

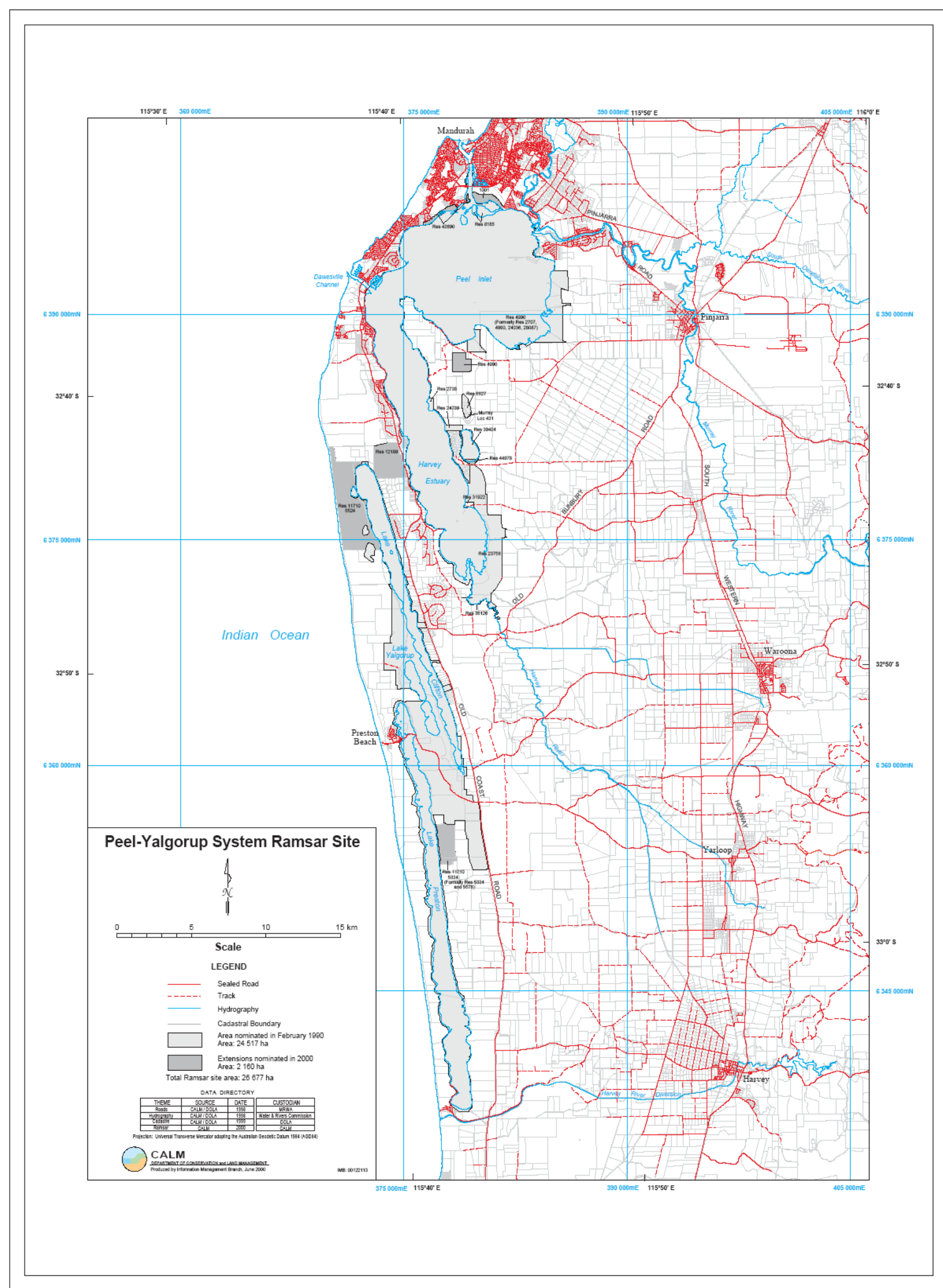
# Collaborative management of the Peel-Yalgorup System

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## Ramsar-listed Peel-Yalgorup System

