



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Australia

66 Ramsar Site(s) covering 8,307,329 ha

Apsley Marshes

Site number: 255 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania
Area: 880 ha | Coordinates: 41°59'S 148°12'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Apsley Marshes has some of the best representatives of a range of wetland types in the Tasmania biogeographic ecoregion, including estuarine waters, coastal freshwater marsh and swamp. The Site is located at the mouth of the Apsley River. It has a great richness and diversity of freshwater and marine plants, including some nationally threatened species such as the swamp everlasting (*Xerochrysum palustre*). The wetland is also significant for waterbirds such as the endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The floodplains have been used as part of a working agricultural property since the early 19th century; other human activities include livestock grazing, birdwatching, and duck hunting. The Site can be said to be an illustration of the “wise use” principle and in particular the concept of sustainable agriculture and conservation within a Ramsar Site.

Ashmore Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Site number: 1,220 | Country: Australia
| Administrative region: External Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands
Area: 58,300 ha | Coordinates: 12°14'S 123°07'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ashmore Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve; 21/10/2002; Australian Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands; 58,300ha; 12°14'00"S 123°07'00" E; Nature Reserve. The reef itself is one of only three emergent oceanic reefs in the northeastern Indian Ocean and the only one in the region with vegetated islands. The site comprises numerous marine habitats, including seagrass meadows, intertidal sand flats, coral reef flats, and lagoons, and it supports a diverse range of species, including a significant sea snake community, a possibly genetically distinct population of Dugong, highly diverse marine invertebrate fauna, and numerous endemic species, particularly of sea snakes and molluscs. It is also a nesting and feeding site of Hawksbill, Loggerhead, and especially Green Turtles, as well as an estimated 50,000 breeding pairs of various species of seabirds. A high abundance and diversity of sea cucumbers, over-exploited near other reefs in the region, can be found, with some 45 species recorded. The site is located some 500 nautical miles west of Darwin. Traditional fishers from Indonesia are permitted partial access for shelter and fresh water, but there are otherwise few visitors because of the site's isolation. Feral introductions pose a threat, though the alien rat population is now thought to have been eradicated; poachers constitute another possible concern. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1220. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Banrock Station Wetland Complex

Site number: 1,221 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia
Area: 1,375 ha | Coordinates: 34°11'S 140°20'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Banrock Station Wetland Complex is a floodplain wetland complex typical of the lower River Murray-Darling floodplain. It comprises areas of freshwater and areas of secondary salinized floodplain with discrete wetland basins and channels. The Site supports two globally threatened species, the green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*) and the river snail (*Notopala sublineata*) and provides seasonal habitat for at least ten species of migratory waterbirds listed under Australia's international agreements. The Site adjoins a commercial viticultural enterprise, Banrock Station Wines of BRL Hardy Wine Company, which is managed in a manner complementary to the conservation of the wetland. Conservation, education, science and recreation activities take place within the Site. Surrounding land uses include viticulture, irrigated perennial horticultural, cropping, conservation, residential areas and some grazing of modified pastures. The Site is also recognized for its cultural significance to indigenous Australians.

Barmah Forest

Site number: 262 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria
Area: 28,515 ha | Coordinates: 35°55'S 145°08'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barmah Forest. 15/12/82; Victoria; 28,515 ha; 35°55'S 145°08'E. State Park, State Forest. Bordering New South Wales, the site forms part of the largest, periodically inundated, red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) forest in Australia. Components include permanent lakes and billabongs, seasonally flooded grassland and sedge communities, and forest with understorey communities determined by flood frequency and duration. An important area for breeding ibis and other colonially nesting waterbirds (cormorants, egrets, spoonbills) in years with extensive flooding. The site supports several rare, vulnerable or endangered plants, fish, birds and mammal species. There are numerous Aboriginal sites and a visitors' centre with interpretive facilities. Human activities include stock grazing and timber harvesting. Ramsar site no. 262. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Becher Point Wetlands

Site number: 1,048 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia
Area: 708 ha | Coordinates: 32°22'S 115°44'E | Designation dates: 05-01-2001
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Becher Point Wetlands are shrub swamps and seasonal marshes that have formed in an extensive sequence of inter-dunal depressions, which have themselves arisen from seaward advancement of the coastline over recent millennia. This type of wetland system is rare in southwestern Australia, while examples of this type of geomorphological sequence in equally good condition and within a protected area are rare worldwide. The series of wetlands within the Site exhibits a continuum of development in geomorphology, hydrology and vegetation and is considered to be a unique wetland system in Western Australia, and one of the youngest wetland systems on the Swan Coastal Plain. The sedgelands of the Site are included in the national list of threatened ecological communities. Land use within the Site is confined to nature conservation, and the surrounding areas are residential.

Blue Lake

Site number: 800 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales
Area: 338 ha | Coordinates: 36°24'S 148°19'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1996
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

One of only four cirque lakes found on mainland Australia. Situated at ca.1,800m altitude, in a periglacial setting within the Kosciuszko National Park, it is surrounded by alpine herb fields, heaths, fens and bogs that support various native plants and animals, including rare, vulnerable and endangered species such as the Mountain pygmy possum (*Burrhamys parvus*), the Alpine tree frog (*Litoria verrauxii*) and the anemone buttercup (*Ranunculus anemoneus*), as well as several invertebrate species restricted to the alpine zone. Human activities include conservation education, skiing, and ice climbing. Possible impacts of climate change are seen as potential threats to the site.

Bool and Hacks Lagoons

Site number: 322 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia
Area: 3,200 ha | Coordinates: 37°08'S 140°41'E | Designation dates: 01-11-1985
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bool & Hacks Lagoons. 01/11/85; South Australia; 3,200 ha; 37°08'S 140°41'E. Game Reserve, Conservation Park. Lying in an ancient inter-dune drainage system, the lagoons are artificially manipulated for flood control. An important site for waterbirds; duck and swan numbers reach 15,000 and 55,000 individuals respectively. Numbers of two species of nesting ibises exceed 50,000. The reserve is open for shooting on a limited basis, depending on seasonal factors, but the use of lead shot is prohibited. Ramsar site no. 322. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Bowling Green Bay

Site number: 632 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Queensland
Area: 35,500 ha | Coordinates: 19°27'S 147°15'E | Designation dates: 22-10-1993
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bowling Green Bay. 22/10/93; Queensland; 35,500 ha; 19°27'S 147°15'E. National Park, Fish Habitat Reserve. A representation of the major, coastal communities of the north Australian wet-dry tropics. The coastal plain includes mangrove forest, mudflats and saltmarshes providing breeding habitat for predatory fish and waterbirds. Of 244 bird species, 103 breed here and 13 species are rare, vulnerable or endangered. The site supports several species of plants, mammals, amphibians and reptiles also rare, vulnerable or endangered. The seagrass beds provide feeding habitat for the threatened herbivores Dugong dugong and Chelonia mydas. The site is contiguous with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Bowling Green Bay Fish Habitat Reserve. Human activities include commercial and recreational harvesting of fish and shellfish and recreational pursuits. Ramsar site no. 632. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

Cape Barren Island, east coast lagoons

Site number: 256 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania
Area: 4,473 ha | Coordinates: 40°23'S 148°24'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

East Coast Cape Barren Island Lagoons (ECCBIL). 16/11/82; Tasmania; 4,473 ha; 40°22'S 148°23'E. Crown Land. The Site is a complex of shallow, saline lagoons among stretches of coastal dunes and beaches. It is still largely unaffected by direct human disturbances. It supports 13 threatened plant species, four of which are endemic to Tasmania. The site also supports nationally threatened ecological communities such as the Oyster Bay Pine (*Callitris rhomboidea*) forest and freshwater aquatic herbland. Locally significant numbers of many waterbird species use the area. Human activities consist of livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 256. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

