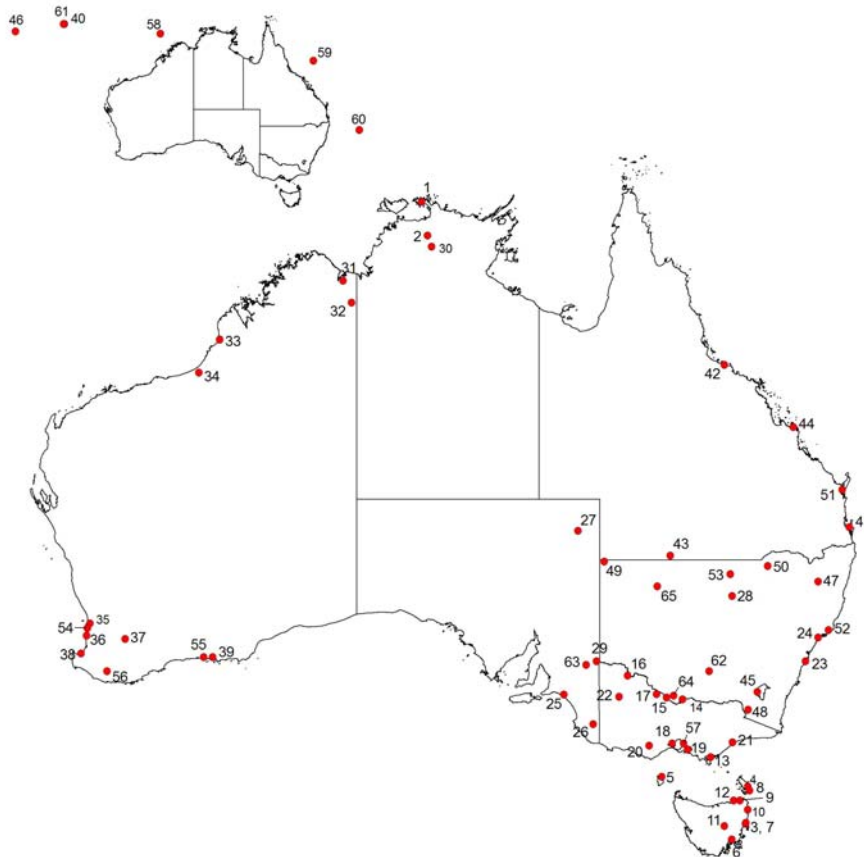




# AUSTRALIA'S RAMSAR SITES



The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971 (more commonly known as the Ramsar Convention) is an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation and “wise use” of wetlands. The Convention’s mission is: ‘the conservation and wise use of wetlands by national action and international cooperation as a means to achieving sustainable development throughout the world’.

The Convention encourages the designation of sites containing representative, rare or unique wetland types, or that are important for conserving biological diversity to the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites). These sites need to be managed to ensure their special ecological values are maintained or improved.

Australia was one of the first countries to become a Contracting Party to the Convention and designated the world’s first Wetland of International Importance, Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Wildlife Sanctuary, in 1974.

Australia currently has 65 Wetlands of International Importance which cover a total of approximately 7.5 million hectares. Australia seeks to protect these wetlands through a range of activities including appropriate legislation and policy frameworks, development and implementation of site management plans, and community education and awareness programs.

	Area (approx. hectares)		Area (approx. hectares)
1. Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land & Wildlife Sanctuary	220,700	34. Eighty-mile Beach	175,487
2. Kakadu National Park (Stage I) including wetlands components of Stage III	683,000	35. Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes	754
3. Moulting Lagoon	4,507	36. Peel-Yalgorup System	26,530
4. Logan Lagoon	2,257	37. Lake Toolibin	493
5. Lavinia	7,034	38. Vasse-Wonnerup System	1,115
6. Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon	3,334	39. Lake Warden System	2,300
7. Apsley Marshes	880	40. Hosnie's Springs (Christmas Island)	0.3
8. East Coast Cape Barren Island Lagoons	4,473	41. Moreton Bay	113,314
9. Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River	3,519	42. Bowling Green Bay	35,500
10. Jocks Lagoon	19	43. Currawinya Lakes (Currawinya National Park)	151,300
11. Interlaken	517	44. Shoalwater and Corio Bays	239,100
12. Little Waterhouse Lake	56	45. Ginini Flats Wetland Complex	343
13. Corner Inlet	67,186	46. Pulu Keeling National Park (North Keeling Island)	122
14. Barmah Forest	28,515	47. Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve	258
15. Gunbower Forest	19,931	48. Blue Lake	320
16. Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes	955	49. Lake Pinaroo (Fort Grey Basin)	800
17. Kerang Wetlands	9,419	50. Gwydir Wetlands	823
18. Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula	22,897	51. Great Sandy Strait	93,160
19. Western Port	59,297	52. Myall Lakes	44,612
20. Western District Lakes	32,898	53. Narran Lake Nature Reserve	5,531
21. Gippsland Lakes	60,015	54. Becher Point Wetlands	677
22. Lake Albacutya	5,731	55. Lake Gore	4,017
23. Towra Point Nature Reserve	387	56. Muir-Byenup System	10,631
24. Hunter Estuary Wetlands	2,971	57. Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands	261
25. Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert	140,500	58. Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve	58,300
26. Bool and Hacks Lagoon	3,200	59. Coral Sea Reserves (Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reefs and Cays)	1,729,200
27. Coongie Lakes	1,980,000	60. Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve	188,000
28. The Macquarie Marshes	18,726	61. The Dales, Christmas Island	57
29. 'Riverland'	30,600	62. Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps	689
30. Kakadu National Park (Stage II)	692,940	63. Banrock Station Wetland Complex	1,375
31. Ord River Floodplain	141,453	64. NSW Central Murray State Forests	84,028
32. Lakes Argyle and Kununurra	117,495	65. Paroo River Wetlands	138,304
33. Roebuck Bay	34,119	<b>Total Area</b>	<b>7,509,831.3 ha</b>

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:

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