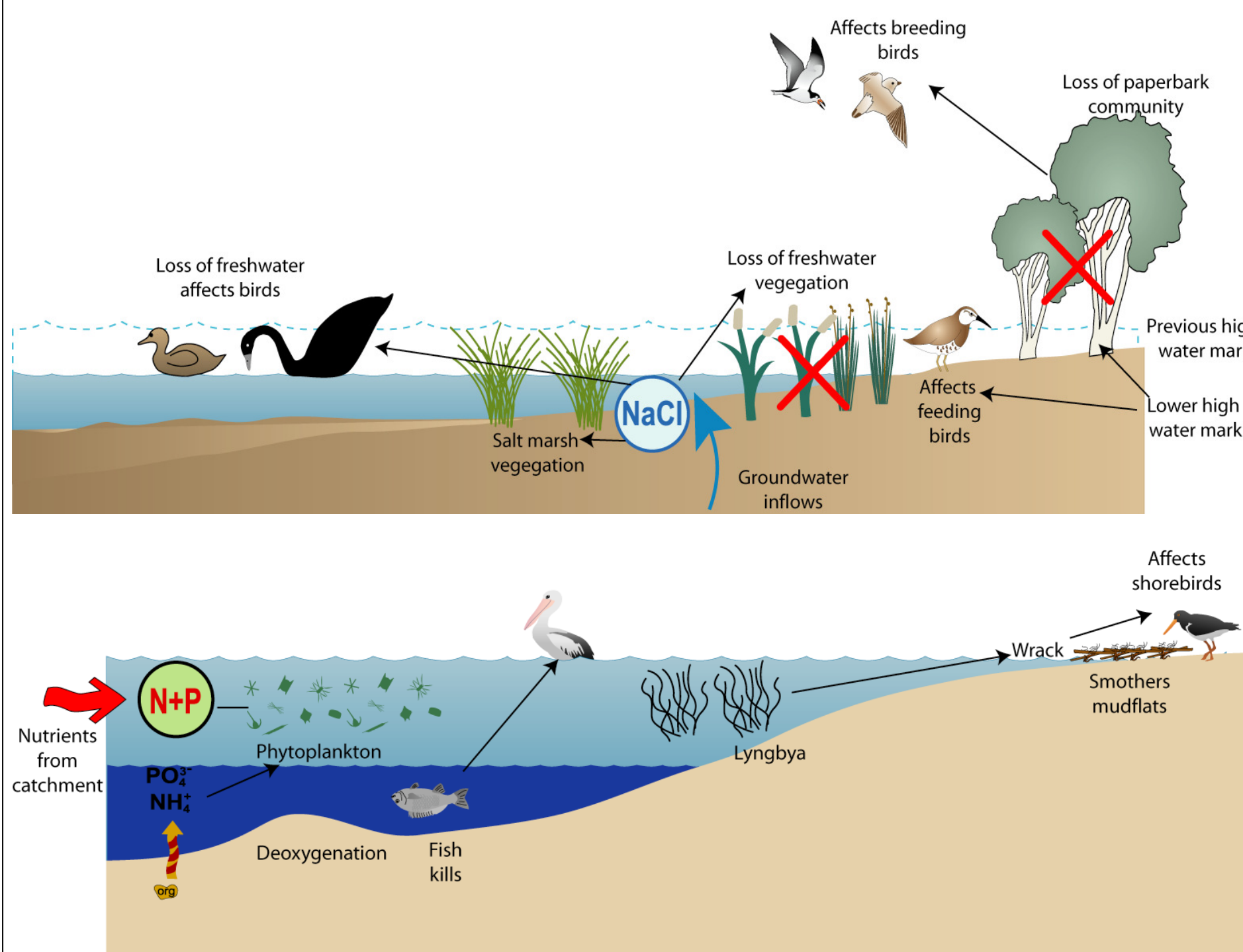
- Located approximately 80 km south of Perth
- Comprises:
  - Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary
  - Lakes McLarty system freshwater wetlands
  - Yalgorup National Park saline lakes system
- Ramsar listed in 1990



## Growing threats

- Growing threats to the ecological, social and cultural values of the wetlands (see table) and evidence of impacts to the wetlands' ecological character (see figure) underpins the need for a coordinated and strategic management plan