Cobourg Peninsula

Site number: 1 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Northern Territory
Area: 220,700 ha | Coordinates: 11°25'S 132°15'E | Designation dates: 08-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cobourg Peninsula has a long history of natural conservation and protection, and it was Australia and the world's first Wetland of International Importance. The Site comprises a peninsula with extensive tidal flats, fringing coral, rocky reefs, estuaries, mangroves, riverine wetlands, permanent freshwater and brackish ecosystems and melaleuca (paperbark) swamps, dominated by eucalyptus forest. The hydrological regime varies widely due to the seasonal rainfall. There is a steep salinity gradient between the estuaries and backswamps. The Site supports several globally threatened animal species such as the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), as well as numerous rare plants and extensive mangrove communities. The Site supports an abundance of waterbirds such as ducks, plovers, sandpipers and egrets. It contains many archaeological sites and features of indigenous, Macassan and European origin, and an ongoing 'living culture' that is maintained by the Arrarrkbi, the traditional indigenous owners of Cobourg Peninsula. The majority of the Site is managed as a conservation reserve, with some tourism and education, commercial fishing and low-level traditional owner hunting and gathering. In the surrounding areas, cultured pearl farming, aquarium fish harvesting, mud crabbing, mackerel trolling and mineral exploration take place.

Coongie Lakes

Site number: 376 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia
Area: 2,178,952 ha | Coordinates: 27°35'S 139°56'E | Designation dates: 15-06-1987

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Coongie Lakes. 15/06/87; South Australia; 2,178,952 ha; 27°34'3.72"S 139°56'26.25"E. Crown Land, National Park, Pastoral Lease. The site is an extensive and complex freshwater wetland system in the floodplain of Cooper Creek, one of the largest dryland rivers in Australia with a predominantly natural flow regime. Some wetlands fill only rarely, others hold water for a limited period after flooding, and others are permanent. A major flood heralds a period of flourishing plant growth and an influx of wildlife with large numbers of waterbirds, especially pelicans, cormorants, herons, ibises, spoonbills, ducks and waders that congregate to feed and breed, dispersing as waters recede. The site is increasingly important for recreation and tourism but the primary uses are cattle grazing, oil and gas production. Ramsar site no. 376. Most recent RIS information: 2013

Coral Sea Reserves

Site number: 1,222 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Coral Sea Islands Territory
Area: 1,728,920 ha | Coordinates: 16°52'S 149°49'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Coral Sea Reserves (Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reefs and Cays). 21/10/02; Coral Sea Islands Territory; 1,728,920 ha; 149°49'E 16°52'S. Nature Reserves. The site is located in the Coral Sea, with its centre some 440km east of Cairns, Queensland and 300km north-east of the Great Barrier Reef. It comprises near-pristine oceanic islet and reef habitats that are representative of the Coral Sea. The undisturbed sandy habitat provided by several islets is used for nesting by the globally endangered Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), while their forest and shrubland support important breeding populations of terns, boobies, tropicbirds and other seabirds. Coral reef habitat within the site supports a distinct community of marine benthic flora and fauna, a relatively rich diversity of decapod crustacean and hydroid fauna, and significant feeding habitat for migratory shorebirds and seabirds. Marine algal communities are a particularly important feature, frequently covering a greater area than the corals. A large number of shipwrecks lend the site marine archaeological significance. In the absence of human residents, the site is used for nature conservation and scientific research, with recreational diving limited to the ten commercial tours of up to 30 passengers each permitted per year, and small numbers who arrive by private yacht. The surrounding area supports commercial fisheries, while dive and fishing-based tourism is again limited, due to the distance from centres of human population. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1222. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

Corner Inlet

Site number: 261 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 67,186 ha | Coordinates: 38°45'S 146°32'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Corner Inlet. 15/12/82; Victoria; 67,186 ha; 38°45'S 146°32'E. Marine and Wildlife Reserve; Shorebird Network Site. An outstanding example of the processes involved in barrier island formation, development of multiple beach ridges, lagoons and swamps, tidal creeks, deltas, and washovers. Of international importance for migratory waterbirds, the area regularly supports up to 29,000 waders, including 50% of the waders wintering in Victoria, and is important as a drought refuge. Internationally important numbers of numerous waterbird species occur. Several birds, mammals, and plants are rare or endangered. Human activities include large-scale port operations, commercial and recreational fishing, bait collection and general recreation. Ramsar site no. 261. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Currawinya Lakes

Site number: 791 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Queensland

Area: 151,300 ha | Coordinates: 28°48'S 144°33'E | Designation dates: 11-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Currawinya Lakes Ramsar Site has some of the most diverse wetland types in inland Australia, including largely unmodified permanent and intermittent saline and freshwater wetlands. They include the Great Artesian Basin springs, one of the largest artesian groundwater basins in the world. Numerous plant communities are found within Currawinya Lakes and due to the range of wetland habitats present, there is an array of native fauna and particularly an abundance and diversity of waterbird species. The water bodies support large number of breeding birds and provide a refuge habitat in drought conditions for birds, amphibians, reptiles and native fish. The Site is highly significant to local indigenous communities for its archaeological, traditional and contemporary values. There are stone arrangements, native wells, scarred trees (trees with bark removed for canoes and shields), stone artefacts and burial grounds dating back some 400 years. Present use of the area is limited by its remote location. A number of nature-based, low-impact recreational activities take place, including nature walks and drives, wildlife watching, camping, canoeing and fishing.

Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands

Site number: 1,096 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 261 ha | Coordinates: 38°04'S 145°07'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2001

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands. 29/08/01. Victoria. 261 ha. 38°04'S 145°07'E. Two separate wetlands near Melbourne, including both freshwater and brackish lakes (types P, Q, R), both with similar morphology and ecological characteristics and both under an extensive rehabilitation and management regime by Melbourne Water. They are of exceptional significance as examples of cost-effective management of wetlands in an urban setting to provide conservation benefits, manage storm water, and encourage environmental research and education. The site meets Criteria 1 on uniqueness and 2 on support for vulnerable species, and surpasses the 1% threshold for Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Calidris acuminata*). Both wetlands remained after the draining of the once extensive Carrum Carrum Swamp in the 1860s, but additional local draining and encroachments by farming and grazing have continued into this century. In recent decades active flooding has been pursued through management intervention; in the 1980s ingress of saline groundwater resulted in brackish rather than fresh water in the artificial components of the site, but pumping from nearby creeks is returning the site to a freshwater system. A management plan and birdwatching facilities are in place, and education programmes are run by a local NGO. Ramsar site no. 1096. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

Eighty-mile Beach

Site number: 480 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia
Area: 125,000 ha | Coordinates: 19°29'S 120°35'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eighty-mile Beach. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 125,000 ha; 19°31'S 120°40'E. A long section of coastline, extensive white sand beaches, tidal mudflats, with dunes and the most inland occurrence of mangroves in Western Australia. The site includes saltmarsh and a raised peat bog more than 7,000 years old. The area contains the most important wetland for waders in northwestern Australia, supporting up to 336,000 birds, and is especially important as a land fall for waders migrating south for the austral summer. The freshwater springs support unusual plant assemblages. Human activities include tourism and cattle grazing. Ramsar site no. 480. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,223 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Australia's East Marine Region
Area: 187,726 ha | Coordinates: 29°27'S 159°07'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve. 21/10/02; Coral Sea Islands Territory; 187,726 ha; 29°41'S 159°06'E. Nature Reserve. Located 50km apart in the northern Tasman Sea, the reefs are the southernmost coral atolls in the world. Their coral structures, which stand on isolated, oceanic sea mounts, are influenced by both tropical and temperate ocean currents. They support a diverse marine fauna, including uncommon and heretofore undescribed fishes and several endemic species of mollusc, and are the only known habitat for these species in a vast area of ocean. To date, some 322 fishes of 174 genera and 75 families have been recorded within the site. A large number of shipwrecks give the area considerable marine archaeological significance. There is no resident human population, and the limited recreational diving and fishing is not seen as a potential threat. Ramsar site no. 1223. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps

