

## Summary of monitoring results - Malleefowl

Over 80 Malleefowl mounds are currently identified in the Project database, within the LOM Development Envelope and surrounds, as identified by Table 1. As a result of the January 2025 bushfire, numerous annual mounds have been reclassified as 5-year, as inadequate leaf litter and foraging habitat exists surrounding the mound or based on the lack of evidence of any Malleefowl activity in the past 6 years of monitoring. The updates also included several 5-year mounds that were upgraded to annual monitoring for the next season (2026-2027) that were not impacted by the bushfire.

**Table 1 Malleefowl Mound Activity Status**

MOUND ACTIVITY STATUS	BREEDING SEASON (OCT-FEB)						
	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025 <sup>1</sup>	2025 - 2026
Active Mounds within DE	1	2	1	1	1	2	0
Active Mounds outside DE	1	0	3	5	2	3	0
Total Active Mounds	2	2	4	6	3	5	0
Total Mounds Monitored	44	49	24	28	27	90	80
<b>Estimated local population</b>	4	4	8	12	6	10	-

Table 2 reflects the current monitoring status as determined by the 80 mounds visited during the 2025-2026 monitoring event conducted in November 2025.

**Table 2 Malleefowl Mound Summary (as of November 2025, 2025-2026 breeding season results)**

MONITORING CLASSIFICATION	MOUND LOCATION	
	WITHIN DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE <sup>2</sup>	OUTSIDE DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE
Active <sup>3</sup>	0	0
Annual <sup>4</sup>	12	14
5-Year <sup>5</sup>	26	17
Do Not Monitor <sup>6</sup>	9	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>

<sup>1</sup> LOM Development Envelope (under assessment) used to distinguish within/outside of DE.

<sup>2</sup> LOM Development Envelope (under assessment) used to distinguish within/outside of DE.

<sup>3</sup> A mound that is currently in use by Malleefowl during the breeding season and is therefore likely to contain eggs. These mounds are monitored at an annual frequency. This is a term that only applies during the current breeding season at the time of monitoring. Active mounds are used as an indicator of Malleefowl abundance.

<sup>4</sup> A mound that has been recently used, maintained or reworked by Malleefowl. It shows fresh signs of activity such as a soil turnover, leaf litter incorporation, reshaping or recent excavation. It is used as an indicator of current Malleefowl activity.

<sup>5</sup> A mound that has no signs of recent activity. It is considered long-term inactive, meaning no fresh soil turnover, no recent excavation, no new litter work, and no other indicators of recent use. The mounds may be degraded and unlikely to be used again. The mounds are considered optional for annual monitoring but are expected to be revisited every fifth year.

<sup>6</sup> A mound is removed from the monitoring list when determined not to be a Malleefowl mound (spoil heaps with minor depression, or mound attempts, with no evidence of leaf litter incorporation). This includes mounds that have been unable to be located despite several attempts and mounds that have been removed when inactive but remain in the database under this monitoring category.

## Summary of Monitoring Results Chuditch

Monitoring methodology from 2019-2024 remained largely unchanged with delivered limited success in estimating Chuditch population abundance due to the short one-week survey period. Adding trail cameras improved detections but still produced too little data for reliable individual identification (via spot analysis etc). The 2025 monitoring methodology was already under review prior to the January 2025 bushfire, with fauna specialists recommending removal of cage trapping and shift to a longer duration camera-only monitoring. Table 3 shows the survey effort and methodology between 2019 – 2025 to determine Chuditch population abundance.

Following the January 2025 bushfire, the standard annual cage trapping program was cancelled as both control and impact sites were severely burnt with no vegetation remaining. A revised camera-based survey implemented in June 2025. Monitoring results from June – October 2025 have confirmed at least three Chuditch present within the LOM Development Envelope, with further image analysis still underway.

