



WetlandLink - August 2009

## For the latest news in Wetlands.

### In this issue:

#### Wetland Management

- [Partnerships set to benefit wetlands \(NSW\)](#)
- [Wetland option for effluent treatment \(NSW\)](#)

#### Wetland Restoration

- [Priority Wetlands - three years of success \(NSW\)](#)

#### Wetlands under Threat

- [Seagrass study sounds Cockburn Sound alarm bell \(WA\)](#)
- [Report card marks down estuaries' health \(Qld\)](#)
- [Scientists decry deaths of endangered lungfish \(Qld\)](#)

#### Wetland Research and Monitoring

- [Coorong's future helped by new science \(SA\)](#)
- [Seagrass transplant trial in Whangarei harbor \(NZ\)](#)
- [World Wetland Health Check](#)

#### Wetland Education and Community

- [Wetlands - the kidneys of the catchment](#)
- [Ozcranes.net](#)

#### Around the World

- [Increasing conflicts due to poor wetland management](#)
- [Pakistan breaks mangrove-planting record](#)

#### WetlandCare Australia News

- [Partnerships producing healthier wetlands \(NSW\)](#)

## Wetland Management

### Partnerships set to benefit wetlands (NSW)

The Macquarie Marshes wetlands are set to benefit with a total of \$197,670 being awarded for five projects aimed at conserving wetlands on private properties within the Macquarie Valley. Department of Environment and Climate Change, Rivers Environmental Restoration Program (RERP) Manager, Jeff Hillan said ensuring the protection of our wetlands through improved conservation management is vital.

[Read the full article 'Partnerships set to benefit wetlands'](#)

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/media/DecMedia09070905.htm>

### Wetland option for effluent treatment (NSW)

#### Walcha News

A concept study for a pioneering project to treat municipal effluent in Walcha has been given the green light to proceed to the next stage by the

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Walcha Council. The proposal is to upgrade the existing sewerage treatment plant using engineered wetlands technology. "Wetlands are a cost and energy efficient way to further remove nutrients and contaminants from stormwater, sewage effluent and other forms of wastewater," said council project engineer Matt Maxwell.

[Read the full story 'Wetland option for effluent treatment'](#)

<http://www.walchanewsonline.com.au/news/local/news/general/wetland-option-for-effluent-treatment/1562725.aspx>

## Wetland Restoration

### Priority Wetlands - three years of success (NSW)

This highly successful project succeeded in rehabilitating and protecting more than 430 hectares of priority wetlands (from an initial target of 240ha), across the coastal northern NSW, NRCMA region. All on-ground works are secured under conservation agreements which will ensure the implementation and maintenance of these important wetland rehabilitation actions continue for at least 10 years at each site.

[Read the full article 'Priority Wetlands - three years of success'](#)

[http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news\\_detail.asp?articleid=750&zoneid=1](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/Content/templates/news_detail.asp?articleid=750&zoneid=1)

## Wetlands under Threat

### Seagrass study sounds Cockburn Sound alarm bell (WA)

*NEWS.com.au*

Cockburn Sound is one of the worst examples of seagrass destruction in the world, according to a major international study published this week. Co-author Professor Gary Kendrick of the University of Western Australia's School of Plant Biology said seagrass destruction contributed to global warming, coastal erosion and the extinction of fish and other aquatic species.

[Read the full article 'Seagrass study sounds Cockburn Sound alarm bell'](#)

<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,21598,25726670-5017320,00.html>

### Report card marks down estuaries' health (Qld)

A new river health assessment has found the Burnett and Mary estuaries are in poor condition. The Burnett Mary Regional Group assessed 18 estuaries across the region and three on Fraser Island. The Burnett estuary scored a D-minus due to its poor condition and the high chance it will keep deteriorating. Paul Lobeiger from the North Burnett Regional Council says the river is an important resource that needs protection.

[Read the full article 'Report card marks down estuaries' health'](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/31/2642085.htm>

### Scientists decry deaths of endangered lungfish (Qld)

*Leigh Dayton, The Australian*

Scientists worldwide are outraged by the death of scores of Australian lungfish, the oldest living link to the first animals to walk on land. Experts estimate that only a few thousand lungfish, or *Neoceratodus forsteri*, remain in rivers and streams around the Burnett River catchment of southeast Queensland, including the Mary River, site of the proposed Traveston Dam.

