



Community-Led Action Plan
Kings Billabong
2022-23



Acknowledgement of Country

Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) acknowledges and respects Traditional Owners, Aboriginal communities and organisations. We recognise the diversity of their cultures and the deep connections they have with Victoria's lands and waters. We value partnerships with them for the health of people and Country.

Mallee Catchment Management Authority Board, management and staff pay their respects to Elders past, present and emerging and recognise the primacy of Traditional Owners' obligations, rights and responsibilities to use and care for their traditional lands and waters.

Thank you

Mallee CMA would like to thank everyone who took part during the survey response period. Your responses have provided valuable insights to your priorities and vision for the future in this plan.

About us

The Mallee CMA oversees hundreds of wetland sites of great diversity and natural beauty. These wetlands are primarily concentrated along a 760km stretch of the Murray River, between Vinifera and the South Australian border.

Mallee CMA
Community-Led Action Plan Kings Billabong 2022/23
Mallee CMA, Irymple, Victoria

For further information on this plan, contact:

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Kings Billabong is important to the region for its cultural and historical significance, recreational values and nationally listed flora and fauna species

Introduction

Kings Billabong Park is loved by the local community, First Nations peoples, recreational groups and visitors.

Located near Mildura, the park is important to the region for its Cultural and historical significance, recreational values and nationally listed flora and fauna species.

This Community-led Action Plan has been designed to help guide the Mallee CMA, in partnership with land managers, to enhance the cultural and ecological values surrounding Kings Billabong and reflect the local community's future aspirations for this flagship site. This Community-led Action Plan was reviewed and updated in May 2023, based on community survey results and responses.

The Mallee CMA oversees hundreds of sites of great diversity and natural beauty. These wetlands are primarily concentrated along a 760km stretch of the Murray River, between Vinifera and the South Australian border.

Kings Billabong snapshot

20

km² of woodland, shrubland and wetland areas

12

Wetlands, lakes and billabongs

18

Community submissions on future goals

About Kings Billabong

Location

Kings Billabong is near the township of Nichols Point and located 16 kilometres upstream from the regional city of Mildura. The park is an ecological marvel and self-supporting ecosystem, of 20 square kilometres. It hosts a wide range of vegetation that supports an abundance of wildlife.

Natural Values

The Billabong within Kings Billabong Park is a protected river/wetland area, being fed by the Murray River. The Billabong is inundated year-round and as such is home to a wide array of bird and fish life.

Community

The perimeter of Kings Billabong overlaps with communities of Nichols Point, Irymple, and Red Cliffs. Community members participate in activities such as walking and cycling along the several tracks, fishing at one of the numerous platforms, canoeing, enjoying the scenery and wildlife, birdwatching, frog and turtle monitoring, and camping.

Engaging with the local community that lives around Kings Billabong, Landcare, community groups, First Nations peoples and visitors has been vital to understanding what the community values most about this site and provides scope for the delivery of future works that meet community expectations.



Engaging with the community has been vital to understanding what the community values most about this site





The plan aims to provide an overview of the most valued actions... that would further enhance this area

About the Community-Led Action Plan

Objective

The Plan aims to provide an overview of the most valued actions identified by surveyed community members and future project opportunities that would further enhance this area and encourage visitation.

The Community-led Action Plan summarises the community's views on:

- How important certain future works activities are for the flagship site.
 - The priority in which works should be conducted.
 - The vision for the future.
 - Concerns and issues that matter most to the community.
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Listening to the community

Scope

Physical and online surveys were made available to the Kings Billabong community from February to April 2023 as A4 survey sheets, social media links and distribution within community groups and agencies. Surveys were also available at the Sunraysia Farmers Market and the Red Cliffs Market.

Responses

There were many responses received for the community survey from a passionate and involved audience. Alongside the responses from the general community, the following stakeholders were also engaged for inclusion and comment:

- Sunraysia Bushwalkers
 - Mildura Birdlife
 - Mildura 4WD
 - Christie Centre
 - Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Community Council
 - Scout groups
 - Aboriginal community members
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Comments and challenges

Survey results inform the Mallee CMA on what activities and actions could enhance the well-being and amenity of the flagship site.

