



Australian Government



Celebrating 50 years of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland, SA (credit John Baker)

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 southern Australia

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



Bool and Hacks Lagoons, SA

Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands, Vic



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.



Piccaninnie Ponds Karst Wetlands, SA



Nankeen night heron, Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands, Vic



Ornate cowfish in Port Phillip Bay, Vic (credit Andrew Newton)

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



Gippsland Lakes, Vic

For more information visit www.environment.gov.au/wetlands