



# Billiatt to Murray Sunset Biolink

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## Reconnecting the Billiatt Landscape

The Billiatt to Murray Sunset Biolink Project aims to expand and reconnect core habitat areas in the Murray Mallee of South Australia to support a diversity of nationally threatened fauna and flora species. This project will provide these species with enhanced opportunities for movement in response to predicted climate changes.

### Connectivity for what?

A major focus of the project is to support declining mallee bird species such as Malleefowl, Mallee Emu-wren, Red-lored Whistler, Regent Parrot and Western Whipbird. The Mallee Emu-wren is now presumed extinct in South Australia following its disappearance from the Billiatt and Ngarkat Conservation Parks resulting from large bushfires in the summer of 2014. Populations of Mallee Emu-wren survive in Victoria (e.g. Murray Sunset National Park) but at present there is little chance that birds will be able to naturally recolonise the South Australian parks due to the fragmented nature of the landscape.

### What is Being Done?

Revegetation, rabbit and fox control and woody weed control are the main activities being undertaken to provide new habitat and improve existing habitat areas for threatened species.

#### Project targets:

- 800 hectares of native mallee vegetation established in the Billiatt to Sunset Biolink over the 4 years of the project, sequestering an estimated 60,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- 85,000 hectares of intensive fox and rabbit control

#### Activities to date:

- Roadside rabbit warren mapping completed for the Billiatt district
- Rabbit baiting and warren ripping over 10,000 hectares
- Fox baiting with the Browns Well Landcare Group
- Monitoring program established including motion activated cameras for low impact monitoring of Malleefowl mounds and fox baiting stations.
- 70kg native seed collected
- Climate change seed sourcing strategy produced
- 35ha of biodiverse revegetation established in 2014
- Bushland condition monitoring sites established on revegetation property

### Other Benefits

Revegetation and pest control also offer land management benefits such as:

- Stabilisation of light sandy soils
- Wind shelter for livestock
- Reduced fox impacts during lambing
- Generation of carbon credits for additional farm income
- Potential for sustainable harvesting of broombush

### Project Partnerships

This project is funded by the Australian Government. Greening Australia is working with the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning association, the SA Department for Environment,

Water and Natural Resources, the Browns Well Landcare Group and Birdlife Australia to guide and deliver the project.



