



WetlandLink - August 2008

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WetlandCare Australia would like to acknowledge the Australian Government NHT for initiating this project.

Wetland Restoration

Dimboola wetland work set to start

A new wetland project is to start this month that involves connecting a series of small waterways to help feed stormwater run-off into the Wimmera River weir pool at Dimboola. The Nine Creeks Reserve project was developed as part of the shire's community building initiative.

[Read more on the wetland work at Dimboola](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/04/2294772.htm>

Protecting threatened species and endangered ecological communities of the mid-north coast

In a project funded by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, WetlandCare Australia has been working in partnership with local landholders on the mid-north coast to protect endangered ecological communities such as saltmarsh, paperbark forest and rainforest. These provide habitats for several threatened species including the nationally endangered swift parrot and regent honeyeater, as well as the endangered koala and wompoo fruit dove.

[Read more about the "Threatened species and endangered ecological communities" project](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/04/2294772.htm>

Wetland Management

Doubts raised over draft floodplain management plan

Western New South Wales farmers will not be allowed to build new levee banks, dams or channels to capture passing floodwaters.

The State Water Minister Nathan Rees made the announcement during a tour of the Macquarie Marshes. The measures are part of a new draft policy, which aims to halt the unconstrained harvesting of water on floodplains.

[Read more about the draft floodplain management plan](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/04/2294280.htm>

Constructed Wetlands Project launched at Mulga Creek

Minister for Climate Change and Environment, Verity Frith, officially opened the \$1.5 million Mulga Creek Catchment Wetlands in Broken Hill earlier this month. "The CMA, the Council and the community have worked hard to establish a wetland in sympathy with its surroundings," Ms Frith said. The wetland will provide a filtering system, resulting in good quality water flowing to Imperial Lake. Additionally, the new wetland will provide a tranquil area for the community and, importantly, a venue for student education on wetland systems.

[Read more about the "Constructed Wetlands Project at Mulga Creek"](#)

<http://www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au/pdf/mr%28152r1%29OpeningMulgaCreekWetlands%20MinisterFirth2July2008.pdf>

New collaborative Program for the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers

A new program has been established to protect, maintain and enhance the waterways of the North and South Esk river systems and the Tamar Estuary. The Minister for Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, Michelle O'Byrne, said the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers program will provide the vehicle for managing the Tamar Estuary and its tributaries from catchment to coast and enables all partners to work together towards a common goal.

[Read more about the "New collaborative Program for the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers"](#)

<http://www.environment.tas.gov.au/showItem.php?id=1133>

Lower Gwydir wetlands water forum focuses on awareness and sustainability

The Border River Gwydir Catchment Management Authority has recently run a two day forum to brief stakeholders on research to preserve the Lower Gwydir Wetlands. Authority convenor Dr Glenn Wilson from the University of New England says landholders have become used to allowing researchers onto their property, but they might not necessarily know what is being discovered. He says the forum will help make people more aware of how the river system works and the sorts of flows it needs to be sustainable.

[Read more on the "Lower Gwydir wetlands water forum"](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/15/2303940.htm>

Wetlands Under Threat

Fears Coorong may be removed from wetlands treaty

A water management expert is warning that Australia may become the first country to delist a site from an international wetlands protection treaty. Dr Stephen Beare says the Coorong may be taken off the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance if emergency action is not taken at today's Council of Australian Governments meeting in Sydney. He would like to see governments unlock water reserves held by eastern states irrigators, and exploit groundwater to supplement surface water flows.

[Read the full "Fears Coorong may be removed from wetlands treaty" article](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/03/2293447.htm>

War waged against the water weed cabomba

From South America to CSIRO laboratories in Brisbane, and at selected locations around Australia including Lake Macdonald near Cooroy, the war against one of Australia's worst water weeds is well under way, with encouraging signs emerging from a research project into the aquatic weed, cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana*).

[Read the full "War waged against water weed cabomba" article](#)

http://www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au/about_new/news_events_publications/news/vor/2008_july/bmrg_weed.html

Scientists split on letting sea into Murray

THE nation's top water scientists have split over whether the Murray River's stricken lower lakes should be flooded with seawater in an act of desperation to save them. The fact that opening the sea barrages to Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina is under consideration illustrates the depth of the crisis engulfing the Murray's lower reaches, which also threatens the magnificent Coorong wetlands at the river mouth.

[Read the full "Scientists split on letting sea into Murray" article](#)

http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,24014808-2702,00.html?from=public_rss

Around the World

Reduced EU biofuel target is good news for wetlands

Members of the Environmental Committee of European Parliament voted this month in favour of stronger sustainability criteria and a lower target for biofuels. The proposed 10% biofuel target for 2020 was reduced to a significant lower 4% in 2015, with criteria for ambitious greenhouse gas savings and exclusion of areas like wetlands with high carbon stocks and/or biodiversity values.

[Read more on the reduced EU biofuel target](#)

<http://www.wetlands.org/NewsandEvents/NewsPressreleases/tabid/60/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/138/Default.aspx>

The 8th International Wetlands Conference

More than 700 scientists attended a major conference to draw up an action plan to protect the world's wetlands. Co-organised by the UN University and Brazil's Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, the five-day [Intecol International Wetlands Conference](#) in Cuiaba, Brazil, examined the links between wetlands and climate change.

Scientists warn that if the decline of the world's wetlands continued, it could result in vast amounts of carbon being released into the atmosphere and "compound the global warming problem significantly".

[Read more on the 8th International Wetlands Conference](#)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7513638.stm>

Valuable seagrasses face global warming threat

A report by the Swiss-based International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), said that seagrass meadows, which are vital for the survival of much marine life and a source of household materials, face a mounting threat from global

warming. The report also said that the submerged meadows, could be saved through concerted action by governments and scientists.

[Read the full "Valuable seagrasses face global warming threat" article](#)

<http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Wetland Resources

Seagrass activity books for download

Seagrass-Watch HQ have developed educational aids to contribute to seagrass and marine conservation education in primary and secondary schools. Available for download on the Seagrass-Watch website are two excellent activity books and an educator's handbook which teachers are encouraged to use as part of lessons or extra-curricula activities.

[Go to the "Seagrass Watch" education pages](#)

<http://www.seagrasswatch.org/education.html>

Other Wetland News

Threatened fauna – habitat enhancement and threat abatement project

A project has recently been completed by WetlandCare Australia (funded by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority) which has achieved significantly increased recovery outcomes, habitat enhancements and threat reductions for the several threatened fauna (bush stone curlew, barking owl and brush tailed rock wallaby). The project also involved follow-up maintenance of the green and golden bell frog enhanced breeding sites at the North Shore of the Hastings River. For further information please contact WetlandCare Australia.

[Read more about the "Threatened fauna - habitat enhancement and threat abatement" project](#)

http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/projects_living_detail.asp?articleid=678&zoneid=54