



Australian Government



# *Celebrating 50 years of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*



Macquarie Marshes, NSW (credit Christopher Grounds)

*Australia was one of the first countries to sign the Ramsar Convention, which aims to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and conserve those that remain. Australia designated the world's first wetland of international importance (Ramsar site) under the Convention – Cobourg Peninsula in the Northern Territory – in 1974.*



# Wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites) in the Murray–Darling Basin

Australia has an amazing diversity of wetlands. They include marshes, billabongs, rivers, lakes, coasts, mangroves and coral reefs.



Riverland, SA



NSW Central Murray Forests (credit Heather McGinness)

Wetland ecosystems provide many benefits. They are important habitats for plants and animals, including frogs, fish, turtles and migratory birds. For Indigenous Australians, healthy wetlands are important for culture and wellbeing.

Australia has 66 Ramsar sites, which are protected under national legislation.



Carrawinya Lakes, Qld (credit Gary Cranitch) © Old Museum



Hattah–Kulkyne Lakes, Vic



Blue Lake, NSW

Wetlands improve water quality, provide nurseries for fish and reduce the impacts of floods and storms. Wetlands also support recreation and tourism.



Narran Lake Nature Reserve, NSW (credit Neal Foster)

For more information visit [www.environment.gov.au/wetlands](http://www.environment.gov.au/wetlands)