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There were many responses over the survey period, from a passionate and involved audience

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Hearing Community Voices...

The community feedback received has identified a list of priorities the community sees as most important in the future wellbeing of Kings Billabong.



Controlling pests:

The control of pest plants and animals was identified as a key priority for the community.



Upgrading the roadway:

The survey showed vehicle access to Kings Billabong was a key issue for the community.



Upgrading the walking track:

The community wants comfortable, accessible walking tracks to enjoy the park.

Community Priorities



Vegetation Rehabilitation and Plantings

The vegetation of Kings Billabong is recognised as ecologically significant by flora and fauna enthusiasts. The consultation for this action plan suggests that the wellbeing of native fish and birds is a primary concern.

Priorities

- Rehabilitation of vegetation along heavily trafficked areas.
- Assess and improve the habitat for birds and fish.

Controlling pest plants and animals

Controlling pest plants and animals is among the most highly rated community priorities. Invasive pests present an unacceptable risk to the health of the ecosystems vital to the Park.

Foxes, cats, rabbits and pigs remain a significant threat through the spread of invasive plants and the predation of priority wildlife.

Priorities

- Develop an integrated pest management strategy.
- Assess the impacts of pest plants and animals.



Upgrade and maintain walking tracks

Kings Billabong features several nature trails dedicated to recreational activities such as walking and cycling. It's clear from our feedback that the community values amenities such as chairs and tables for resting and enjoying the scenery.

The community regards the upgrading and maintenance of the walking trails as a priority.

Priorities

- Reduce accessibility risks along the tracks.
- Improve features along the tracks.

Community Priorities

Installing signage

The community has told us it wants signage at Kings Billabong to promote awareness and respect for the flagship waterway's vegetation, wildlife and heritage.

Priorities

- Develop signage that identifies important vegetation, wildlife, and heritage values.
- Improve and update the current signage present across the park.



Fencing, restrictions and protection

While important for managing pests and access, feedback shows the community favours upgrades that would have a more significant impact, such as upgrading access tracks or controlling pest plants and animals.

Priorities

- Improve the quality of pest animal control through fencing initiatives.
- Intervene in track degradation through fencing and restrictions.

Recreation facilities and all-abilities access

The community has expressed a desire for a more usable waterway, with the development of all-abilities trails and facilities such as bird hides.

Ensuring wheelchair accessibility across all recreational areas in the park is a priority, including the installation of ramps, lifts, and other features to promote greater community inclusion.

Priority

- Develop infrastructure and recreational features that accommodate all abilities.
- Develop targeted areas for camping.



Community Priorities



Upgrading roadways and access tracks

There is a desire to see action taken on the upkeep, upgrade, and control of the roads and access tracks through Kings Billabong.

Suggestions from the community include locked gates and fences or upgrading roadways to better cope with flooding and traffic.

Priorities

- Improve all-weather capabilities of roads and tracks.
- Assess the hazards associated with vehicle access.

Installing recreational amenities

Consultation suggests that while the community values amenities such as tables and chairs, a greater focus on access, recreational facilities, and upgrading and maintaining the walking trail, should be prioritized.

Priorities

- Assess the capacity for future improvement along the tracks.



Taking Action...

The priorities identified by engaging with the community have informed the action plan.

This action plan is focused on achieving the outcomes most valued by the community.



Actions and outcomes for 2022-23

Priority 1: Vegetation Rehabilitation and Plantings



Priority 1a:

Rehabilitation of vegetation associated with track rationalisation.

Action

Planning for the seed bombing and mulching of 0.4 hectares was completed in 2022-23 ready for delivery in 2023-24.

Action by - Mallee CMA

Priority 1b:

Assess vegetation condition and extent of track rationalisation.

Action

Consultant assessment has been completed with the report to inform future works.

Action by - Mallee CMA

Priority 2: Controlling pest plants and animals

Priority 2a:

Assess and monitor pest plants and animals.

Action

There were 83 assessments completed in the 2022-23 financial year.

Action by - Mallee CMA

Priority 2b:

Management of pest plants and animals.

Action

Collaborate with the land manager to assist with weed and rabbit control where funding allows.