## Interactions: how the system works



Hale and Butcher (2007) Ecological Character Description for the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site. A report to the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Table 1: Threats to the Peel-Yalgorup System					
The Nature Conservancy Protecting nature. Preserving life.	Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary	Yalgorup Lakes	Lake McLarty and Meallup	Goegrup and Black Lakes	Overall Threat Rank
1. Altered hydrology	Low	High	Very High	High	High
2. Decreased rainfall (climate change)	Medium	High	Very High	High	High
3. Disturbance of acid sulfate soils	Medium	High	Very High	Low	High
4. Increased nutrient loads	Medium	Medium	High	High	High
5. Clearing of native vegetation	Low	High	High	Medium	High
6. Sea level rise (climate change)	Low	High	Medium	Low	Medium
7. Foreshore erosion	High	Low	Low	Low	Medium
8. Waterbird disturbance	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
9. Litter and other pollution	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
10. Cattle Grazing	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
11. Waterway use (boating)	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
12. Feral animals	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Threat Status for Targets and Project	High	High	Very High	High	Very High

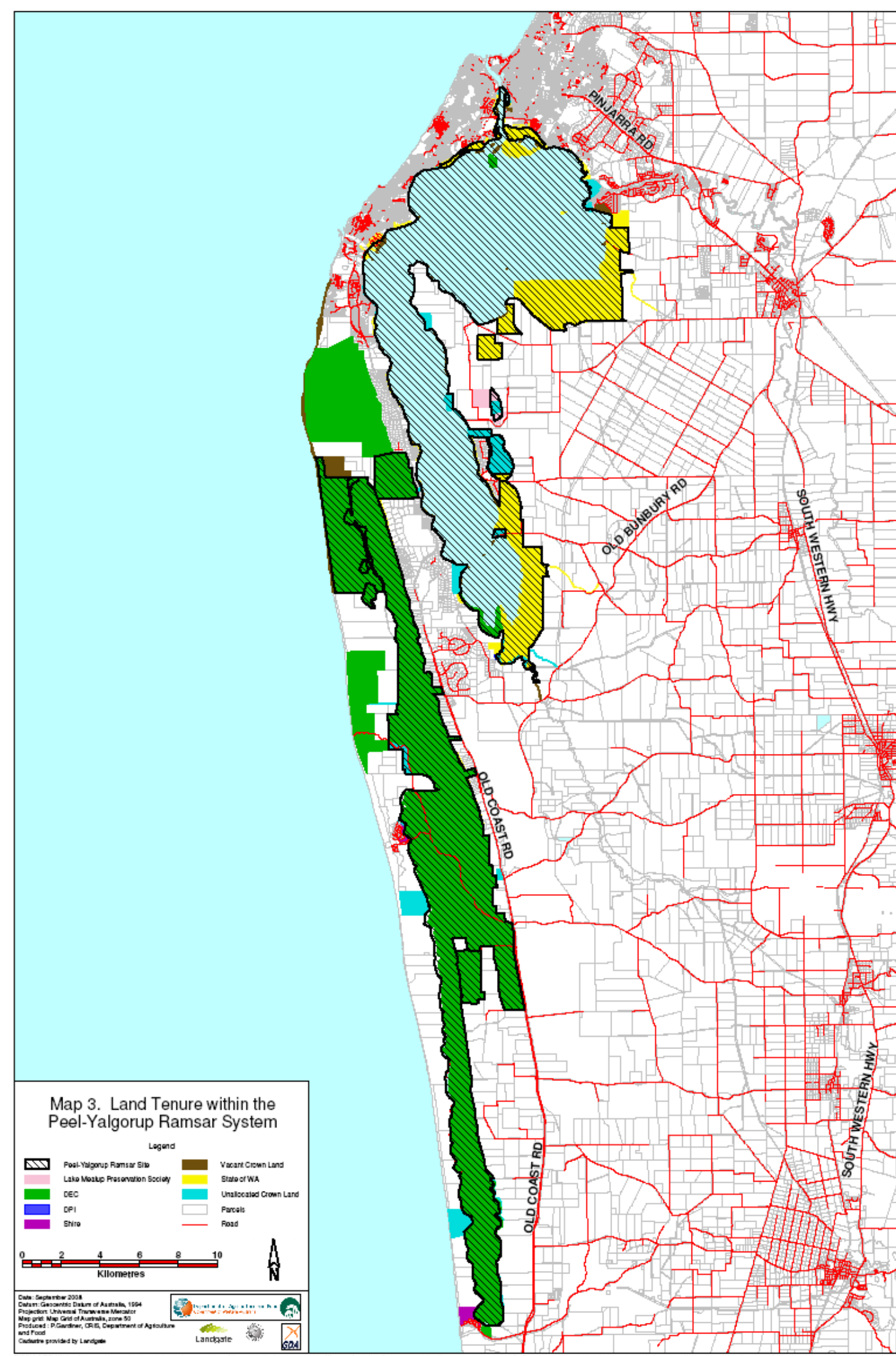
## Complex land tenure & stakeholder

- Peel-Yalgorup is the **only** Ramsar site in WA where management responsibility is shared between:
  - multiple government (DEC, DoW, DPI)
  - local governments, **and**
  - community stakeholders (including one local conservation group)

### 8 stakeholder categories

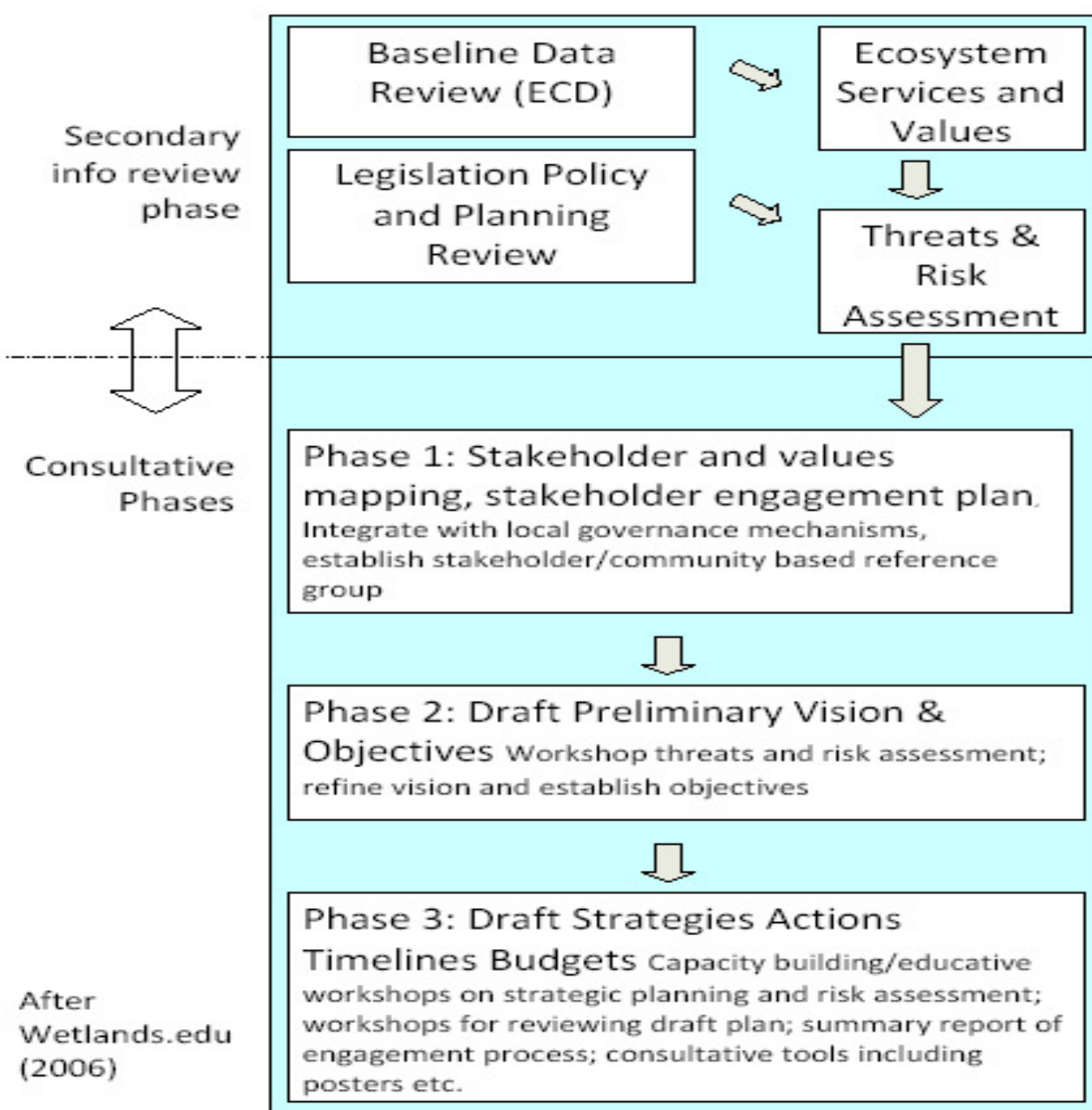
Description	Stakeholders
