

4. Conservation activity in the northern Murray Mallee – where do Malleefowl fit in?

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Biodiversity conservation requires two key strategies:

1. Addressing key components of a system that are inadequate to meet the common ecological requirements of large groups of species (often called a 'coarse filter'); and;
2. Addressing the specific requirements of other components of the system not covered by the coarse filter issue (often called 'fine filter').

In the northern Murray Mallee of South Australia, available information indicates that the coarse filter issue is inadequate vegetation on areas of deep sand. These areas of sand are now the focus of conservation activity. A landscape recovery team oversees restoration efforts on the sandy components of the landscape by working towards significant long-term goals. But, does the coarse filter issue address Malleefowl conservation or does this species have other specific issues that also need addressing?

While that question is hard to answer, there is evidence that in the northern Murray Mallee the requirements of Malleefowl are provided for by the coarse filter work and that, therefore, no further conservation activities are needed to specifically target Malleefowl (provided that the coarse filter work continues and monitoring indicates it is successful).