

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:

Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River, Tasmania

4. Geographical coordinates:

Latitude: (approx) 41° 54'S; Longitude: (approx) 147° 56'E

5. Altitude:

Less than 20 metres above sea level.

6. Area:

3390 hectares

7. Overview:

The wetland area is situated on the sandy flood plain of the Lower Ringarooma River and is surrounded by woodland used for rough grazing.

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*.

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:

Far north-east coast of Tasmania between the town of Gladstone to the south-east and the town of Tomahawk to the west.

14. Physical features:

The area consists of flat plains of Quaternary clays, sands and gravels. Silty clay soil overlays a deep grey sand, with silt content decreasing with depth. The silt is derived from tin mining activity in the river catchment. Average annual rainfall of the area is 625 - 750mm.

15. Hydrological values:

Wide distribution of very shallow water creates attractive areas for waterbirds.

16. Ecological features:

The area is dominated by scrub and tussock grassland vegetation.

17. Noteworthy flora:

The flood plain contains populations of *Centipeda minima*, as well as *Polygonum strigosum* which is not known from any secure reserve and occurs in 20 or less 10km x 10km National Mapping grid squares in Tasmania. There is also *Lythrum salicaria* which is vulnerable in Tasmania and is not known from any secure reserve. *Villarsia exaltata*, rare in Tasmania, also occurs here.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

Important and reasonably secure feeding and nesting areas for many species of water birds.

19. Social and cultural values:

Limited use is made of the area for duck shooting and cattle grazing.

20. Land tenure/ownership:

Private freehold to the east of the river; Crown Land to the west, including approximately 200 hectares with a temporary grazing lease.

21. Current land use:

Livestock grazing, some waterfowl hunting.

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

Runoff of nutrients from intensive livestock grazing and continued siltation by erosion from mining areas.

23. Conservation measures taken:

Replanting of some areas of abandoned mine workings has been carried out, but has been of only limited success.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

It is intended to write a management plan for the area with the cooperation and consent of local landowners.

25. Current scientific research and facilities:

Little work has been carried out as yet.

26. Current conservation education:

None.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

Occasional duck shooting.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Ringarooma Council

Functional: Landowner.

29. Management authority:

Private property.

30. Bibliographical references:
