

Mallee Parks Landscape Conservation Action Plan 2019–2024

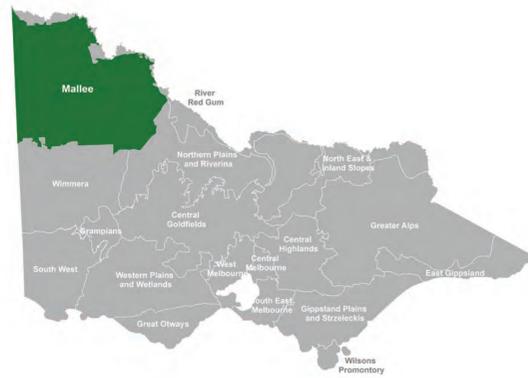
The Mallee Parks Landscape

The Mallee Parks Landscape encompasses a stunning and diverse array of natural and cultural values. It includes significant areas of remote wilderness, consisting of mallee and heathlands on sandy dunes, with saline soaks and remnant cypress-pine and buloke woodlands in the lower parts of the landscape that connect ephemeral inland riverine and lake systems, including the Lake Albacutya Ramsar site. These ecosystems provide critical habitat for a suite of threatened flora and fauna. The natural ecological processes occurring in the Park Landscape can be sustained with strategic, targeted management intervention.

About 1.3 million hectares of the Mallee Parks Landscape is in parks and reserves managed by Parks Victoria. These parks and reserves total around 30% of Victoria's entire parks and reserves estate, and includes most of Victoria's largest

national park (Murray–Sunset National Park) and several other very large, continuous parks and reserves.

The landscape is significant to several Traditional Owner groups who are traditionally and culturally associated with various areas. The southern portion of the Mallee Parks Landscape is within the Traditional lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples, who are represented by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. The northern portion of the Mallee Parks Landscape is within the Traditional lands of the Latji Latji, Nyeri Nyeri and Ngintait (Nintay) Traditional Owners, who are represented by the First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation. These groups have legislated authority for the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage.



Landscape conservation vision
 Increase the resilience of natural assets in the Mallee Parks Landscape and maintain ecosystem services in the face of climate change and other stressors.



Mallee Triodia



Sunset Plains and Swales



Heathlands and Mallee Heathlands



Lowan Broombrush and Swales



Semi-arid Woodlands



Inland Saline Soaks



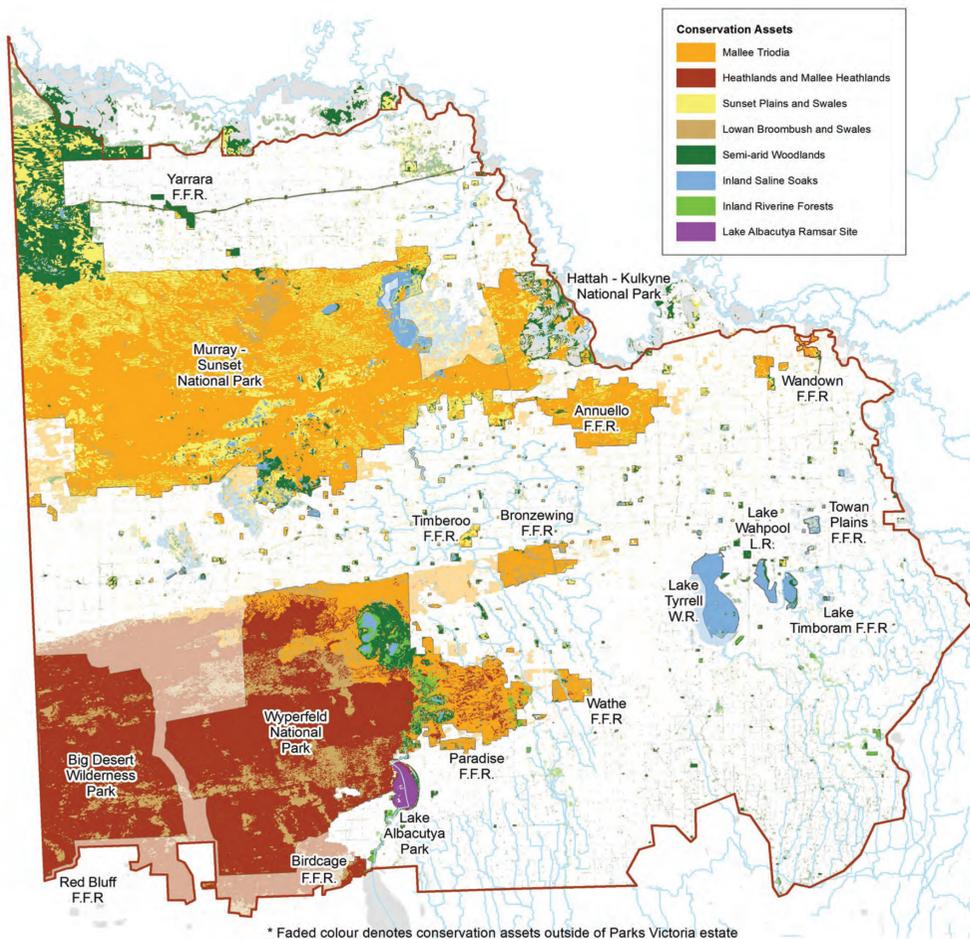
Inland Riverine Forests



Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site

Conservation Logic Chart

The Conservation Logic Chart shown here describes the relationship between the on-ground actions, strategies, threat objectives and the outcomes for each of the conservation assets, and the vision for the Parks Landscape.