Action by - CMA



Priority 3: Upgrading and maintaining the walking track

Priority 3a:

Reduce accessibility risks along the tracks.

Action

Walking track upgrade where funding permits. Action by - Mallee CMA

Priority 3b:

Improve amenities along the track in collaboration with the land manager.

Action

Install seating subject to funding. Action by - Mallee CMA

Actions and outcomes

Priority 4: Installing signage which identifies features, facilities, and values

Priority 4a:

Develop signage that identifies important vegetation, wildlife, and heritage values.

Action

Collaborate with Traditional Owners to reflect cultural values through signage in partnership with the land manager where funding allows.

Action by - Mallee CMA

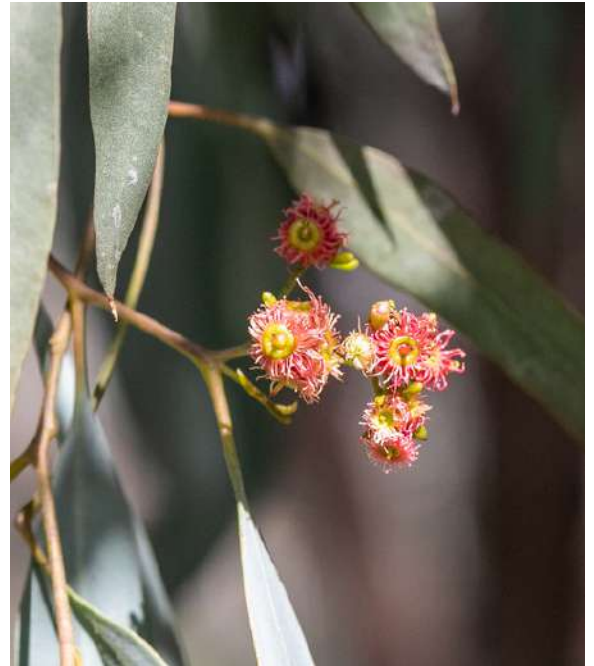
Priority 4b:

Improve and update the current signage present across the park.

Action

Work with the land manager to update and improve current signage.

Action by - Mallee CMA



Priority 5: Installing fencing, restrictions, and protections for floodplain / natural riparian areas



Priority 5a:

Installing fencing for the protection of significant cultural heritage sites.

Action

There was 2.5 kilometres of fencing installed in the 2022-23 financial year.

Action by - Mallee CMA

Priority 5b:

Intervene in track degradation through fencing and restrictions.

Action

There was 2.3 kilometres of fencing and bollards installed in the 2022-23 financial year to rationalise tracks across the park.

Action by - Mallee CMA

Actions and outcomes

Priority 6: Providing additional recreational facilities, and access for all abilities

Priority 6a:

Installation of additional recreational facilities to improve access for all abilities.

Action

Following the 2022 flood event, existing canoe launches and fishing platforms have been maintained.

Action by - Mallee CMA

Priority 6b:

Upgrade and improve access for camping.

Action

Track rationalisation and further defining access to the sites.

Action by - Mallee CMA



Priority 7: Upgrading roadway and access tracks

Priority 7a:

Improve all-weather capabilities of roads and tracks.

Action

There was 2.2 kilometres of priority track upgrades completed in the 2022-23 financial year.

Action by - Mallee CMA

Priority 7b:

Maintain safe vehicle access while protecting Cultural and ecological values

Action

Installation of permanent safety barrier at Psyche Lagoon.