Site number: 1,224 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales
Area: 689 ha | Coordinates: 34°30'S 146°23'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps. 21/10/02; New South Wales; 689 ha; 34°30'S 146°23'E. Fivebough Swamp is a permanent but fluctuating, fresh-brackish, shallow wetland, and Tuckerbil is a seasonal, shallow, brackish-saline wetlands. Both are of international importance because of the presence, abundance and diversity of waterbirds that have been recorded there, including migratory shorebirds and threatened species. Both wetlands function as important waterbird habitat and refuge within an agricultural landscape and in fact gain some of their habitat values from the human uses of the area, such as grazing, flood mitigation, and sewage treatment. As such, the site is described as a good demonstration of Ramsar's wise use principle which also has considerable potential for waterbird-related ecotourism. The area has cultural and historical significance for local Aboriginal communities. Fivebough Swamp is considered to have great potential as an educational resource, as well as as a national and international tourist destination for nature-based recreation focusing on the rich birdlife. Careful planning is needed to ensure that the site is not affected by possible nearby urban and industrial developments. Ramsar site no. 1224. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River

Site number: 257 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania

Area: 3,519 ha | Coordinates: 40°54'S 147°56'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River is a rare site within the biogeographic region. Unusually for a large river in Tasmania, it flows through flood plains and forms a mosaic of wetlands including permanent and seasonal marshlands and a large river estuary. The Ramsar Site hosts plant communities recognized as threatened under Tasmanian legislation, such as the freshwater aquatic sedgeland and rushland, and *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest. It also supports a range of globally and nationally threatened species such as the endangered green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*) and the vulnerable fairy tern (*Sternula nereis*) and dwarf galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*). Hydrological services provided by the Site include the retention of flood waters and the trapping of mine-related sediment. The area has value for indigenous heritage since there is evidence that the flood plain was used by Aboriginal people. Presently, the Site is used for grazing and there is regulated hunting of waterbirds.

Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes

Site number: 481 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia

Area: 754 ha | Coordinates: 32°09'S 115°52'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Forrestdale & Thomsons Lakes. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 754 ha; 32°09'S 115°52'E. Nature Reserves. Two fresh to brackish, seasonal lakes set in a zone of extensive urban and agricultural development. The lakes are fringed by emergent vegetation giving way to trees tolerant of water-logged conditions (e.g., *Melaleuca*), with higher ground supporting woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus* and *Banksia*. More than 10,000 waterbirds are regularly supported. The site holds a diversity of fauna, including the uncommon skink *Lerista lineata*. The reserve is used principally for birdwatching and walking. Ramsar site no. 481. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Ginini Flats Subalpine Bog Complex

Site number: 793 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Australian Capital Territory

Area: 350 ha | Coordinates: 35°31'S 148°47'E | Designation dates: 01-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, within the Namadgi National Park in the Australian Capital Territory, consists of a composite of subalpine sphagnum bogs and associated wet heath and wet grassland habitats that is listed as a nationally threatened ecological community. It is located at the northern biophysical limit of this habitat type and is of critical importance in maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of a number of endemic and restricted species found in subalpine wet heaths and bogs. It is particularly important for the conservation of the northern corroboree frog (*Pseudophryne pengilleyi*), a globally endangered endemic species found only at high altitudes with a limited distribution. The Site is in the upper reaches of the Cotter River catchment, which is the primary water source for Canberra, the capital city of Australia. Human activities are principally recreational.

Gippsland Lakes

Site number: 269 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 60,015 ha | Coordinates: 38°00'S 147°36'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gippsland Lakes. 15/12/82; Victoria; 60,015 ha; 38°00'S 147°36'E. State Wildlife Reserves, Crown Land Reserves, Coastal Park, National Park. A group of coastal lagoons and marshes fed by river systems and subject to regular flooding. The site is separated from the sea by dunes and fringed by beach forming the largest navigable inland waterway in Australia. The aquatic vegetation is highly variable, reflecting seasonal factors, light penetration, salinity and nutrient availability. The site is an important drought refuge for waterbirds, regularly holding up to 50,000 individuals. Several birds, mammals, amphibians, fish and invertebrates supported are rare, vulnerable or endangered in Victoria. The site supports commercial and recreational fisheries, recreation, grazing, residential development and water extraction, while the surrounding area has been developed for agricultural, residential and tourism purposes. Ramsar site no. 269. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site

Site number: 2,344 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Shire of Glenelg, Victoria

Area: 22,289 ha | Coordinates: 38°05'S 141°07'E | Designation dates: 28-02-2018

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the Glenelg Estuary, the longest in the bioregion at 75 kilometres in length, a beach and dune system, and freshwater wetlands. It includes rare intact fen peatlands and a humid dune slack system. The Site's habitats support 95 waterbird species including the globally endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) and far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*). It provides food, spawning grounds and nurseries for a range of fish including 14 native species such as the globally vulnerable eastern little galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*) and Yarra pygmy perch (*Nannoperca obscura*), and a path for species which migrate between the region's salt and fresh waters. The permanent swamps and lakes provide refuge for obligate aquatic species during drought conditions. The wetlands of Long Swamp within the Site support more than 1% of the total global population, and possibly as much as 5%, of the global population of the globally endangered wetland-dependent ancient greenling (*Hemiphysalia mirabilis*). The area is popular for recreational and tourism activities, including sightseeing, walking, camping and recreational fishing. The Site is also culturally significant for Gunditjmarra indigenous people.

Great Sandy Strait

Site number: 992 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Queensland

Area: 93,160 ha | Coordinates: 25°28'S 152°54'E | Designation dates: 14-06-1999

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Great Sandy Strait (including Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Bay, and Tin Can Inlet). 14/06/99; Queensland; 93,160 ha; 25°28'S 152°54'E. Adjoins the Fraser Island World Heritage site. A sand passage estuary between the mainland and sandy Fraser Island. The largest area of tidal swamps within the Southeast Queensland bioregion of Australia, consisting of intertidal sand and mud flats, extended seagrass beds, mangrove forests, saltflats, and saltmarshes, and often contiguous with freshwater Melaleuca wetlands and coastal wallum swamps. An exceptionally important feeding ground for migratory shorebirds and important for a wide range of other waterbirds and seabirds, marine fish, crustaceans, oysters, dugong, sea turtles, and dolphins. Evidence of Aboriginal presence dates back 5500 years, and indigenous fishing is still a major activity. Ramsar site no. 992. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

Gunbower Forest

Site number: 263 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 19,931 ha | Coordinates: 35°49'S 144°19'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gunbower Forest. 15/12/82; Victoria; 19,931 ha; 35°49'S 144°19'E. State Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary. The second largest periodically-inundated red gum forest in Victoria. Plant distribution is a result of elevation differences that determine frequency and duration of flooding. During flood periods, the forest becomes a major breeding area for waterbirds, including the egrets, *Egretta alba*, *E. intermedia* (the only known breeding site in Victoria), *E. garzetta* and *Nycticorax caledonicus*. Various species of reptiles and plants are scarce, rare or endangered and are therefore of conservation importance. Human activities include recreational fishing, camping, hunting, silviculture and grazing. An area of 230ha has been set aside for conservation education purposes. Ramsar site no. 263. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir Watercourses

Site number: 993 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 823 ha | Coordinates: 29°18'S 149°14'E | Designation dates: 14-06-1999

