdlife Australia and part of the National Malleefowl Recovery Team - 'Malleefowl Recovery Plan Co-ordinator', who works with volunteer groups across the country, raises funds and awareness, supports the Adaptive Management research project and has streamlined the national Malleefowl monitoring program;
- two National Malleefowl Forums; Renmark in 2011, and Dubbo in 2014;
- four phases of updates to the National Malleefowl Monitoring Database, a resource used by researchers working on the Adaptive Management research project;
- five research programs including investigating Landscape Linkages, camera trapping, analysis of Malleefowl Monitoring Data and Fox Scats, and a LiDAR search for Malleefowl mounds;
- funding towards 16 Malleefowl information boards which have been installed in national parks and rural communities across Victoria; and
- funding for the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group towards Malleefowl mound searches, monitoring equipment, new information brochures and website development.

The Malleefowl Management Committee

The Committee is comprised of representatives from the following parties: The Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group, Parks Victoria, The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, The Department of Environment, the National Malleefowl Recovery Team, and Iluka. The Committee meets four times a year and new proposals are considered at the May and November meetings. For further information or to request a funding application form contact Kulwin@iluka.com.