

**Concept Plan CF 2023-020**

# **Wetlands conservation and Ramsar wetlands**

**BCS Species and Communities**

## **Project Core Team**

X X **Supervising Scientist** Ruth Harvey  
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**Project status as of June 28, 2023, 4:49 p.m.**

X X New project, pending concept plan approval

**Document endorsements and approvals as of June 28, 2023, 4:49 p.m.**

X X  
**Project Team** required  
**Program Leader** required  
**Directorate** required



# Wetlands conservation and Ramsar wetlands

## Program

BCS Species and Communities

## Departmental Service

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Communities

## Background

The wetlands conservation program coordinates the Department's contribution to implement the Ramsar Convention in Western Australia in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, and where applicable, coordinate nomination of new Ramsar sites. The wetlands conservation program provides strategic and technical advice to managing and monitoring wetlands of high conservation values on reserve, which includes contributing to regional conservation planning. The wetlands conservation program is responsible for coordinating the report to the Commonwealth on the ecological condition and status of managing Ramsar wetlands in Western Australia.

## Aims

To engage with the Commonwealth through the Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems Sub-Committee and contribute to national approaches to identifying vulnerability of Ramsar wetlands.

Provide guidance to site managers to facilitate and coordinate our responsibilities for managing the Ramsar wetlands as per the Ramsar wise use principals. To implement adaptive management practices and consider climate change mitigation measures to protect the conservation values of Ramsar wetlands.

Identify and establish a framework to enable collaboration with key stakeholders, communication, monitoring, management and reporting of Ramsar wetlands, to deliver key responsibilities under the Ramsar Convention agreement as directed by the Commonwealth.

To provide input to policy development for wetlands of high conservation value to implement the wise use of wetlands principle as agreed by the Commonwealth Ramsar agreement.

## Expected outcome

Information is available to better inform the management of Ramsar wetlands under climate change.

Guidance on the Ramsar wise use of wetlands principles, and the delivery of the Australia's Ramsar Implementation Plan whilst managing expectations for on-ground management.

[variant=australian]Prepare Ramsar documents such as ecological character descriptions, management plans, monitoring programs and Ramsar Information Sheets.

Monitor and report on the status of ecological character of Ramsar sites.

Work collaboratively with key stakeholders to manage and protect the ecological values of Ramsar wetlands.

## Strategic context

Work collaboratively to develop adaptive management tools to promote ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change and other threats.

Conserve, restore and manage plants and animals, ecosystems and landscapes using world-recognised science and best practice management.

Manage threats to maintain and enhance biodiversity and cultural values.

Develop partnerships with key stakeholders to deliver conservation programs that recognise cultural and heritage values.

Respond to pressures to maintain and enhance ecosystem function.

## Expected collaborations

Working collaboratively within various programs of the Department, external stakeholders and traditional owners is a key to the successful delivery of the wetlands conservation program.

Key members involved in wetlands conservation program include Biodiversity Conservation Science programs; Species and Communities; Ecosystem Science and Marine Science. External stakeholders include traditional owners, Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups; Universities; Government Agencies; consultants; industry and landholders.

## Proposed period of the project

June 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025

## Staff time allocation

to	X X X X
Role	Year 1 Year 2 Year 3
Scientist	
Technical	
Volunteer	
Collaborator	

## Indicative operating budget

to	X X X X
Source	Year 1 Year 2 Year 3
Consolidated Funds (DBCA)	
External Funding	