**Table 3 Chuditch population monitoring results 2019 - 2025**

MONITORING ELEMENT	CHUDITCH POPULATION MONITORING RESULTS						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 <sup>7</sup>
No. captures via population cage trap monitoring	1 Female and 2 pouch young Within DE	1 Female and no pouch young Outside DE	0	0	1 Male Outside DE	0	Monitoring via cage traps not carried out in 2025
No. cage trap nights (survey effort)	240 60 cage traps x 4 nights	240 60 cage traps x 4 nights	240 60 cage traps x 4 nights	360 60 cage trap x 6 nights	360 60 cage traps x 6 nights	240 40 cage traps x 6 nights	
Bait used	Universal bait mix + sardines	Universal bait mix + sardines	Universal bait mix + sardines	Universal bait mix + sardines	Universal bait + bacon and chicken	Raw chicken wings and tuna oil	
No. captures via population camera monitoring	-	-	0	1 Unknown sex (Control site)	4 Unknown sex 2 Within DE 2 Outside DE	0	3 <sup>8</sup> Unknown sex Within DE <sup>9</sup> Non-reward lure <sup>10</sup>
No. camera monitoring nights	-	-	72 18 cameras x 4 nights	360 60 cameras x 6 nights	360 60 cameras x 6 nights	228 38 cameras x 6 nights	7,680 60 cameras x 128 nights
No. captures via fauna pre-clearance survey (cage traps)	-	0	1 Male Within DE	0	0	0	Survey via cage traps not carried out in 2025
No. captures via fauna pre-clearance survey (camera traps)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
No. non-target captures via other cage trap program	-	-	-	-	3 <sup>11</sup> Males Outside DE	0	-
No. captures via other camera monitoring program	1 <sup>12</sup> Unknown sex Within DE	0	0	0	1 <sup>13</sup> Unknown sex Outside DE	0	0
<b>Estimated local population</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

<sup>7</sup> Monitoring post January 2025 bushfire impacts.

<sup>8</sup> Trail cameras in place as part of post-bushfire monitoring for both Chuditch and Introduced Predator pre-baiting abundance monitoring, June – October 2025.

<sup>9</sup> LOM Development Envelope (under assessment) used to distinguish within/outside of DE.

<sup>10</sup> Non-reward lure installed with camera, universal bait mix + sardines and fish oil.

<sup>11</sup> Non-target cage captures during Feral Cat trapping program, likely caused by time of year and bait used (sardines and “pongo”).

<sup>12</sup> Malleefowl mound camera monitoring 2019-2020 season.

<sup>13</sup> Malleefowl mound camera monitoring 2023-2024 season.

## Summary of Monitoring Results - Introduced Predators

Introduced Predator (Feral Cats, Wild Dogs and Foxes) has been monitored using results from Malleefowl mound camera monitoring each breeding season since 2019, with detections and opportunistic sightings generally increasing over time.

Targeted Feral Cat cage trapping campaigns were undertaken in 2023 and 2024 with limited success. There were no captures other than a single non-target Feral Cat caught and euthanised during annual Chuditch population monitoring in July 2024. To address Wild Dog activity identified through Malleefowl mound monitoring, 1080 baits were deployed in September 2024.

Advice received from fauna specialists following the January 2025 bushfire, recommended an Eradicat baiting program for Feral Cats. A large camera-monitoring program was carried out to establish a pre-baiting population abundance, but approval to use the baits was not granted. As a result, an extensive cage trapping program was carried out in September 2025, which resulted in only one Feral Cat capture. Specialist advice indicates the local Feral Cat population may be trap-shy, reinforcing that obtaining approval for baiting remains a priority to effectively manage the increasing Feral Cat population in the years following the bushfire.

Table 4 reflects the abundance of Introduced Predators identified from camera monitoring and opportunistic sightings from 2019 – 2025.

**Table 4 Introduced Predator Abundance**

INTRODUCED PREDATOR ABUNDANCE	CAMERA MONITORING (CHUDITCH, MALLEEFOWL AND AD HOC)						
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Wild Dog	1	1	0	3	1	13	1
Feral Cat	12	7	10	16	13	21	13
Fox	0	0	2	0	3	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>

Table 5 reflects the survey effort and results of the Introduced Predator management carried out between 2023 – 2025.

**Table 5 Introduced Predator Management**

EVENTS	TRAPPING AND BAITING CAMPAIGNS	
	SURVEY EFFORT	RESULTS
April 2023	130 cage trap nights	Nil Feral Cat captures. 3 Chuditch (non-target) captures likely due to bait used.
January 2024	125 cage trap nights	Nil Feral Cat captures
May 2024	125 cage trap nights	Nil Feral Cat captures
July 2024	240 cage trap nights	Annual Chuditch Population monitoring included one Feral Cat capture in cage trap and euthanised.
September 2024	100 cage trap nights	Nil Feral Cat captures
	35 baits (1080) deployed	Unable to determine success with no pre-baiting monitoring.
June 2025	7,680 camera monitoring nights	Pre-baiting (Eradicat) camera monitoring to determine abundance prior to baiting campaign. Baiting on hold as approval not granted. 60 cameras in place between June 2025 – October 2025. Initial results: 13 Feral Cats, 2 Foxes, 1 Wild Dog. <b>Number of captures still being collated.</b>
September 2025	846 cage trap nights	1 Feral Cat capture in cage trap and euthanised.