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses. 14/06/99; New South Wales; 823 ha; 29°18'S 149°14'E. Private landholdings. The Gwydir wetland is one of the largest inland wetlands in New South Wales and home to half a million nesting and breeding waterbirds. The designated area is entirely privately-owned and forms part of a much larger wetland system in the Murray-Darling drainage system. Large parts of the surrounding land are used for cotton growing and cattle grazing, with the latter continuing, and carefully regulated, as part of the wise use of the site. A Memorandum of Understanding on the designation and future management of the site was signed on World Wetlands Day 1999 by the four landowning families and officials of the State and Commonwealth governments, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and the National Parks Association. Ramsar site no. 993. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes

Site number: 264 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 955 ha | Coordinates: 34°41'S 142°26'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes. 15/12/82; Victoria; 955 ha; 34°41'S 142°26'E. Biosphere Reserve; National Park. A lake system, set in an extensive wetland with a complex flood hydrology operating on a two to seven year cycle. When flooded, the lakes become important breeding areas for herons, egrets, cormorants and spoonbills. The area supports several bird, mammal, reptile, fish and plant species that are endangered, rare or vulnerable in the State of Victoria. Murray River water is used for irrigation purposes. Ramsar site no. 264. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Hosnie's Spring

Site number: 512 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Christmas Island

Area: 202 ha | Coordinates: 10°28'S 105°41'E | Designation dates: 11-12-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

An area of permanent, shallow freshwater wetland, fed by a natural spring system located approximately 30 metres above sea level and 120 metres inland of the seaward cliff. The wetland is covered by a stand of mangroves (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*) estimated to be 120,000 years old. The site includes surrounding terrestrial areas with rainforest grading to coastal scrub, and includes an area of shoreline and coral reef. It is significant for the age, location and size of the mangroves as well as for supporting large numbers of crabs including: red crabs (*Gecarcoidea natalis*), robber crabs (*Birgus latro*) and blue crabs (*Discoplax hirtipes*). Visitor access of small interest groups such as bird watchers or scientific teams is managed by Parks Australia to conserve the ecological character of the site. The greatest threat within the site comes from the formation of multi-queen super colonies of the invasive yellow crazy ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*), thought to have been introduced accidentally to Christmas Island between 1915 and 1934. The site's area was extended in 2010 from 0.33 to 202 ha to conform to the National Park boundaries.

Hunter Estuary Wetlands

Site number: 287 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 3,388 ha | Coordinates: 32°51'S 151°46'E | Designation dates: 21-02-1984

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hunter Estuary Wetlands. 21/02/84; New South Wales; 3,388 ha; 32°51'S 151°46'E; Nature Reserve. The Site comprises the Kooragang Nature Reserve (designated as a Ramsar Site in 1984) and the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia (added in 2002). The two are connected by a wildlife corridor consisting of Ironbark Creek, the Hunter River, and Ash Island. The Kooragang lies within the estuarine section of the Hunter River; habitats include mangrove forest, saltmarsh, saline pastures, Casuarina forest, brackish swamps, standing open water, sandflats, beaches and rock-retaining walls and ponds. The Site is of great importance for migratory waterbirds such as the Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) and Eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*). It also supports endangered bird species such as the Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The Nature Reserve is used primarily for ornithological, wetlands ecology and fisheries research together with bird watching, while surrounding areas are mainly for industrial, residential and transport purposes, water supply infrastructure and grazing. The site has historical significance for Aboriginal communities. Ramsar Site no. 287. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Interlaken Lakeside Reserve

Site number: 259 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania

Area: 517 ha | Coordinates: 42°09'S 147°10'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Interlaken Lakeside Reserve is a significant example of a mid-altitude wetland which supports threatened endemic species, wetland vegetation communities and an unusual phytoplankton assemblage. Endemic species include the nationally endangered golden galaxias (*Galaxias auratus*) that only occur naturally in Lakes Sorell and Crescent and associated streams and wetlands. The Site is also one of the three known localities in Tasmania for *Scirpus montivagus*, a sedge, and for *Amphibromus neesii*, the southern swamp wallaby grass. Human activities include livestock grazing, sport fishing, and duck shooting.

Jocks Lagoon

Site number: 258 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania

Area: 19 ha | Coordinates: 41°21'S 148°18'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jocks Lagoon. 16/11/82; Tasmania; 19 ha; 41°21'S 148°18'E. This small freshwater lagoon in a depression behind coastal dunes provides freshwater in an otherwise-dry coastal area. The Site supports rare and scientifically valuable species. It is a habitat for five nationally threatened plant species, for example the jointed twigsedge *Baumea articulata*, zigzag bogsedge *Schoenus brevifolius* and erect marshflower *Villarsia exaltata*. The Site also supports several threatened native vegetation communities, such as the swamp paperbark *Melaleuca ericifolia*. Human activities include livestock grazing, land clearance, recreation and off-road vehicle use. Ramsar site no. 258. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

Kakadu National Park

Site number: 204 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Northern Territory

Area: 1,979,766 ha | Coordinates: 12°40'S 132°45'E | Designation dates: 06-12-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

An iconic destination within Australia, renowned for its exceptional beauty and unique biodiversity, with a variety of landforms, habitats and wildlife. It encompasses expansive coastal and inland ecosystems such as terrestrial wetlands and woodlands, floodplain ecosystems, swamp forest, rivers, springs, and billabongs, as well as coastal/marine ecosystems with intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, mangroves and seagrass. Wetland habitats are relatively undisturbed and support a broad range of natural values including threatened and endemic species and a remarkable abundance of waterbirds. The site contains a richness of archaeological sites and items, and an ongoing living culture is maintained by the traditional owners of Kakadu National Park today who display a fundamental connection with the wetlands of the Ramsar Site. First listed in parts in 1980 and 1989, on 28 April 2010 these two entities were combined, with an additional 600,000 hectares, to create a single Ramsar Site conforming to the boundaries of the National Park.

Kerang Wetlands

Site number: 265 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 9,419 ha | Coordinates: 35°40'S 143°56'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kerang Wetlands. 15/12/82; Victoria; 9,419 ha. 35°40'S 143°56'E. State Wildlife Reserves, Water Supply Reserves, Salinity Disposal Reserves. A system of 22 lakes and swamps. In the lower river reaches, the wetlands have variations in permanence, depth, salinity and aquatic vegetation. The site includes freshwater lakes and marshes, and brackish or saline lakes and marshes. The most diverse vegetation is exhibited in the seasonal, freshwater marshes. The area is of great importance to waterbirds, supporting large numbers of endemic and migratory species, and serves as a drought refuge. The area supports rare or vulnerable plant species. Human activities include recreation and regulated duck hunting. The lake system provides an important source of irrigation water. Ramsar site no. 265. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Lake Albacutya

Site number: 270 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 5,731 ha | Coordinates: 35°46'S 141°58'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Albacutya. 15/12/82; Victoria; 5,731 ha; 35°46'S 141°58'E. Regional Park. The lake, subject to a unique hydrologic cycle, receives water in exceptionally wet years (about every 20 years) but takes up to four years to dry out. It has been dry since 1983. Eucalyptus woodlands fringe the lake, and grasses cover the dry bed. In flood years over 20,000 waterbirds gather, including *Stictonetta naevosa*. The area supports several bird and plant species that are endangered, rare or vulnerable. When flooded, the lake is used for recreational boating, fishing and shooting and supports an important commercial fishery. Inflow is diverted to meet agricultural and domestic needs. A culturally significant area, the lake appears in Aboriginal mythology. Ramsar site no. 270. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Lake Gore

Site number: 1,049 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia

Area: 4,017 ha | Coordinates: 33°47'S 121°29'E | Designation dates: 05-01-2001

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Gore. 05/01/01; Western Australia; 4,017 ha; 33°47'S 121°29'E. Nature Reserves. A near-permanent saline lake and part of a downstream system of inter-connected lakes and swamps of various sizes which are intermittently inundated. Lake Gore itself supports the largest known populations of Hooded Plover *Thinornis rubricollis* (up to one third of the global population) is important for moulting by thousands of Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* and for drought refuge by thousands of ducks and shorebirds, and it supports thousands of Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* (up to 10% of the global population). Uses consist of nature conservation and low-level recreational pursuits. Salinity and water quality are monitored regularly by high school students from Esperance as part of the "Ribbons of Blue" programme. Ramsar site no. 1049. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

Lake Pinaroo

Site number: 799 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 719 ha | Coordinates: 29°06'S 141°13'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A large terminal basin consisting of an open lake with muddy margins, when full, and very little associated vegetation. It is an episodic lake which is dry most of the time with rare and irregular wet phases, but its large size and its capacity to retain water for extended periods when filled provides valuable habitat in the region, particularly for endangered bird species, and it supports a substantial number of waterbirds when full. Numerous species of small mammals and reptiles also occur. Human activities include tourism and nature conservation. There is an exceptionally high density and variety of aboriginal sites including hearths, middens, ceremonial sites, quarries and abundant stone artifacts, suggesting that a large aboriginal population once occupied the area. Potentially reduced rainfall and higher temperatures associated with climate change are feared as general threats in future but not yet well understood for local conditions.

