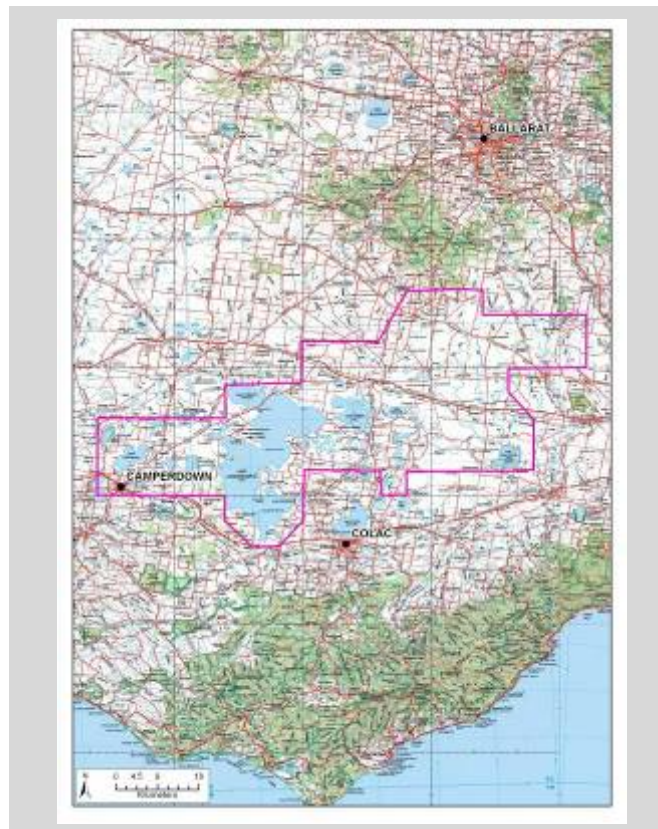


Western District Lakes

MAINLAND ISLAND CHARACTERISTICS

Jurisdiction	Victoria
NRM Regions	Corangamite Glenelg Hopkins
LGAs	Colac Otway, Corangamite, Golden Plains, Surf Coast
Size	226, 000 hectares
Dominant Type	Inland aquatic: freshwater, salt lakes, lagoons
Land Tenure	Crown Land Agriculture Small areas of Wildlife Reserves
Surrounding Issues	Land use Weed density Pest density



Overall Priority	Conservation Value	Threat Status
Very High	Very High	Very High

Key Biodiversity Values

Key biodiversity and conservation values of WESTERN DISTRICT LAKES

- 28 threatened species
- 1 threatened community
- 7 migratory species
- Very high species richness
- Very high endemism
- Western District Lakes Ramsar wetland
- 15 nationally important aquatic ecosystems
- Native vegetation present
- Vertebrate pest species present

CONSERVATION VALUE

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Biodiversity values	Very High (16)
2 Uniqueness	Very High (4)
3 Representativeness	Very High (4)
4 Adjacency	Very High (4)
5 Area to perimeter ratio	Very High (4)

THREAT STATUS

Categories	Ranks/Scores
1 Density of pest species	Very High (8)
2 Pest impact level	High 6
3 Invasion fronts/range boundaries	High (3)
4 Land use risk	Very High (5)
5 Weed density	High (3)
6 Area without statutory protection	High (3)



Key Threats and Impacts

Pest Species Present or Potentially Present

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cane toad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral cat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral pig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rodents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carp, European carp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral water buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tilapia, Mozambique Tilapia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European red fox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral donkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Indian Myna, Common Myna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weather loach; Oriental weather loach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European wild rabbit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral goat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral camel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral horse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red-eared slider turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Potential impacts of pest species on matters of National Environmental Significance

Carp, European carp <i>Galaxiella pusilla</i> <i>Litoria raniformis</i>	<i>Nannoperca obscura</i>	Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow <i>Galaxiella pusilla</i> <i>Litoria raniformis</i>	<i>Nannoperca obscura</i>
Feral cat <i>Delma impar</i> <i>Isoodon obesulus obesulus</i> <i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i> Western District Lakes	Feral pig <i>Isoodon obesulus obesulus</i>	
European red fox <i>Delma impar</i> <i>Isoodon obesulus obesulus</i> <i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i> <i>Rostratula australis</i> Western District Lakes	European wild rabbit <i>Delma impar</i> <i>Lepidium aschersonii</i> <i>Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens</i> <i>Prasophyllum frenchii</i>	<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i> <i>Senecio macrocarpus</i> <i>Synemon plana</i> Western District Lakes

Other threatening processes

- Situated on pest invasion front / range boundary
- High risk land use
- High density of Weeds of National Significance
- Lack of statutory protection

Highest priority biodiversity issues

Pest management actions listed in recovery plans for *Delma impar* and *Pseudomys fumeus*

Other threatening processes

Impacts of European wild rabbits



CRITICAL SYNOPSIS OF VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT REGIME

Need for vertebrate pest management	<p>Management of vertebrate pests is required in order to protect and conserve the ecological character of the Western District Lakes Ramsar site in order to meet Australia's international obligations as a signatory nation to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Management is further required to ensure Australian Ramsar management principles are met as prescribed under the <i>Environment Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999</i>. Furthermore, the Ramsar wetland provides key habitat for a number of migratory bird species recognised as species of national significance under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>Through a strategic risk assessment, Lake Beeac and Lake Corangamite were identified as being at high risk from pest plants and animals. The majority of other areas within the Ramsar site were considered to be at low risk from pest species.</p> <p>At a State level, Victorian authorities have a legal obligation to manage pest species as directed by the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i>.</p>
Planning instruments	<p>The Strategic Management Plan for the Western District Lakes Ramsar Site (DNRE, 2002) sets out the management framework for the site. There are nine local and regional strategies and management plans relevant to the sites that are listed within this document. Of note are specific Management Plans developed for each of the Lakes within the Ramsar site including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lake Murdeduke Draft Management Plan 1992 ▪ Lake Colongulac Draft Management Plan 1993 ▪ Lake Milangil Wetland Proposed Management Plan 1993 ▪ Lake Beeac Draft Management Plan 1992 <p>Specific vertebrate pest management strategies and plans applicable to the site include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corangamite Rabbit Action Plan (Draft) Strategic Rabbit Management (DNRE, 2000). The Plan sets out strategic priorities for rabbit management in the Corangamite region.
Management actions	<p>Undertake pest plant and animal control programs with an emphasis on species listed as potentially threatening processes under the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998</i>.</p>
Monitoring regimes	<p>Monitoring programs underway includes fauna surveys, regular waterbird counts and monitoring of breeding colonies and water quality (RIS, 1999).</p> <p>There is no information available regarding the monitoring of pest species within the site.</p>
Management responsibility	<p>Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria</p>
Cost-benefit analysis	<p>The Victorian Pest Management Framework highlights that pest management must occur within a risk framework. In particular, an assessment of the economic, environmental and social risks posed by pests and the costs and benefits of addressing those risks must be undertaken.</p>
Special features	<p>The Good Neighbour Program is implemented across Victoria and aims to reduce the impacts of managing weeds and pests on the boundaries of public and private land. There are several weed control sites within the Western Lakes District mainland island.</p>
Summary / comments	<p>Vertebrate pests do not appear to be of significant concern for this area.</p>

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BMT WBM (2007) *Ramsar Snapshot Study. Final Report*. December 2007. Prepared by BMT WBM Pty Ltd.

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