

Plains for Wanderers

Funding for landholders to manage grassland habitat



Australian Government

The only surviving species in the family Pedionomidae, the plains-wanderer sits alone on its own branch of the evolutionary tree – **it's one of a kind, there's nothing else like it in the world!**

Listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act and with less than one per cent of their grassland habitat remaining in Victoria, Plains-wanderers are at risk of extinction, with fewer than 1,000 birds thought to remain in the wild.

The **Patho Plains and Lower Avoca Grasslands** in Victoria's north form one of the last remaining population strongholds for the plains-wanderer. These grasslands form part of the nationally critically endangered Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains and provide vital habitat for the plains-wanderer and a range of other threatened species.



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How can you help the Plains-wanderer?

Landholders can play a key role in protecting and managing grassland habitat that is critical to the survival of the plains-wanderer.

Plains-wanderers rely on a very specific grassland density with a preference for a ratio of around 40 per cent grasses and low vegetation, 10 per cent leaf litter and 50 per cent bare ground.

Strategic grazing management and rabbit control are two key tools that landholders can use to manage grassland density, by stocking or destocking depending on rainfall and grass growth and keeping rabbits to a minimum.

In dry years, landholders may need to reduce grazing pressure on key habitat, in wet years grazing may need to be increased. The most critical periods are during drought, when paddocks may need to be destocked completely for extended periods.

Another way landholders can help the plains-wanderer is through the removal of woody weeds (such as boxthorn) which provides

harbour for rabbits and roosting sites for predatory bird species.

What incentives are available?

The Plains for Wanderers project is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by North Central CMA, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel. The project aims to improve the trajectory of the Plains-wanderer through reducing threats and improving habitat.

Financial incentives are available to landholders on the Patho Plains and Lower Avoca Grasslands from 2025 to 2028 to support a range of activities, including:

- One off payment for fencing and installation of watering points/troughs to protect key habitat and manage stock
- Annual incentive payments for strategic grazing (reducing grazing pressure in dry years and increase grazing pressure in wet years)
- Annual incentive payments to control woody weeds and rabbits

Do you have a property on the Patho Plains or Lower Avoca Grasslands and want to get involved in the project?

Complete an EOI form today to find out if you are eligible to receive funding to help manage native grasslands on your property and benefit the Plains-wanderer.

To access the form, visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/nqz2LtchxV> or scan the QR code:



EOIs close 31 October 2025