Lakes Argyle and Kununurra

Site number: 478 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia
Area: 150,000 ha | Coordinates: 16°20'S 128°39'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lakes Argyle & Kununurra. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 150,000 ha; 16°19'S 128°44'E. A large system of human-made freshwater reservoirs and associated permanent wetlands formed by damming the Ord River. Vegetation consists of aquatic plants fringed by grassland, typha and savannah woodland. The lakes are an important dry season refuge for waterbirds, with numbers regularly exceeding 20,000 individuals. The area is notable for numerous endemic plants and a rich fauna. The site is increasingly important for recreation and tourism, with controlled diamond exploration and mining constituting the principal human activities. Ramsar site no. 478. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Lake Warden system

Site number: 485 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia
Area: 2,300 ha | Coordinates: 33°48'S 121°56'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Warden system. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 2,300 ha; 33°48'S 121°56'E. Nature Reserve. A system of lakes and marshes of variable salinity set behind coastal dunes. The water regime varies from ephemeral to almost permanent with springs giving rise to shallow, brackish wetlands. An important area for waterbirds: swans, ducks and waders occur in large numbers. Plant communities consist of Samphire marsh with *Halosarcia* and *Sarcocornia* vegetation, with stabilized sand dunes supporting woodland. The site is popular for recreational activities -- water skiing, sailing, and horse riding. Ramsar site no. 485. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Lavinia Nature Reserve

Site number: 253 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania
Area: 7,034 ha | Coordinates: 39°45'S 144°05'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lavinia Nature Reserve is one of the few largely unaltered areas of native vegetation remaining on King Island, which lies between Tasmania and the mainland state of Victoria. It includes wetland types that are representative and/or rare to the bioregion, including *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest, freshwater aquatic wetlands, herbfields and grasslands marginal to wetland, and sedge/rush wetland. The Site's estuary and associated samphire mud flats, coastal swamps and lagoons provide important habitats for a range of globally threatened species such as the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) and the endangered green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*). The Site is also a regional biodiversity hotspot because the ecological communities on King Island represent a transitional zone between the Australian mainland and north-west Tasmania, supporting species from both the north and south. The largely unspoiled nature of the Reserve and its variety of interesting features make it an important area for scientific study and education. There are also oyster farms operating at the Site.

Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve

Site number: 798 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 257.6 ha | Coordinates: 30°05'S 151°47'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Summary description: Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve. 17/03/96; New South Wales; 258 ha; 30°05'S 151°46'E. Nature Reserve, Crown Land Wildlife Management Area. One of the few high altitude, freshwater lagoons in New South Wales. An unusual system, as lagoons are not usually found in fluvial landscapes at the extreme upper limit of streams. The site is rare due to its near-natural condition and is particularly important as a drought refuge for waterbirds. It also regularly supports significant numbers of various species of waterbirds such as the blue-billed duck (*Oxyura australis*) and the Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*). Several birds, plants and amphibians found at the site are rare, threatened or endemic such as the globally endangered Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) which breeds at the site and the critically endangered Yellow-spotted bell frog (*Litoria castanea*). Vegetation includes submerged and emergent aquatic plants, sedge-meadows, and terrestrial communities. Archaeological surveys show Aboriginal activity dating back to at least 5,000 years before present. Human activities consist of livestock grazing, some cropping, nature conservation with limited recreational use and scientific research. Public access is restricted to researchers, birdwatchers, and educational institutions. Ramsar site no. 798. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Little Waterhouse Lake

Site number: 260 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania

Area: 56 ha | Coordinates: 40°52'S 147°37'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Little Waterhouse Lake. 16/11/82; Tasmania; 57 ha; 40°52'S 147°36'E. Crown Land, Recreation Area. A coastal freshwater lagoon situated in the Waterhouse Conservation Area (north-east coast of Tasmania), receiving its water from local catchment runoff and also from a small drain (formerly a creek) known as Tobacco Creek. The lake is an excellent example of a small freshwater lake impounded behind coastal dunes. Its high floristic diversity, high biological productivity and near-natural condition contribute to it being considered a representative example of these types of wetland in the biogeographic context. The lake has well developed macrophyte flora and contains over 40 species of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants. The site supports globally threatened species such as the endangered green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*). The Lake is also the site of early European settlement in the district and is used for recreational purposes including nature observation, fishing, boating, recreational vehicle use and hunting, research and monitoring. The surrounding area contains important Aboriginal sites and is used for recreational camping and livestock grazing, with water use for agricultural purposes. Ramsar site no. 260. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Logan Lagoon

Site number: 252 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania

Area: 2,257 ha | Coordinates: 40°10'S 148°17'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Logan Lagoon Ramsar Site is one of the three estuarine lagoon systems along the eastern coast of Flinders Island, in the Bass Strait north of Tasmania. It is an excellent, regionally representative example of a coastal estuarine wetland system. It comprises a diverse range of seasonal and permanent marshlands, forests, heathlands and woodlands. It also supports globally threatened species such as the endangered forty-spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*) and the vulnerable dwarf galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*) as well as the little tern (*Sternula albifrons*). Logan Lagoon has important hydrological values, such as in groundwater recharge from the surrounding impermeable granite catchments; flood control and erosion protection; retention, recovery and removal of excess nutrients and pollutants; and the maintenance of natural ecosystems in the lagoon. Although the local community regularly uses the Site, it is still a relatively undisturbed wetland and has the potential to become an important educational resource for natural science.

Macquarie Marshes

Site number: 337 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales
Area: 19,850 ha | Coordinates: 30°45'S 147°33'E | Designation dates: 01-08-1986
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Macquarie Marshes. 01/08/86; New South Wales; 19,850 ha; 30°45'S 147°33'E. Nature Reserve. Part of the larger Macquarie Marshes wetland, an area exceeding 250,000ha during major flooding and containing the largest area of reedbeds in southeastern Australia, and one of the largest red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) woodlands. The marshes are the most biologically diverse wetland systems in Australias Murray Darling Basin and are important for waterbirds, including large numbers of herons, ducks, egrets, ibises, spoonbills, terns and migratory waders. The site also supports globally threatened species such as the Critically Endangered Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*) and the Endangered Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and Australian Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*). The main human uses of the site are for agricultural purposes, especially grazing beef cattle through sustainable grazing management practices. Ramsar site no. 337. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Moreton Bay

