

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

1998

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Australia

3. Name of wetland:

East Coast Cape Barren Island Lagoons,
Tasmania

4. Geographical coordinates:

Latitude: 40° 18'S to 40° 26'S; Longitude: 148° 20'E to 148° 26'E

5. Altitude:

The whole area is less than 20 metres above sea level.

6. Area:

Lagoons within an area of approximately 4,370 hectares

7. Overview:

The area comprises mainly shallow, saline lagoons within the sand dune system of the east coast of Cape Barren Island. The lagoons themselves are largely free from invasion by many exotic species and are in a remote area.

8. Wetland Type:

marine-coastal: A B C D E F G H I **J** K

inland: L M N O P Q R Sp Ss Tp Ts

U Va Vt W Xf Xp Y Zg Zk

man-made: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

9. Ramsar Criteria:

1a 1b 1c 1d | 2a **2b** 2c **2d** | 3a 3b 3c | 4a 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site:

10. Map of site included? Please tick **yes** -or- **no**.

The map of this site is based on digital data from the Tasmanian 1:100 000 Topographic Map series. The Ramsar boundary has been redefined since original submission of the site, using grid reference points where previously contour lines of elevation had been used.

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.

13. General location:

East coast of Cape Barren Island in the Furneaux Group of islands, north-east of Tasmania.

14. Physical features:

The area is made up of numerous stretches of coastal dunes and beaches formed by deposits of recent calcareous sands. There are deep sandy soils throughout and some areas of plain formed on Quaternary siliceous marine sands and clays. Average annual rainfall is 625 - 750mm.

15. Hydrological values:

Excellent example of relatively undisturbed coastal ecosystem.

16. Ecological features:

The beach areas are devoid of vegetation while a tussock grassland of marram grass has established on foredunes. A closed-scrub of *Acacia sophorae*, *A. verticillata* and *Ammophila arenaria* has stabilised the hind dunes. *A. sophorae* and *Banksia marginata* form an open scrub on the sand plains behind, as well as large areas of *Xanthorrhoea australis*. Further inland areas which are wooded are dominated by *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *E. ovata*, *E. nitida* and *Pteridium esculentum*.

17. Noteworthy flora:

The extensive system of shallow coastal lagoons along the east coast of Cape Barren Island contains six species that are considered to be of special botanical interest: *Centrolepis pulvinata* is rare statewide and nationally; *Centrolepis aristata* and *Schoenoplectus pungens* are uncommon; *Myriophyllum muelleri* is rare statewide and unknown from any secure reserve; *Wilsonia rotundifolia* is rare statewide. *Aphelia* sp (either *gracilis* or *pumilio*) has been recorded from the site. Both species are rare in Tasmania and occur in only one State Reserve.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

Locally significant numbers of many species of waterbirds utilise this area. It is of great importance to the Hooded Plover (*Thinornis rubricollis*).

19. Social and cultural values:

Aboriginal cultural heritage: this area is of great importance to the local Aboriginal community.

20. Land tenure/ownership:

Crown Land.

21. Current land use:

(a) **the site:** nature conservation

(b) **the surrounding area:** grazing and recreation.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:**(a) the site:**

- Livestock grazing
- wildfires are a recurrent problem
- rabbits are suspected to have gained access from Passage Island. Cape Barren Island has previously been rabbit free.

(b) **the surrounding area:**

- Livestock grazing
 - wildfire.
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23. Conservation measures taken:

There has been renegotiation of a grazing lease at the north-east end of the site to restrict livestock access to lagoons.

Consultation with the local Aboriginal community.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

As part of the above agreement the leaseholder was to have fenced off land leased for grazing.

It is intended to write a management plan for the area.

25. Current scientific research and facilities:

Very little work has been carried out as yet. There are no facilities.

26. Current conservation education:

None.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

Occasional bushwalking and duck hunting.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Flinders Island Council

Functional: Tasmanian Department of Environment and Land Management

29. Management authority:

Tasmanian Department of Environment and Land Management, 134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, 7000.

30. Bibliographical references:

Blackhall, S.A. (1988) A Survey to Determine Waterbird Usage and Conservation Significance of Selected Tasmanian Wetlands: Stage II. Dept of Lands Parks and Wildlife, Tasmania, Occasional Paper No. 16.

Departmental files (DELM, Tas)

Moore, E. Hooded Plover *Thinornis rubricollis* on Cape Barren Island, Tasmania, *The Stilt* 24, 24-25.

Milledge, D.R. (1983) Migratory Waders of the Furneaux Group Islands, *Tasmanian Shorebird Study Group Bulletin* 2,42-48.
