

Threatened Malleefowl species given life by Karara

Two Malleefowl chicks have been successfully released in the wild after being hand-reared in a program supported by the environmental team at Karara Mining Limited (KML) which is designed to demonstrate a viable method of preserving the endangered species.

Malleefowl are large ground-dwelling birds which are unique to the semi-arid Australian climate. They have been listed as a threatened species in need of national conservation efforts, with numbers seriously declining over the last 100 years.

KML teamed up with the Yongergnow Malleefowl Group and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in November last year to develop a program aimed at preserving the Malleefowl species.

The intensive process involves the retrieval of the Malleefowl eggs from mounds in the area around the Karara Iron Ore Project - the Mid West region's largest new resource project, located 220km east of Geraldton. This is followed by a 6-12 month monitoring program, costing approximately \$10,000 per bird.

The chicks, named Klukka and Lou by the KML team, have been cared for at the Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre in Ongerup, in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia. Klukka and Lou were released into the wild at Karara in early December and have since been successfully tracked and monitored.

The successful release of the Malleefowl chicks demonstrates a viable means of species preservation, which remains an ongoing priority for Karara in its commitment to native breeding programs and biodiversity initiatives across the state. The tracking and monitoring data will be shared with the DEC and the Yongergnow Malleefowl Group to increase knowledge about the species and improve future preservation programs.

Karara is committed to research in this area which has also included providing Murdoch University students the opportunity to travel to the project site and survey the Malleefowl habitat. Over a 5-day visit on site, the team of students surveyed 265 hectares of vegetation and gained a practical understanding of the application of permits and approvals, public environmental review, state legislation, as well as hands-on experience in the preservation of endangered species.

With the Karara Iron Ore Project expected to have a life of more than 30 years, Karara will continue to fund significant community and environmental investment projects in the future.

ENDS

Released by :

Nicholas Read
Read Corporate
Telephone: (+61-8) 9388 1474
Mobile: (+61) 419 929 046

On behalf of:

Mr Steve Murdoch
Chief Executive Officer
Karara Mining Limited
(+618) 6298 1888