Site number: 631 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Queensland
Area: 113,314 ha | Coordinates: 27°20'S 153°10'E | Designation dates: 22-10-1993
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moreton Bay. 22/10/93; Queensland; 113,314 ha; 27°20'S 153°10'E. National Park, Environmental Park, Fauna Sanctuary, Fish Habitat Reserve, Marine Park; Shorebird Network Site. Near the southern limit of reef-building corals, an estuarine basin, semi-enclosed by two of the world's largest sand islands. As one of three extensive intertidal areas of seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh on the eastern coast, it supports an extremely high species diversity. Supported in significant numbers, several reptiles, amphibians, and mammals are rare, vulnerable or endangered. Over 50,000 migratory waterbirds are present during wintering and staging. Numerous canal estates have access to the bay, which supports an important fishery. The site is popular for water-based recreation and tourism. Annually, up to one million tonnes of sub-fossil coral and 150,000m³ of sand are extracted. Adjacent to the site of Ramsar COP6 in Brisbane, 1996. Ramsar site no. 631. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

Moulting Lagoon

Site number: 251 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania
Area: 4,507 ha | Coordinates: 42°02'S 148°11'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moulting Lagoon Nature Reserve. 16/11/82; Tasmania; 4,507 ha; 42°02'S 148°10'E. Crown Land, Game Reserve. A large estuary at the mouths of the Swan and Apsley Rivers adjacent to, and contiguous with, the Apsley Marshes Ramsar site. The lagoon, plus several sections of coastal reserve surrounding it, and an additional area of dry land 1 km north, comprises the Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve. Moulting Lagoon is an excellent example of a large estuary formed behind a bayhead sandspit and is one of only two such areas in the Tasmanian Drainage Division, furthermore, the estuary is recognised as one of high conservation significance for Tasmania. The site provides an important resting and breeding ground and an important drought refuge for about one hundred resident and migratory birds species such as the Australian shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*) and the Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*). The site is used for recreational shooting, fishing and boating, aquaculture and off-road driving. The surrounding area is used for grazing, residential development, mining, aquaculture and recreation. Both the site and the surrounding area have Aboriginal and European cultural significance. Ramsar site no. 251. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Muir-Byenup System

Site number: 1,050 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia

Area: 10,631 ha | Coordinates: 34°29'S 116°43'E | Designation dates: 05-01-2001

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Muir-Byenup System. 05/01/01; Western Australia; 10,631 ha; 34°29'S 116°43'E. Nature Reserve. A suite of partly inter-connected lakes and swamps of varied size, salinity (saline to fresh), permanence (permanent to seasonal) and substrate (peat and inorganic), in an internally-draining catchment. The open lakes are used for moulting by thousands of Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* and for drought refuge by tens of thousands of other ducks, while the sedge/shrub-dominated swamps support an important population of Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* and three types of nationally vulnerable orchids. Vegetation communities of the site's wet flats are among the few remaining in non-coastal parts of southwestern Australia and the site has some of the largest natural sedgeland in Western Australia. The site is used for nature conservation, but agriculture, notably grazing of domestic sheep and cattle and tree plantations, occurs in adjoining lands. Illegally released feral pigs cause considerable damage to vegetation and soil. Ramsar site no. 1050. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

Myall Lakes

Site number: 994 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 44,612 ha | Coordinates: 32°30'S 152°17'E | Designation dates: 14-06-1999

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Myall Lakes. 14/06/99; New South Wales; 44,612 ha; 32°30'S 152°17'E. Lies within the Myall Lakes National Park and includes the Corrie Island and Little Broughton Island Nature Reserves. One of the few coastal brackish lake systems in New South Wales which has not been greatly modified by human activities. The area is renowned for its floristic diversity (over 600 species of plants) and complex variety of habitats, which is largely due to differences in substrate. It is home to a number of threatened species, such as the endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and the endangered Green thighed frog (*Litoria brevipalmata*), as well as the vulnerable Freycinet frog (*Litoria freycineti*) and Stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*). The Dark Point dune sheet, comprised of sand dunes up to 50 metres high and covering about 250 hectares of the Ramsar site, is estimated to have moved between 38 and 54 metres since 1999 through a natural process. Ramsar site no. 994. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Narran Lake Nature Reserve

Site number: 995 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 8,447 ha | Coordinates: 29°43'S 147°26'E | Designation dates: 14-06-1999

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is unique within the Murray-Darling Drainage Division bioregion for its juxtaposition of highly channelised floodplain with open water wetland habitat. As part of a large terminal wetland system it plays an important hydrological role in the natural functioning of the Narran River. The vast floodplain is dominated by lignum (*Muehlenbeckia florulenta*) and represents one of the largest expanses of relatively intact lignum in New South Wales. The Site provides critical habitat for large colonial waterbird breeding events for nine colonial species such as straw-necked ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*), Australian pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*), Australian white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), and royal spoonbill (*Platalea regia*), and is listed as an Important Bird Area by Birds Australia. The Site also supports the globally endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The fish population has a high proportion of native species. The Site is part of an area that holds great significance for local Aboriginal people. Continued upstream water extraction since the Site's Ramsar designation, combined with a prolonged drought, has changed the hydrological regime of the Site, but ecological responses of key biota have not yet changed significantly since the Site was listed.

NSW Central Murray State Forests

Site number: 1,291 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 83,992 ha | Coordinates: 35°39'S 144°39'E | Designation dates: 20-05-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

NSW Central Murray State Forests. 20/05/03; New South Wales; 83,992 ha.; 35°49'S 144°58'E. Composed of discrete but interrelated forest units (Millewa, Werai, and Koondrook) that together with the Barmah and Gunbower Forests Ramsar sites in Victoria form the largest complex of tree-dominated floodplain wetlands in southern Australia. The site contains rare wetland types within the Riverina bioregion, particularly floodplain lake and floodplain meadows and reed swamps. Linked through an unbroken riparian corridor along the Murray and Edward Rivers, the forests are in high ecological condition and contribute significantly to the conservation of globally and nationally threatened species - the site provides a habitat for globally threatened species listed in the IUCN Red List: the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater (*Xanthomyza Phrygia*), endangered Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), endangered Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), endangered Murray Hardyhead (*Craterocephalus fluviatilis*), and endangered Trout Cod (*Maccullochella macquariensis*). Migratory birds found at the site include the Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Caspian Tern (*Hydropogone caspia*), White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and are registered in the Migratory Species Agreement between Australia, Japan, and China. The site contains significant social, cultural and economic resources. It has been managed under multiple use principles including forestry for almost 150 years, making it one of the longest continuously managed natural resources in Australia. Currently the site is used for timber harvesting, apiculture, fishing, bird watching and scientific study. Ramsar site no. 1291. Most recent RIS information: 2013

Ord River Floodplain

Site number: 477 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia

Area: 140,766 ha | Coordinates: 15°31'S 128°20'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an extensive system of river, seasonal creek, tidal mudflat and floodplain wetlands, and is the best example in the Tanami-Timor Sea Coast bioregion of wetlands associated with a tropical river system's floodplain and estuary. The area known as the False Mouths of the Ord is the most extensive mudflat and tidal waterway complex in Western Australia, while the wetland grass/herblands at Parry Lagoons are the most extensive vegetation community of this type in the State. 15 of the 19 species of mangrove found in Western Australia have been recorded within the Site. It is a nursery, feeding and breeding ground for a variety of migratory birds and local waterbirds, fish, crabs, prawns and crocodiles. The Site regularly supports 1% of the population of plumed whistling duck (*Dendrocygna eytoni*) and little curlew (*Numenius minutus*); and it supports threatened species including the critically endangered freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) and green sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*), and the endangered Australian painted snipe (*Rostratula australis*); it is also one of only two known habitats in Western Australia of the critically endangered Northern river shark (*Glyphis garricki*). A flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*) rookery is located at Cape Domett, immediately north of the Ramsar Site.

