

Wetlands: PROTECTING YOUR WETLAND

Wetlands are complex systems rich with natural diversity. They sustain and shelter a huge variety of plants and animals, provide connections in the landscape and are important for the long-term benefit of the environment and the people who use them.

Why protect your wetland?

Wetlands have an essential role in the natural environment, but they can also have productive value when managed effectively. They can be protected and incorporated into today's farm management with careful planning and still retain their integrity as a wetland.

Wetland components

Wetlands need connectivity, diversity and structural integrity to function effectively.

Connectivity – the links between wetlands by either water, vegetation or animals, allowing for migration and breeding of plant and animal populations.

Diversity – the combination of physical habitats, water depth, water quality, seasonality, and the range of plants and animals supported.

Structural integrity – the balance of physical (water, soil, light), chemical (nutrients, salinity, oxygen, carbon dioxide) and biological (plants, animals) elements.

CONTACT GLENELG HOPKINS CMA TO
CHECK IF **FUNDING** IS AVAILABLE
TO ASSIST WITH WETLAND PROTECTION

BENEFITS OF PROTECTING YOUR WETLAND

- ✓ PROVIDE HABITAT FOR NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS
- ✓ CAN BE FENCED AS PART OF FARM AND STOCK MANAGEMENT
- ✓ CAN BE GRAZED IN DRIER MONTHS
- ✓ PROVIDE HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS AND OTHER INSECTS
- ✓ INCREASE VISUAL AMENITY AND MAY IMPROVE PROPERTY VALUE
- ✓ FILTER NUTRIENTS, TRAP SEDIMENT AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY
- ✓ REDUCE THE IMPACT OF FLOODING
- ✓ CAN STORE CARBON AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR WETLAND

You can protect your wetland by undertaking some simple actions.

- ▶ **FENCING:** Fence above the high-water level to exclude stock and allow for natural regeneration.
- ▶ **GRAZING:** Graze during drier months only. Stock should be removed during wet seasonal conditions for both stock and wetland health.
- ▶ **REVEGETATION:** Strategically plant trees and shrubs to increase connectivity and habitat.
- ▶ **ALTERNATE STOCK WATER:** Install a trough to give stock an alternate source of drinking water during summer months when the wetland may be dry.
- ▶ **PEST CONTROL:** Monitor and control pest plants and animals around wetlands.
- ▶ **MANAGEMENT:** Integrate the area into property planning and manage accordingly.



Did you know?

More than 1/3 of endangered species rely on wetlands for their survival.

Wetlands have been used sustainably for agriculture for thousands of years.

A flock of 100 Straw-necked Ibis can eat up to 25,000 insects per day from adjacent crops.



Wetlands: HOW TO PROTECT THEM ON YOUR PROPERTY

Establish alternate stock water points

Fence to exclude stock and manage wetlands separately from the rest of the property

Establish vegetation links to the wetland for wildlife habitat

Undertake pest plant and animal control

Did you know?

Cropping, fertilising or draining your wetland may permanently damage it.

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

Protecting our future - Naturally

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