Organisations with direct management responsibilities for wetlands in the Peel-Yalgorup System	Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Marine Division) Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Peel and Bunbury Regional Planning) Department of Environment and Conservation Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts (Australian Government) Department of Fisheries Department of Water Lake Meallup Preservation Society Inc. Peel Development Commission Peel-Harvey Catchment Council South West Catchments Council Western Australian Conservation Commission Western Australian Planning Commission Biya Indigenous Organisation Peel Region Indigenous Reference Group Winjan Aboriginal Corporation City of Mandurah Shire of Harvey Shire of Murray Shire of Waroona Department of Agriculture and Food Department of Environment and Conservation Department of Sport and Recreation Department of Water (aquatic science) Environmental Protection Agency Tourism WA
Indigenous custodians	Birds Australia (Western Australia) Cinco Trail Friends of Mandurah and Pinjarra City of Mandurah Bushcare City of Mandurah Coastcare groups Corio Landcare Group Friends of Ramsar Action Group for the Yalgorup Lakes Environment (FRAGYLE) Friends of Rivers Peel Hotham Catchment Landcare Lake Clifton Sporting and Progress Association Lake Meallup Preservation Society Inc. Landcare District Committees Mandurah Bird Observers Narrogin-Williams Landcare Peel Preservation Group Serpentine Jarrahdale Landcare Centre Southern Estuary Progress Association Waroona Landcare Centre Waterside Residents Association Western Australian Naturalists Club Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire of Boddington Shire of Cockburn Shire of Kwinana Shire of Cullaburra Shire of Wandersley Shire of Williams Includes tourism, housing and development, mining, commerce and agriculture/silviculture Conservation Council WA Greening Australia WWF
Local governments municipalities in which the Ramsar site is located	
State government agencies with duties that may impact upon the way in which the wetlands are managed	
Locally based advocacy groups and/or community groups	
Catchment and coastal zone management stakeholders (local governments)	
Business and industry	
Regional or state level advocacy groups	