Paroo River Wetlands

Site number: 1,716 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 138,304 ha | Coordinates: 30°20'S 143°51'E | Designation dates: 13-09-2007

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paroo River Wetlands. 13/09/07; New South Wales; 138,304 ha; 30°20'S 143°51'E. National Park. The last remaining free-flowing river in the Murray-Darling Basin, with wetland types including large overflow lakes, tree-lined creeks and waterholes, lignum and canegrass swamps, and artesian mound spring. The site is one of the most important wetland systems for waterbirds in eastern Australia and supports a number of threatened plant and animal species as well as significant native fish communities. The area is highly significant for local Aboriginal people in terms of archaeological, traditional and contemporary social values. Ramsar site no. 1716. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

Peel-Yalgorup system

Site number: 482 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia
Area: 26,530 ha | Coordinates: 32°49'S 115°42'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Peel-Yalgorup system. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 26,530 ha; 32°49'S 115°42'E. National Park. A large system of shallow estuary and saline, brackish and freshwater lakes that is used by tens of thousands of waterbirds, including large numbers of migrant shorebirds from the northern hemisphere. Vegetation consists of fringing, samphire flats giving way to rushes, sedges and trees tolerant of water logging (Melaleuca, Casuarina), with open woodland (Agonis, Eucalyptus) on higher ground. The site is the most important area for waterbirds and waders in Southwest Australia, regularly supporting over 20,000 individuals. The system supports a regionally important estuarine fishery. There are unique formations of calcium carbonate, and the site is one of only two in southwestern Australia and one of very few in the world where living thrombolites (a type of microbialite, superficially resembling stromatolites) occur in hypersaline water. The area is used extensively for recreational purposes. Site's area significantly extended on 05/01/01. Ramsar site no. 482. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

Piccaninnie Ponds Karst Wetlands

Site number: 2,136 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia
Area: 862 ha | Coordinates: 38°03'S 140°56'E | Designation dates: 21-12-2012
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Piccaninnie Ponds Karst Wetlands. 21/12/12; South Australia; 862 ha; 38°03'S 140°56'E. Conservation Park. The site is a unique combination of karst and coastal fen wetlands in good condition. The site includes a series of rising spring karst systems as well as several substantial groundwater beach springs along the foreshore of the beach. The site is an exceptional example of karst spring wetlands at the bioregional scale, with the largest and deepest of the springs reaching a depth of more than 110 metres. The karst springs support unique macrophyte and algal associations, with macrophyte growth extending to 15 metres. In addition, a number of different wetland types surround the karst wetlands, receiving surface runoff from the overflow of groundwater discharge. A large area of peat fens is also present. The geomorphic and hydrological features of the site produce a complex and biologically diverse ecosystem which supports considerable biodiversity, including a significant number of species of conservation value such as the globally threatened Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and Orange-bellied parrot (*Neohpema chrysogaster*). Human activities consist of recreation, tourism, snorkeling, camping and research. The surrounding areas are used for livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 2136. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Pittwater-Orielton Lagoon

Site number: 254 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania
Area: 3,334 ha | Coordinates: 42°47'S 147°30'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon is a tidal salt water lagoon with a narrow entrance to the sea, which includes the estuaries of four rivers. The Site comprises the uppermost parts of a wave-dominated barred estuary. The principal features are the channel and mouth of the Coal River estuary, Orielton Lagoon, a large embayment now almost closed by a causeway, and an extensive area of open marine waters. The Site supports a diversity of coastal, intertidal and marine habitats and communities, and is therefore a species-rich environment. In particular, it is considered important for conservation of coastal birdlife at the bioregional scale. Most of the wetland is fringed by saltmarsh vegetation and rocky shores. The Site supports a range of globally threatened species such as the critically endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), the endangered Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) and the far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*); it also supports large numbers of the endemic Tasmanian viviparous sea-star (*Patiriella vivipara*). Extensive oyster farming operations occur within the Site and the surrounding area is used for livestock grazing. The Site continues to be important for the local Aboriginal community.

Port Phillip Bay & Bellarine Peninsula

Site number: 266 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 22,897 ha | Coordinates: 38°04'S 144°36'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Port Phillip Bay & Bellarine Peninsula. 15/12/82; Victoria; 22,897 ha; 38°04'S 144°36'E. State Wildlife Reserves, Marine Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuary, Metropolitan Park. Six discrete areas of various wetland types, ranging from shallow, marine waters and estuaries to freshwater lakes, seasonal swamps, intertidal mudflats, and seagrass beds. Of outstanding importance to waterbirds, the bay supports more than 1% of the Australian population of 14 waterbird species, and 5% of the Victorian population of another 12 bird species. Tens of thousands of ibises (*Threskiornis molucca* and *arphibis spinicollis*) roost here. Up to 65,000 migratory waders occur in summer, making it the sixth most important site for waders in Australia. The area supports rare bird species, notably the endangered Orange-bellied Parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*). Located near a high density urban area of over three million people, the Bay is used intensively for recreation. Other activities include livestock grazing, aquaculture, and nearby salt production. Ramsar site no. 266. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Pulu Keeling National Park

Site number: 797 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Area: 2,603 ha | Coordinates: 11°49'S 96°49'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A coral atoll comprising ca.213 ha of land, including the enclosed central lagoon, and 2390 ha hectares of surrounding coral reef and sea. When first listed, the centre of the atoll contained a single tidal lagoon with a narrow connection to the Indian Ocean, but natural processes have since closed this connection. The site is significant for the number of seabirds it supports, including large breeding colonies of red-footed booby (*Sula sula*) and lesser frigatebirds (*Fregata ariel*). An endemic species of buff-banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi*) is a resident within the Ramsar Site. Fish and marine invertebrate fauna are abundant and, while there are few endemic species present, the fish fauna is considered unique due to the mixing of Indian and Pacific Ocean species which are at the edge of their distributions. The Ramsar Site was extended to conform to the National Park boundaries in 2011.

Riverland

Site number: 377 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia

Area: 30,640 ha | Coordinates: 34°02'S 140°51'E | Designation dates: 23-09-1987

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Riverland. 23/09/87; South Australia; 30,600 ha; 34°02'S 140°51'E; The site is located within the south Australian section of the Murray-Darling Basin Catchment, along the River Murray and consists of various wetland types including creeks, channels, anabranches, lagoons, billabongs, floodplains, swamps and lakes and one of the major waterbird breeding areas in southeastern Australia. The site supports extensive stands of River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) forests, which support a rich flora and fauna and attract many tourists. The site also supports internationally endangered species such as the Australian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), the Southern Bell Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) and the critically endangered Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii*). While the dominant landuse within the site is biodiversity conservation, other uses include grazing and limited commercial fishing. The site supports a significant tourism industry (nature-based boat tours, bush camping, canoeing, water-skiing). Surrounding areas support agriculture, horticulture, Dryland farming and a commercial pastoral operation. Ramsar site no. 377. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Roebuck Bay

Site number: 479 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia
Area: 55,000 ha | Coordinates: 18°07'S 122°16'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Roebuck Bay. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 55,000 ha; 18°07'S 122°16'E. A tropical, marine embayment of extensive intertidal flats, sand beaches, extensive mudflats supporting various species of mangroves, and grasslands above high tide mark. Northwestern Australia is the continent's most important region for waders, regularly supporting up to half a million birds. The bay regularly supports over 100,000 other waterbirds, with numbers being highest in the austral spring when migrant species breeding in the Palearctic stop to feed during migration. There is light recreational usage and a bird observatory. Ramsar site no. 479. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Shoalwater and Corio Bays Area

Site number: 792 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Livingston Shire, Queensland
Area: 202,023 ha | Coordinates: 22°34'S 150°30'E | Designation dates: 01-03-1996
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bounded by approximately 330 kilometres of east Queensland coastline, the Site supports diverse, extensive and relatively undisturbed wetland systems including subtidal beds, shallow marine waters, coral reefs, intertidal marshes, and also forests, peatlands, freshwater marshes and pools, sinkholes and springs. It represents a climatic overlap zone with an unusual mix of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate species. There are approximately 908 native plants and the native animals include 445 fish, 11 frogs, 60 reptiles, 265 birds, and 42 species of mammals. The Site is home to an abundance of shorebirds and migratory waterbirds, with over 23,000 individuals recorded on several occasions. The seagrass beds, at over 130,000 hectares, are the most extensive on Australia's east coast and provide important feeding grounds for globally threatened dugongs and marine turtles as well as fish species which are important for commercial and recreational purposes. Diverse and abundant mangrove communities support nursery areas for fish, and roosting and sheltering sites for shorebirds. The extensive freshwater peat swamps in the Site are rare within the bioregion and in Australia. The Site is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, a World Heritage Site. Human activities include military training, tourism, commercial and recreational fishing; the Site is also of significant cultural value for the Aboriginal Darumbai people.