Conservation Outcomes

Conservation Asset	Current Condition	Target Condition (By 2034)
Mallee Triodia	good	good
Sunset Plains and Swales	good	good
Heathlands and Mallee Heathlands	fair but improving	fair but improving
Lowan Broombrush and Swales	fair but improving	fair but improving
Semi-arid Woodlands	fair but improving	fair but improving
Inland Saline Soaks	good	good
Inland Riverine Forests	fair but stable	fair but stable
Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site	poor but stable	poor but stable

Threat Objectives

Threat Objective	Target (By 2034)
Extremes of climate and weather	Identify triggers for the adaptation of management activities at times of extreme climate or weather.
Inappropriate fire regimes and fire management activities	Reduce the extent and impact of severe large-scale bushfires, and minimise impacts on high-priority locations of key species from planned burning and fire management activities.
Total grazing, browsing, trampling and wallowing pressure	Reduce rabbit and feral goat densities across the Park Landscape, manage kangaroo numbers at priority locations, and maintain surveillance and control of pigs and deer as necessary.
Predation by introduced predators	improve the understanding of predator interactions and the management effectiveness of fox and feral cat control methods at a landscape scale, and reduce introduced predators at key locations and times to support increasing populations of priority native animal species.
Weed invasion	Eradicate new and emerging weeds, contain the spread of identified established weed populations, and eradicate high-priority weeds from high-value locations.
Specific competitive interactions	Limit the persistence of temporary access tracks that might facilitate Yellow-throated Miner movement, and increase tree hollows that can be used for breeding by Major Mitchell's Cockatoos and Regent Parrots.
Habitat degradation from visitor activities	Reduce illegal visitor impacts on priority conservation and cultural assets.

Action — Conservation Strategies

Action Strategy	Target (By 2034)
Collaborate on Country with Traditional Owners, special interest groups and researchers	Manage Parks with Traditional Owner groups, and support long-term local engagement with environmental management programs, building broader community support for park management and guiding the adaption of programs for increased effectiveness and efficiency.
Manage fire for healthy conservation assets	Use natural bushfires and maintain the structural diversity and distribution of growth stages in the fire dependent vegetation communities, with an age-class distribution informed by the optimal geometric mean abundance of local species, and protect key nested assets that are sensitive to inappropriate fire management activities.
Manage total grazing pressure	In partnership with neighbours, total grazing pressure is reduced across the landscape. The health and structural diversity of habitats is increased so that Semi-arid Woodlands are naturally regenerating, with a full representation of age-classes of Slender Cypress-pine, Buloke and Belah, including tree hollows, and supporting dependent threatened flora and fauna.
Restore Semi-arid Woodlands	Semi-arid woodlands increase in vegetation and fauna diversity, and critical habitat elements are maintained and restored resulting in improved habitat quality and canopy extent.
Control introduced predators to support resilient populations of native fauna	Predation-sensitive fauna will increase in distribution and occurrence at high priority locations.
Manage environmental weeds using a biosecurity approach	Priority weed species are effectively managed at relevant locations and in partnership with neighbours to encourage species and structural diversity of native flora and habitats.
Reduce visitor impacts on natural and cultural values	The biophysical and aesthetic naturalness will be maintained by minimising illegal impacts that cause disturbance to the soil and ground layer, and fragmentation of wilderness.
Reintroduce locally extinct fauna	Secure the distribution and abundance of locally threatened species, and improve ecosystem functioning by reintroducing locally extinct native species that can restore native-led ecological processes, including soil disturbance (digging, burrowing), seed and fungi dispersal, and predation.

Performance measures

To quantify the effectiveness of implementing the conservation strategies, interim performance measures have been set for the Mallee Parks Landscape Conservation Action Plan. These will enable the assessment of the effects of management actions in relation to the desired state of conservation assets and their key ecological attributes.

Activity (short-term) measures

Activity measures represent the quantity and quality of management actions that have been delivered.

Threat (medium-term) measures

Threat measures represent the impacts of management action on threats, measuring the extent of threat reduction that has been achieved.

Outcome (long-term) measures

Outcome measures represent the results of management on the state of the conservation assets, which generally only respond over a longer term.