Over 50 stakeholder organisations with management roles or responsibilities



PHCC (in prep) Peel-Yalgorup System: management plan

## Planning framework



## Stakeholder collaboration



- A technical advisory group (TAG) was established in early 2007
- 26 representatives of government, non-government and local community groups
- 6 meetings between June 2007 and December 2008
- Reaffirmed commitment from members to continue role of TAG in coordinated management

## Community participation

- A long history of community engagement in local conservation and planning issues
- Series of community presentations undertaken:
  - Ecological background information
  - Raise Ramsar profile amongst community groups and Councils
- Visioning and objectives workshop held in November 2007
- Community workshop focused on values and threats in June 2008
- Capacity building, including supporting partnerships with local community groups to improve participatory management
  - Mandurah Bird Observers – waterbird monitoring
  - WA Wader Studies Group – shorebird monitoring
  - Lake Meallup Preservation Society – water quality monitoring
  - FRAGYLE – awareness raising



## Management outcomes

- Collaborative management now recognised as the only way for the Peel-Yalgorup
- Barriers associated with multi-tenure now viewed as opportunities
- Communication between stakeholders improved
- Reduced duplication and improved management efficiency
- Regional-level systems-based management focus
- Greater support for local scale management actions undertaken by community
- Improved support for, and recognition of, the contribution of local groups to management of an **internationally important wetland**