The Coorong, Lake Alexandrina & Albert Wetland

Site number: 321 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia
Area: 142,530 ha | Coordinates: 35°18'S 138°44'E | Designation dates: 11-01-1985
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina & Albert Wetland. 01/11/85; South Australia; 142,530 ha; 35°56'S 139°18'E. National Park, Game Reserves and Crown Land; Shorebird Network Site. The site is located at the mouth of the River Murray, south east of the city of Adelaide. It consists of two lakes forming a wetland system at the river's mouth and a long, shallow brackish-to-hypersaline lagoon which they feed into, separated from the ocean by a narrow sand dune peninsula. The lakes contain water of varying salinity and include a unique mosaic of 23 wetland types including intertidal mud, sand and salt flats, coastal brackish/saline lagoons and permanent freshwater lakes. The site is of international importance for migratory waterbirds and supports the greatest wealth of waterbird species in the Murray-Darling Basin. It hosts important nesting colonies of cormorants, plovers, ibises and terns, and also supports globally endangered species such as the Orange-bellied Parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) and the Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*). The site is popular for recreation activities include camping, boating, regulated duck hunting, and supports a range of commercial activities related to tourism, irrigated agriculture, and commercial fishing. The area is central to aboriginal culture and spiritual beliefs, and it is noted for its extensive sites of historic and geological importance. Ramsar site no. 321. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

The Dales, Christmas Island

Site number: 1,225 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Christmas Island Territory

Area: 580 ha | Coordinates: 10°29'S 105°34'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A near-pristine system of seven watercourses within the Christmas Island National Park, including permanent and intermittent streams and most of the surface water on the island. It is the first Australian Ramsar Site to include surface and subterranean karst features. The sites numerous wetland types support important populations of endemic and/or threatened species including Christmas Island Hawk-owl *Ninox natalis* and Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus natalis*, Abbotts Booby *Papadula abbotti*, the gecko *Lepidodactylus listeri*, and the Blind Snake *Ramphotyphlops exocoeti*. The site plays host to the annual mass migration and spawning of red crabs (*Gecarcoidea natalis*) and provides critical habitat for the blue crab (*Discoplax hirtipes*). In total, 20 species of land crabs are found within the site, all migrating to the ocean to spawn. The Dales are a popular sightseeing destination for local people and tourists and one of them has religious significance for Buddhist inhabitants of Chinese background. The principal threat to the site comes from introduced species, particularly the Yellow Crazy Ant *Anoplolepis gracilipes*, which was accidentally introduced in the first half of the 20th century and whose supercolonies proliferated markedly in the mid- to late 1990s.

Toolibin Lake

Site number: 483 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia

Area: 497 ha | Coordinates: 32°55'S 117°36'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Toolibin Lake. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 497 ha; 32°55'S 117°36'E. Nature Reserve. A lake of fresh-to-brackish water fed by surface runoff, Toolibin Lake dries out occasionally and may receive no inflow over several years. It is the only remaining example in Southwest Australia of a wetland with extensive living thickets of swamp oak *Casuarina obesa* - one of the principal natural characteristics of wetlands there prior to agricultural development. The lake supports numerous species of waterbirds such as the freckled duck *Stictonetta naevosa* and the Nankeen night heron *Ncticorax caledonicus*. Vegetation includes submerged aquatic plants and sedges around the lake, and eucalyptus and acacia woodland on higher ground. The site also supports Acorn Banksia *Banksia prionotes* and Rock she-oak *Allocasuarina huegeliana*, species which are not well represented in the region. Ramsar site no. 483. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

Towra Point

Site number: 286 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 604 ha | Coordinates: 34°00'S 151°10'E | Designation dates: 21-02-1984

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Towra Point. 21/02/84; New South Wales; 604 ha; 34°00'S 151°10'E. Nature Reserve, Aquatic Reserve. A system of seagrass, mangrove and saltmarsh communities, marine sub-tidal aquatic beds as well as terrestrial vegetation communities. These include she-oak forest, littoral rainforest, littoral strandline and a complex mosaic of dune sclerophyll scrub/forest. The site contains approximately half of the mangrove communities and over half of the remaining saltmarsh communities in the Sydney region. As one of the few remaining areas of estuarine wetlands in that region, it is important for the survival of many bird species such as the the vulnerable Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), the Brown Honeyeater (*Lichmera indistincta*), Mangrove Gerygone (*Gerygone levigaster*), and the Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*). Human activities consist of recreation and non-commercial fishing, with surrounding areas developed for industrial, residential and recreational use. Ramsar site no. 286. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Vasse-Wonnerup System

Site number: 484 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia

Area: 1,109 ha | Coordinates: 33°38'S 115°25'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vasse-Wonnerup System Ramsar Site is a shallow, extensive, nutrient-rich wetland system with widely varying salinities. Water within the Site fluctuates from fresh to brackish depending on the season. It provides dry-season habitat for tens of thousands of resident and migrant waterbirds of a wide variety of species including the Australian shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*), Australian shoveler (*Anas rhynchos*), black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), and red-necked avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*). It also regularly supports the largest breeding colony of black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) in south-western Australia. In winter, broad expanses of open water are fringed by samphire and rushes. There are melaleuca woodlands behind the samphire belt and eucalyptus woodlands on higher ground. The Vasse and Wonnerup lagoons (former estuaries) are the two principal components of the Vasse-Wonnerup System and act as compensating basins for water discharging from four rivers through the use of weirs (flood gates). The Site plays a vital role in flood protection for the town of Busselton. The surrounding area is used primarily for cattle grazing and potato cropping. The Site's close proximity to residential, farming and tourism areas presents a range of management issues and opportunities.

Western District Lakes

Site number: 268 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 32,898 ha | Coordinates: 38°10'S 143°31'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Western District Lakes. 15/12/82; Victoria; 32,898 ha; 38°10'S 143°31'E. State Wildlife Reserves, Lake Reserves. Numerous lakes varying in depth and salinity from hypersaline to fresh water, which serve as a drought refuge for tens of thousands of ducks, swans, coots and other waterbirds. Several vulnerable, rare or endangered plants occur within the site, including the nationally endangered species *Lepidium ashersonii*. The lakes are used for recreational purposes, fishing and duck hunting as well as grazing, commercial fishing, and waste water disposal. Ramsar site no. 268. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Western Port

Site number: 267 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 59,297 ha | Coordinates: 38°22'S 145°17'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Western Port Bay. 15/12/82; Victoria; 59,297 ha; 38°22'S 145°17'E. A coastal embayment incorporating vast mudflats, two sites of international, geological and geomorphological significance, and nationally important expanses of relatively undisturbed, species-rich, saltmarsh vegetation. An internationally important feeding and roosting area for numerous species of summering waders, many of which are listed under the bilateral Migratory Birds Agreements Australia has with Japan and China. The site periodically supports over 10,000 waders and 10,000 ducks and swans, and a rich invertebrate fauna of 1,381 species. There is intensive use by commercial shipping. Human activities include recreation, commercial fishing, water extraction, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 267. Most recent RIS information: 1998.