

DRAFT MALLEE NATIVE VEGETATION PLAN (VICTORIA)

A well structured approach that flows to the local level.

Victoria:

Region: Mallee Region

Affiliated Regional NRM Group: Mallee Catchment Management Authority

Background

This project contributes to all six objectives of the draft Mallee Native Vegetation Plan (Mallee CMA, 2000) by increasing awareness and appreciation of native vegetation, protecting and enhancing remnants, encouraging landholders to integrate native vegetation management into agricultural practices and utilising native vegetation to rehabilitate degraded landscapes.



These actions also contribute to one of the key goals of the draft Mallee Regional Catchment Strategy (MCMA, 2002), by maintaining ecological processes and protecting and improving the extent and quality of biodiversity in the Mallee. A number of further actions have been addressed including; protecting rare and threatened species, ensuring that wildlife corridors are recognised and maintained as a vital community assets and protecting, enhancing and developing corridors and nodes which are nominated in various Plans.



Actions of the Mallee Roadside Management Strategy (Mallee CMA, 1998) have also been addressed, in particular, educating the community on the value and importance of roadside vegetation.

How the Plan was Developed:

The Mallee CMA initiated a Steering Committee and a technical sub-committee to oversee development of the plan. The Mallee CMA's Regional Bushcare Facilitator co-ordinated the development of the plan.

The steps taken to develop the Mallee Native Vegetation Plan were:

1. Adopt the State-wide framework for Native Vegetation Plans that was developed by the Catchment and Water Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment;
2. Adopt the Victorian Principles for Native Vegetation Management and the Native Vegetation Retention Assessment process;
3. Establish Mallee Principles for Native Vegetation Management;
4. Identify native vegetation resources and threats;
5. Analyse native vegetation threats against resources;

6. Obtain background information on the Mallee region and the importance of native vegetation resources;
7. Develop the Vision, Objectives and Targets;
8. Develop Management Actions;
9. Obtain the comments of key stakeholders.

The Mallee Native Vegetation Plan was developed over a period between 1998 and 2000. The plan has received endorsement to be released for public consultation by the Mallee CMA. Comments from the consultation process will be incorporated into the final Mallee Native Vegetation Plan.

Achievements to Date:

- ❖ Over 7,000ha of native vegetation management works have taken place.
- ❖ Increased awareness and appreciation of native vegetation and its value has been achieved through talks, articles, field days, training and other promotion.
- ❖ Significant corridors and nodes have been protected and enhanced in conjunction with Shires and Landcare groups in the Mallee.

Information Used:

- ❖ Draft Mallee Native Vegetation Plan (MCMA, 2000)
- ❖ Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy

National data sets:

- ❖ National Action Plan data
- ❖ National Land and Water Atlases
- ❖ Flora Information System

State data sets:

- ❖ Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy
- ❖ Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework
- ❖ Action Statements, Recovery Plans

Regional data sets:

- ❖ Mallee CMA data sets

Market and Non-Market Mechanisms for Biodiversity Conservation:

Economic instruments (financial mechanisms):

- ❖ Devolved grants for implementation and on-ground works.
- ❖ Cost sharing arrangements with landholders.
- ❖ Rating incentives with some Local Government authorities.

Community measures (motivational mechanisms):

- ❖ Local facilitators (Project Officers employed by the Department of Primary Industries).
- ❖ Access to external information.
- ❖ Planning and technical support through Catchment Management Officers.
- ❖ Biodiversity target setting and monitoring.
- ❖ Focus on endangered and threatened species.
- ❖ Education and awareness.

Critical Success Factors:

- ❖ The Plan is guided by state, regional and local priorities:
 - at the state level, the Biodiversity Strategy and the Native Vegetation Management frameworks provide the context;
 - at the regional level, the Regional Catchment Strategy guides the customisation of the Native Vegetation Management Plan;
 - at the local level, Biodiversity Action Plans support the Native Vegetation Management Plan.
- ❖ Extensive use of Commonwealth and State databases.
- ❖ Large devolved grant scheme with incentives for priority vegetation, large areas on private land, threatened vegetation communities and threatened species.
- ❖ Extension staff working directly with community members.
- ❖ Recognition that implementation of on-ground works needs a high level of technical support to landholders to build their capacity to understand the issues and take the major step to commit to native vegetation works.
- ❖ Recognition that labour support is particularly crucial in remote areas. In cases where landholders are older or have no time to fence, and the works are an area of high priority, labour support will be provided to complete the work required, plus the incentives will be paid. A certain level of cost sharing is still required.

Further Reading:

- Draft mallee Native Vegetation Plan;
- Draft Landscape Plan for Murray Scroll Belt (Mallee CMA).

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