



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Australasian Bittern

2018-2019 annual report card

Summary

Management sites	Far West NSW - Contestable grant site
Action implementation	No management actions were planned for the financial year.
Total expenditure	\$0 (\$0 cash; \$0 in-kind)
Partners	Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group; NSW Environmental Trust; Office of Environment and Heritage



Scientific name:
Botaurus poiciloptilus

NSW status:
Endangered

Commonwealth status:
Endangered

Management stream:
Landscape species





Photo: Matthew Herring

Priority management site: Far West NSW - Contestable grant site

Local government area:
Hay; Murray River

Partners:
Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group; NSW Environmental Trust

Population outcome

-  On track
-  On track (inferred)
-  Not on track (inferred)
-  Not on track

The population trend is unknown at this time because the species population was not monitored and a critical threat was not monitored or managed this financial year.

Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Species population monitoring was not conducted at this site this financial year - establishing management plan including monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan.

Site summary

This site is part of a project that is in start-up phase with planning activity underway. The project targets two threatened entities and is funded by a grant of \$344,240 over five years from the Environmental Trust's *Saving our Species* Contestable Grants program. The funding agreement was signed late in the 2018-19 financial year by each party (Environmental Trust and Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group), confirming the allocation of resources for both cash and in-kind contributions. For the 2018-19 financial year, the grant instalment was \$33,248. Expenditure will be reported on in the next financial year.

This project aims to protect and conserve the Australasian bittern across the Murrumbidgee landscape. To address critical threats, this project will identify and implement a water regime for three key wetland sites in the Gayini (Nimmie-Caira) floodplain, which will result in improved wetland habitat for successful breeding and fledging. Improving land management will include addressing grazing patterns, inappropriate fire regimes and pests such as pigs and foxes that destroy nests and prey on eggs and young. Significantly, because the long-term aim for Gayini is to place it in traditional ownership with the Nari Nari people, this project will ensure wise protection and secure the Australasian bittern in the wild for generations.

This project will also improve our understanding of how to manage water for threatened and vulnerable wetland-dependent species, and therefore inform and improve management of wetlands across the Murray-Darling Basin. By providing many opportunities for education and engagement with a broad sector of the Australian and international community, this project will highlight and showcase a unique land and water management model of partnerships amongst Aboriginal people, conservation groups, business and government, committed to re-establishing threatened species back in the wild of NSW.

Saving our Species 2018-2019 annual report card for Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). For more information refer to the specific strategy in the Saving our Species program.