

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Australia

3. Name of wetland:

Jocks Lagoon, Tasmania

4. Geographical coordinates:

Latitude: (approx) 41° 21'S; Longitude: (approx) 148°18'E

5. Altitude:

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

6. Area:

18.1ha

7. Overview:

Jocks Lagoon is a small freshwater lagoon formed in a swale behind coastal dunes.

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 1:25 00 Topographic Map series. The Ramsar boundary has been redefined since the 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:

On the north east coast of Tasmania, 5km south east of St Helens.

14. Physical features:

An area of Quaternary sands and clays separated from the sea by beach and sand dunes. Average annual rainfall of the area is 625 - 750mm.

15. Hydrological values:

Provides a freshwater resource in a dry coastal area.

16. Ecological features:

Jocks Lagoon is one of the very few wetlands in Tasmania containing the sedge *Baumea articulata*.

It is a locally important freshwater aquatic habitat in an otherwise dry area.

17. Noteworthy flora:

Two species considered to be at risk in Tasmania are found at the Lagoon. *Baumea articulata* is rare statewide and is unknown from any secure reserve. *Villarsia exaltata* is also rare statewide.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

None formally recorded.

19. Social and cultural values:

Potentially valuable for conservation education.

20. Land tenure/ownership:

Most of this site is private freehold and a small section at the south-east end lies within St Helens Point State Recreation Area.

21. Current land use:

Livestock grazing in the vicinity and some recreational use. There is a *Boronia* plantation 0.5km inland from the lagoon.

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

- Off-road vehicles: The landowner has now substantially fenced off most of the lagoon from this threat. Only the south-east end is still at risk, being open to the recreation area.
 - land clearance: The owners of surrounding properties have expressed interest in subdivision of their land and this could pose a possible threat, particularly in the case of the block south of Jocks Lagoon. This includes the southern section of the Ramsar site and the end of the lagoon itself.
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23. Conservation measures taken:

Fencing to exclude recreational vehicles.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Ongoing liaison with the owner of the lagoon with the aim of making the area a private reserve under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

It is intended to write a management plan for the area with the landowners consent and cooperation. The Tasmanian Department of Environment and Land Management may consider purchase of the private land for inclusion in a nature reserve if the owner is agreeable.

25. Current scientific research and facilities:

Occasional wildlife surveys have been conducted at the lagoon by the University of Tasmania and Parks and Wildlife scientists.

26. Current conservation education:

None

27. Current recreation and tourism:

Recreational activities include the use of off-road vehicles on dunes in the surrounding area.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Break O'Day Municipal Council

Functional: Part Tasmanian Department of Environment and Land Management and part landowner.

29. Management authority:

Partly Tasmanian Department of Environment and Land Management, 134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, 7000 (State Recreation Area).

30. Bibliographical references:

Departmental files (DELM, Tas).
