

Wetlands: AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Wetlands are some of the world's most diverse and productive systems. They support Australia's primary industries and are valuable for the environment, food production, culture and recreation.

Why are wetlands so important?

Agriculture and the environment co-exist in well-managed wetlands. They are complex systems rich with natural diversity but their value is often underestimated. Without them in the environment, many native plants and animals would not survive and our food supply chain would be threatened.

Integrating wetland values

Wetlands have an essential role in the natural environment, but they can also have productive value when managed effectively. They can be protected and incorporated into today's farm management with careful planning and still retain their integrity as a wetland.

Landholder involvement

Individual landholders on private land contribute to wetland protection at a local scale by using sustainable farm management practices. This supports the wider community and region, sustaining wetlands for future generations.

Wetlands and sustainable agriculture

Sustainable agriculture practices now recognise the inter-dependencies between agriculture and healthy wetlands and the potential for mutually beneficial outcomes. Increasingly, there is greater awareness and investment in practices that use wetlands more wisely for sustainable production while at the same time enhancing the natural resources.

HOW WETLANDS CAN BENEFIT AGRICULTURE:

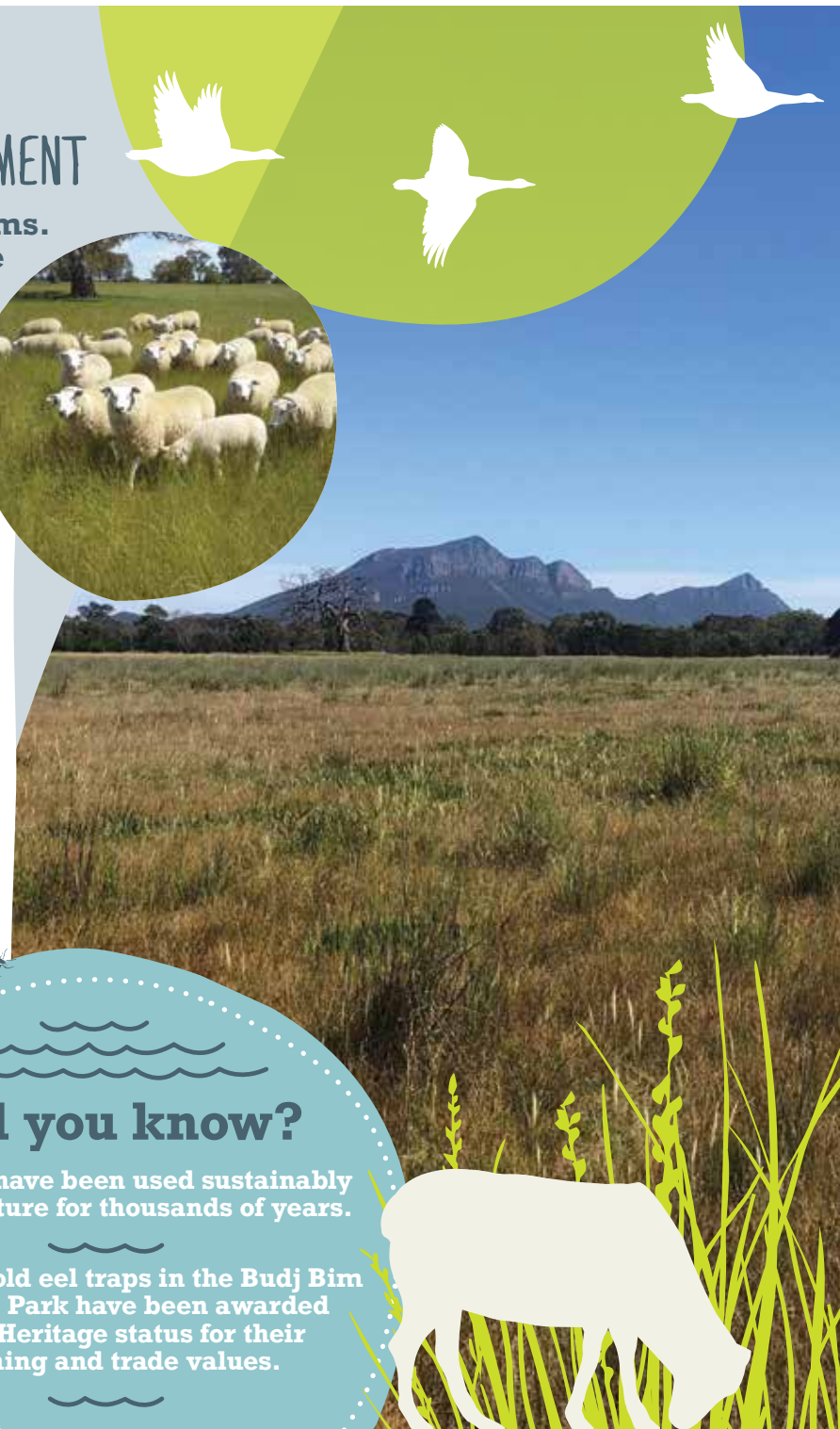
- ✓ PROVIDE FOOD, CLEAN WATER AND CONTRIBUTE TO HUMAN WELL-BEING
- ✓ SUPPORT FERTILE SOILS, REDUCE EROSION, FILTER NUTRIENTS AND TRAP SEDIMENT
- ✓ SUPPORT CONTROLLED STOCK GRAZING
- ✓ SUPPORT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT
- ✓ BE A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SOURCE FOR LIVESTOCK
- ✓ PROVIDE HABITAT FOR NATIVE PLANTS, ANIMALS AND POLLINATORS
- ✓ PROVIDE SHADE, SHELTER, WIND BUFFERING, PROTECTION FROM FLOODS AND EXTREME WEATHER
- ✓ STORE CARBON AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE
- ✓ RETAIN WATER IN THE LANDSCAPE AND ASSIST IN DROUGHT RESILIENCE
- ✓ BE FENCED AND USED AS PART OF FARM AND STOCK MANAGEMENT

Did you know?

Wetlands have been used sustainably in agriculture for thousands of years.

6600 year old eel traps in the Budj Bim National Park have been awarded World Heritage status for their farming and trade values.

CONTACT GLENELG HOPKINS CMA TO
CHECK IF **FUNDING** IS AVAILABLE
TO ASSIST WITH WETLAND PROTECTION



Wetlands: HOW TO MANAGE THEM ON YOUR PROPERTY

Establish alternate stock water points

Establish new pastures and crops and apply fertiliser in adjacent paddocks, not wetlands

Establish vegetation links to the wetland for wildlife habitat

Crash graze in late summer when dry to control grass growth

Fence to exclude stock and manage wetlands separately from the rest of the property

Undertake integrated pest plant and animal control

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

Protecting our future - Naturally

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This project is funded as part of the Victorian Government's \$222 million investment to improve waterway and catchment health.