



Threatened species

Active management of the Murray River Corridor is required if we are to arrest the decline of the species and the ecosystems that support them. It is clear the future of individual species and ecosystems cannot be secured by nature alone, short-term interventions, just adding water or delivering uncoordinated, isolated works that don't consider the whole of the Corridor, the needs of the ecosystem or the strategies to support adaptation.

The iconic Murray River corridor is home to over 500 national and state recognised threatened species of plants and animals. They face continual pressures from a changing climate, irrigation footprint, invasive species, population growth, recreational activities and community expectations.

The Alliance is building on its trusted and extensive network of private and public landholders, Aboriginal groups, community groups, Local Government, Water Authorities and delivery partners to deliver integrated works that remove threats; provide adaptation pathways and protect, enhance and establish the critical habitat.

What has been achieved?

Over the past twelve months the Alliance and its 20 delivery partners have:

- Completed works towards securing the future of 74 different threatened species.
- Worked with 35 different landholder groups and 1,883 individual landholders.
- Carried out pest animal control over 570,905 ha.
- Established, enhanced or protected native habitat across 4,191 ha.
- Completed 19 surveys for species presence and developed monitoring regimes.



Connecting the Parrots – wildlife corridors

Working across the Murray River Corridor matches the scale of habitat needed to secure the future of threatened bird species. The Superb, Swift, Turquoise and Regent Parrots, like many birds, need wildlife corridors, refuges and healthy rivers. These species move across different ecosystems within the landscape via the remaining native vegetation to breed, feed and mature.

The Superb Parrot, for example, moves to the watercourses to breed and raise their young and all species need alternatives when wildfire or the climatic conditions impact on any one of the suitable sites.

Adapting to dry conditions

Alliance partners are adapting their programs to the changing climatic conditions. Adapting to match the current conditions not only continues the progress towards securing the species but also retains the confidence of the community and ensures their continued support delivering on-ground works.

With the dry conditions, for example, survival of plantings can be unlikely and so they are substituted with a mix of activities that are not so weather dependent such as seed collection, fencing to manage grazing, pest animal and plant control and installation of nest boxes.

Traditional Owners managing Country

The Taungurung Clans' involvement in saving the Pygmy Possum is just one example of Traditional Owners contributing their knowledge and building their capability to protect species and ecological communities. As the preferred service delivery partner, the project provides the opportunity to integrate their Traditional Knowledge and develop capability in leading and delivering a wide range of natural resource management activities and monitoring techniques. This aligns with Taungurung Clans' aims to create employment, protect heritage and environmental values of country and meet their future responsibilities set out in the Recognition and Settlement Agreement.



Building on our relationships with farmers

The Alliance and partners are balancing the active management of threatened species such as the Plains-Wanderer, Mallee Fowl and Australasian Bittern alongside productive and sustainable agriculture.

The Plains Wanderer is an example where the Alliance can draw on the expertise from across the partners. For example, understanding the differences in farming across the Murray Corridor helps inform the ideal grazing techniques that will ensure the ideal density and height of tussocks for these fussy birds.

In addition, by working across the Murray River Corridor, opportunities exist to have multiple populations and habitats that create greater resilience for the species when natural disasters occur.

The Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance brings together the seven natural resource bodies from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia along the full length of the Murray River Corridor.

The Alliance was formed in 2015 from a shared recognition that where there were opportunities to work together, they could deliver better and more cost effective social, economic and environmental results. This is especially the case for rivers where catchment and community-wide coordinated action across land and water is critical to achieve landscape change.

Collectively the members of the Alliance have strong connections with their local communities and have a proven track record of working together.

Current and previous collaborations have demonstrated the real opportunities for the Alliance to **'Grow the Economy, Secure the Environment and Motivate the Community'** along the Murray River Corridor.