



Australian Government



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



Cobourg Peninsula, NT (credit David Kirkland/Design Pics via Getty images)

*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 Australia's tropical north

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



Bowling Green Bay, QLD (credit Gary Cranitch) © Queensland Museum



Ord River Floodplain, WA (credit Jim Mollison)

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.



Robert Namarmyilk, Gulyambi Cultural Cruise, Kakadu National Park, NT (credit Parks Australia)

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



Lake Kununurra, WA (credit Jim Mollison)



Freshwater crocodile, Lake Argyle WA

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



Migratory birds, Roebuck Bay WA



Dugong eating sea grass.

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