

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 29 July 2021

Hattah springs to life

A significant watering event during autumn at the Ramsar listed Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is providing great outcomes for the environment and the community.

The environmental watering commenced in early May and was completed in mid-June, and allowed water to be pumped into 11 of the 18 lakes in the system, with nine of these lakes designated Ramsar wetlands. The Hattah Lakes have been the focus of much restoration over several years, to ensure a sustainable future for the iconic RAMSAR listed wetland. The drying of the lakes over the past few years has allowed the lakes to establish lakebed herb land, flower and set seed, creating a positive environment for native flora and foraging animals.

The Hattah Lakes support many threatened and rare native species and ensuring they receive water means the area remains a place the whole community can enjoy. Locals are enjoying the Hattah Lakes again with visitation to the area increasing with the delivery of environmental water. Kayakers, campers, bird watchers, anglers and walkers are all reaping the benefits.

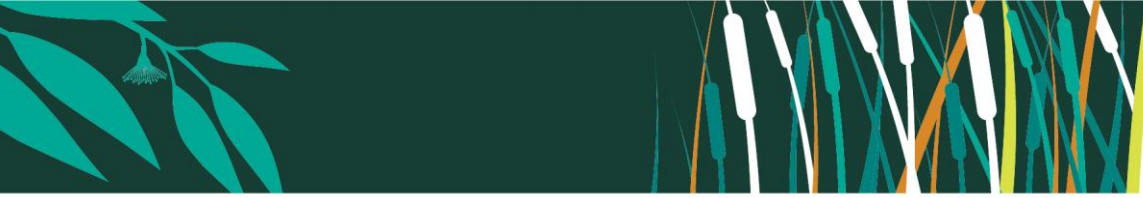
Another positive to come from the recent watering event is the explosion of bird activity observed at Lake Kramen. Hundreds of Black Swans have taken up residence to nest, with recent monitoring identifying over 45 active nests at the Lake. Mallee CMA is continuing to monitor the site with over 45 different bird species identified and more than 2,200 birds visiting the site in the last month including Hardhead Duck, Musk Duck and Regent Parrot, all listed as vulnerable species.

Mallee CMA is now planning for the 2021-22 season, with Hattah Lakes expected to receive additional environmental water in spring which will bring even more benefits for the environment and the community.

The water recently delivered at Hattah was contributed by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and The Living Murray Program, and outlines continued commitment to the restoration of unique environmental assets, such as the Hattah wetland and floodplain.

For more information on the delivery of water for the environment please visit our website www.malleecma.com.au or contact the Mallee CMA via (03) 50514 377, or email engage@malleecma.com.au.

Keep up to date with the latest information about the delivery of water for the environment and other important programs follow our social media.



Quotes attributable to Mallee CMA CEO Jenny Collins:

It's important to ensure a balance so both our community and environment can prosper through the delivery of water for the environment. Our natural landscape in the Mallee provides so many benefits for our region through recreation, eco-tourism, economic and cultural benefits.

By working with our community and stakeholders to inform Mallee CMA's natural resource management and planning we can ensure water for the environment is delivered with a wide range of benefits, including for our community.

Mallee CMA is continuing to monitor the outcomes of delivering water to Hattah and the results are positive, we've seen 45 different bird species identified in the last month alone, many listed as vulnerable species.

Ends

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Leesa Merrett

Manager Communications

M: 0428 177 642

E: leesa.merrett@malleecma.com.au

Background information:

The Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory authority established to ensure that natural resources in the region are managed in an integrated and ecologically sustainable way. Its work is based on science and delivered through meaningful partnerships with local organisations such as Landcare, community groups, and government agencies in the Victorian Mallee.

For more information visit www.malleecma.com.au