

Red Cliffs Community Update

Be involved in the future of Mallee waterways

Locals across the Mallee are being asked to have input into how the region's rivers, creeks, lakes, wetlands and adjoining floodplains will be managed over the next 10 years.

By completing a quick online survey, people can directly influence how the Mallee Waterway Strategy (MWS) is updated.

The MWS is updated every 10 years. To date, the current renewal process has involved a review of the MWS 2015-2022 and the 2024 addendum. Subsequent steps will include the development of regional outcomes, clarifying waterway values and threats, confirming priority areas and developing management directions.

The renewed MWS will build on the region's achievements and have an increased emphasis on:

- respecting and acknowledging Aboriginal culture and recognising Aboriginal peoples' rights, obligations and role in caring for Country;
- incorporating Traditional Owner self-determined content, including outcomes, priorities and management directions;
- inclusion of social, recreational and economic values in planning;
- considering the impacts of climate change and climate adaptation.

Have Your Say

To provide your feedback on wetland and waterway values, complete the survey at:

[Have Your Say - Environmental watering and the Mallee Waterway Strategy Survey](#)



Red Cliffs

Minor works are underway to improve the way environmental water is delivered to three wetlands in the Red Cliffs area.

- Woolong Wetland
- Bottle Bend
- Outlet Creek

Works involve installing culverts and small earthen levees to ensure wetlands can be watered efficiently and effectively. Without these works, temporary levees have to be built and removed each time a wetland is watered.

These works will also mean less long-term impacts on the cultural and environmental values of these wetlands, reducing the cost associated with watering. These structures have been designed not to impede natural flood events (flows).

Construction will take place from June to October 2026.



Above: Pelican enjoying the water at Outlet Creek

Where's the water gone at Hattah Lakes?

Have you noticed the reduced water levels at Hattah Lakes lately?

Don't worry – it's all part of keeping this precious ecosystem healthy and thriving.

Over the past five years, the Hattah Lakes system has received water from naturally high river flows and pumped environmental water. The lakes are now entering an important natural drying

(also called "drawdown") phase where some lakes will completely dry out. Wetting and drying phases are a natural and vital requirement to maintain the health of the Hattah Lakes ecosystem.

Monitoring is being undertaken during the drying phase to manage unnecessary impacts on native fish.



Above: Lakebed herbland Lake Hattah



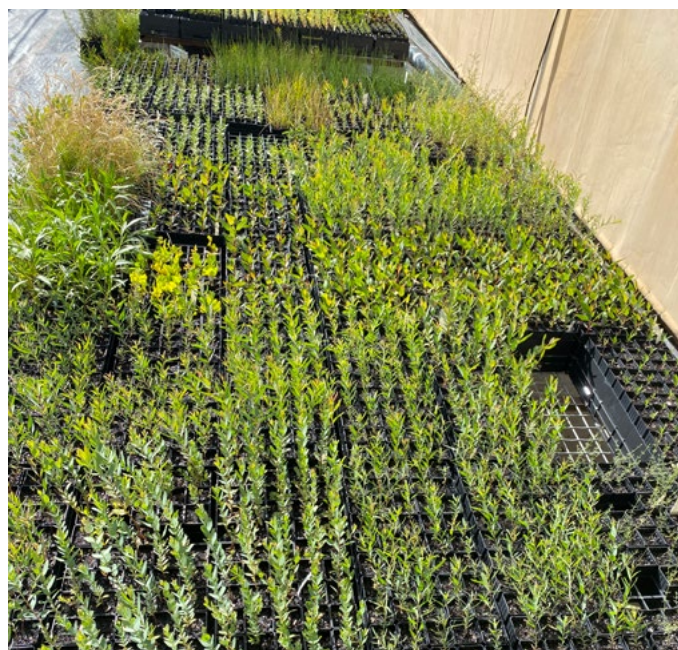
Planting to help native animals from Hattah to Wemen

More than 8,500 native trees and shrubs are set to be planted along roadsides in Hattah, Liparoo and Wemen to improve opportunities for native animals to move between parks and reserves in the area.

With planting scheduled to get underway as soon as next month, these areas of roadside contain native vegetation that is crucial for linking isolated populations of native animals. These areas also help species to disperse and provide physical habitat to nest or forage, which ultimately strengthens their resilience against environmental threats.

Areas planned for revegetation include sections along River Road, Gayfield Road at Hattah; Angle Track/Booth Road, and Hill Road at Liparoo; Hattah-Robinvale Road, Ryan Road at Wemen.

The native species to be planted are tubestock and watering will be carried out as needed as the plants get established.



Above: Native Trees and Shrubs

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners, Aboriginal communities and organisations of the Victorian Mallee. We recognize the diversity of their cultures and the deep connections they have with their lands and waters. We value partnerships with them for the health of People and Country. We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging; and recognize the primacy of Traditional Owners' obligations, rights and responsibilities to use and care for their traditional lands and water.

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