Action by - Mallee CMA

Priority 8: Installing recreational amenities

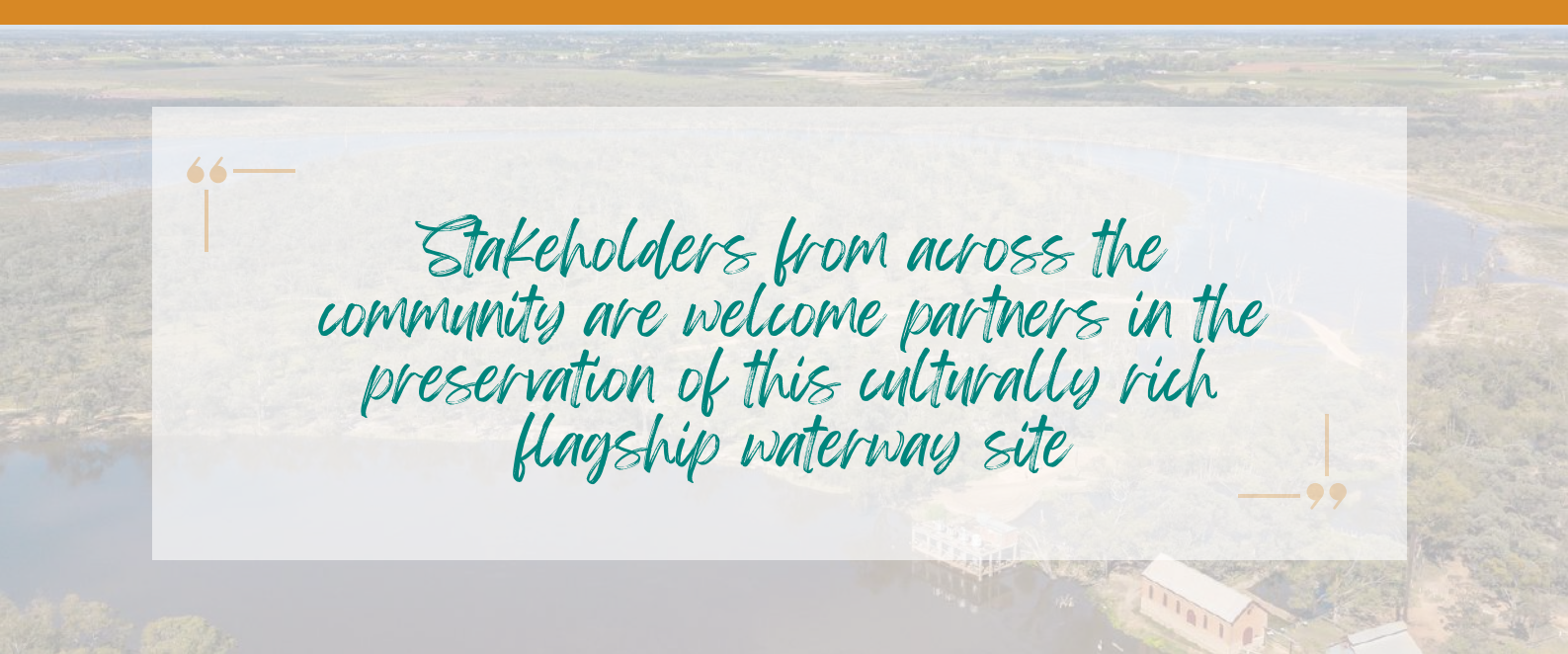
Priority 8a:

Assess the capacity for future improvement along the tracks.

Action

Collaborate with the land manager to identify opportunities for further improvements.

Action by - Mallee CMA



Stakeholders from across the community are welcome partners in the preservation of this culturally rich flagship waterway site

Vision for the future

Working together

Mallee CMA is dedicated to continuing to improve the amenity of Kings Billabong and showcasing its history, heritage and knowledge-sharing opportunities. Stakeholders from across the community are welcome partners in the preservation of this culturally rich flagship waterway site.

There are several opportunities for upgrade, maintenance and development. The Kings Billabong community has provided valuable information, helping to develop priorities and actions that are achievable and will sustain a safe and welcoming environment.

We recognise that Kings Billabong's future is dependent on the community's interest and involvement and would like to recognise the groups who have contributed to this Community-led Action Plan:

- Sunraysia Bushwalkers
- Mildura Birdlife
- Mildura 4WD
- Christie Centre
- Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Community Council
- Scout groups
- Aboriginal community
- General community

How to get involved

The Mallee CMA will be undertaking an annual review of the Community-led Action Plan, informing the community of actions completed and re-evaluating the priorities identified.

We will be seeking community feedback as part of each annual review to recognise the value of independent views and appreciate the time commitment of our community members and advocates.

If you would like to be involved and have your say on future Community-led Action Plans, please sign up to our Engagement Register through our website:

<https://www.malleecma.com.au/engagement/>



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