

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:

Little Waterhouse Lake, Tasmania

4. Geographical coordinates:

Latitude: (approx) 40° 52'S; Longitude: (approx) 147° 37'E

5. Altitude:

Approximately 40 metres above sea level.

6. Area:

56.9ha

7. Overview:

This wetland has been formed when drainage was blocked as a result of the development of still-mobile 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, and was allocated using information obtained from vegetation maps produced in the Department, so as to take into account possible fluctuation of the wet areas.

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:

North-east coast of Tasmania, Australia near Waterhouse Point between the towns of Bridport and Tomahawk.

14. Physical features:

Quaternary sands and clays found in this area are strongly mottled with a layer of impermeable coffee rock at a depth of one and a half metres. Average annual rainfall is 500 - 625 mm.

15. Hydrological values:

The area inundated fluctuates with rainfall and with dune and stream movement.

16. Ecological features:

The Lagoon has dense aquatic growth and a high species richness. To the east an open scrub covers most of the area with *Banksia marginata* and *Xanthorhoea australis* dominating. West of the site marram grass occurs on the foredunes with *Acacia sophorae*, *B. marginata* and *A. verticillata*.

17. Noteworthy flora:

Wolffia australiana is rare in Tasmania and is not found in any secure reserve in the State.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

None formally recorded, but the lagoon forms an integral part of the coastal community.

19. Social and cultural values:

The area is important for the conservation of a representative coastal community.

20. Land tenure/ownership:

Crown Land Recreation Area (Waterhouse Protected Area).

21. Current land use:

Recreational camping, fishing, and duck shooting occurs in the area.

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

Overgrazing of coastal vegetation in this area in the past has resulted in severe erosion and uncontrolled movement of dunes.

Spread of invasive exotic plant species (*Typha* and *Salix* spp.)

Surrounding area - drainage for agriculture and filling.

23. Conservation measures taken:

Status of the reserve surrounding the lagoon has been upgraded to a Conservation Area.

Little Waterhouse Lake is within the Waterhouse Protected Area.

There is a long term strategy to contain erosion of the dune system in the surrounding area. (This has involved the planting of marram grass to stabilise mobile dunes. The use of native species may be more desirable.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

It is expected that a draft management plan will be available for public comment in the near future. A proposed final plan will then be forwarded to the State Minister.

Control of the weed Cumbungi (*Typha latifolia*) has been proposed to be undertaken.

25. Current scientific research and facilities:

An intensive study of the Waterhouse Protected Area was undertaken by a group of scientists from the Parks and Wildlife Service in 1993. The resulting vegetation map was useful in redefining the boundary fro this site. Other results of this may be published as a technical report.

26. Current conservation education:

None at present.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

The area is subject to occasional recreational use especially in summer when approximately 80 anglers visit the area each summer.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Dorset Municipal 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:

Departmental files (DELM, Tas).