[Read the full article 'Scientists decry deaths of endangered lungfish'](#)

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25737856-30417,00.html>

## Wetland Research and Monitoring

### Coorong's future helped by new science (SA)

Planning the best possible future for the Coorong has been made easier following the completion of the most comprehensive ecological study of the region by Australian scientists. The three-year research collaboration is the first comprehensive research program of the ecology of the internationally recognised region.

[Read the full media release 'Coorong's future helped by new science'](#)

<http://www.csiro.au/news/Coorong-future-helped-by-new-science.html>

### Seagrass transplant trial in Whangarei harbor (NZ)

An attempt to restore seagrass in Whangarei harbour is beginning to pay off. Northland Regional Council has been experimenting with transplanting clumps of seagrass from One Tree Point to Takahiwai - where it had been wiped out. The Council says the grass has a host of environmental benefits, and is crucial in providing a nursery for young fish.

[Read the full media release 'Seagrass transplant trial in Whangarei harbor'](#)

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/stories/2009/07/03/1245bb3917cd>

### **World Wetland Health Check**

Wetland Link International and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust are working on developing a Non-government organisation (NGO) based wetland survey, showing the state of wetlands across the world. This will link with the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and BirdLife's Important Bird Areas (IBA) system to give a snapshot of the state of wetlands.

If you would like to join the World Wetland Network (you need to be a wetland NGO to join) then go to [http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/World\\_Wetland\\_Network/](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/World_Wetland_Network/) and follow the instructions.

## **Wetland Education and Community**

### **Wetlands - the kidneys of the catchment**

In what is a first for Queensland, extension officers who service Queensland's agricultural industries will learn how to replicate natural wetland filtering for agricultural systems. Prized by producers, fishermen and bird lovers alike, wetlands are increasingly becoming an important part of farm management systems in Queensland. Project leader Ian Layden said wetlands improved water quality and primary producers were recognising that wetland management improved production as well as the lifestyle of producers.

[Read the full article 'Wetlands - the kidneys of the catchment'](#)

[http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xml/30\\_14556\\_ENA\\_HTML.htm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xml/30_14556_ENA_HTML.htm)

### **Ozcranes.net**

Ozcranes.net is produced by the Australian Crane Network, for everyone interested in Brolga and Sarus Crane research and conservation and for people managing crane habitat, from swamps and dams to crops and pasture. The Network is an informal grouping of scientists, writers, community groups, landowners and bird observers, sharing information about the Brolga (*Grus rubicunda*) in Australia and New Guinea, and the Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) in Australia. The Network is linked to crane research and conservation worldwide.

[Go to the Ozcranes website](#)

<http://ozcranes.net/index.html>

## **Around the World**

### **Increasing conflicts due to poor wetland management**

All over the world, conflicts between groups of people are arising due to poor planning of wetlands and their water resources. This is the conclusion by the global NGO Wetlands International in its report 'Planting trees to eat fish' after investigating many wetland sites in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

[Read the full article 'Increasing conflicts due to poor wetland management'](#)

<http://www.wetlands.org/NewsandEvents/NewsPressreleases/tabid/60/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/1826/Default.aspx>

### **Pakistan breaks mangrove-planting record**

The government of Pakistan, as part of its National Year of the Environment efforts, set out to break the Guinness World Record for the most mangrove trees planted at a single site in a 24-hour period. On the 15th of July 2009, 541,148 young mangrove trees were planted in the Indus Delta Ramsar site in southern Sindh Province, bettering the previous record of 447,000 trees.

[Read the full article 'Pakistan breaks mangrove-planting record'](#)

[http://www.ramsar.org/index\\_bulletin.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm)

## **WetlandCare Australia News**

### Partnerships producing healthier wetlands

Good partnerships are the key to achieving natural resource management outcomes. WetlandCare Australia has partnered with the HCRCMA and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), to implement sustainable management practices in Myall Lakes to enhance the ecological character of these RAMSAR listed wetlands, which are home to 289 bird species.

[For more information read the full article 'Partnerships producing healthier wetlands'](#)

[http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/enews\\_july2009.html](http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/enews_july2009.html)

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