



Mallee emu-wren— Establishing insurance populations (VIC)

Funding

\$110,000

Project

This project is an important first step towards establishing insurance populations of the endangered mallee emu-wren (*Stipiturus mallee*) in the wake of fires that destroyed much of its habitat.

Birdlife Australia has facilitated emergency conservation planning for the species and the Australian Government is helping to turn these plans into on-ground action.

This small, striking bird (10–15 cm long) can now only be found in Victoria’s Murray-Sunset and Hattah-Kulkyne National Parks, after former strongholds in South Australia’s Ngarkat and Billiatt Conservation Parks were burnt out.

This funding will go towards preparations to translocate mallee emu-wrens and set up a captive breeding programme for the species. This includes identifying source populations and release sites, based on field visits as well as vegetation mapping, fire mapping, aerial photography and other imagery. It also includes the planning required to transport, house and breed the birds in captivity.



Photo credit: Department of the Environment

These preparations will benefit not only the mallee emu-wren but also provide vital information and mapping for other threatened birds such as the black-eared miner, red-lored whistler, western whipbird, regent parrot and malleefowl that also rely on long intervals between fires in their mallee habitat.

Partners

La Trobe University, South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Zoos South Australia and Birdlife Australia.

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