



Australian Government



Celebrating 50 years of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



Moulting Lagoon, credit Paul Young/Alamy Stock Photo

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 Tasmania

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



Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon



Interlaken (Lake Crescent)

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.



Jocks Lagoon

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



Cape Barren geese, found in the Cape Barren Island lagoons (Brian Furby collection)



East Coast Cape Barren Island Lagoons

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



Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River



Little Waterhouse Lake

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