

Australia's Ramsar Implementation Plan 2016-2018

Implementation Plan for First Triennium of Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024

Goals and Targets from Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 - 2024	Strategies for next 3 years	Specific Actions	Potential measures	Priority
Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation			<i>(consistent with Ramsar indicators and National Report Q)</i>	
<p>Target 1: Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level</p>	<p>Integrate wetland benefits and conservation in national and state/territory strategies, policies and plans (National Water Initiative, Basin Plan, Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy) (National Report Q1.1, 13.1)</p> <p>Include wetlands as tools for both mitigation and adaptation in climate change policies and programs (National climate resilience and adaptation strategy) (Q9.5)</p> <p>Continue to implement existing legislation and policy to protect Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar wetlands). (EPBC, NWI, Basin Plan) (Q13.2, 13.3)</p>	<p>Joint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate wetland conservation and wise use into national policy/planning processes including the review of Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, and other national policies. • Integrate wetland conservation and wise use into Basin Plan implementation, including through environmental watering. <p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate wetland conservation and wise use into agricultural policy, Northern Australia development and bioregional assessments of coal and coal seam gas developments. • Continue to assess referrals under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act relating to actions that may affect the ecological character of Ramsar wetland. Undertake assessments where required. • Continue to support the Independent Expert Scientific Committee to provide scientific 	<p>Proportion of Ramsar sites for which ecosystem services assessed (eg ECDs prepared)</p>	<p>High</p>

Commented [KW1]: There does not seem to be a direct link between having ecosystem services assessed, e.g. an ECD prepared, with the development and implementation of quality wetland policy. We suggest an alternative indicator needs to be identified that considers the effectiveness/success of implementing the strategies and actions.

		<p>advice to decision makers on the impact that coal seam gas and large coal mining development may have on Australia's water resources, including wetlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine guidance to assist key sectors to comply with EPBC and Ramsar convention requirements. • Promote integration of blue carbon into climate change programs, including Emissions Reduction Fund <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate wetland conservation and management into state legislation and policies. <u>This needs to include highlighting the definition of wise use and to identifying the values of the wetlands, their components, processes and ecosystem services, the threats and threatening processes and how to address these.</u> • Implement state/territory based wetlands policies • Integrate conservation and wise use of Ramsar and other wetlands into state and local policy and management plans, including GBR planning, NRM planning, water strategies and plans (eg Water Quality Improvement Plans), fish habitat areas, biodiversity strategies, marine park planning, vegetation management, agricultural best management practices, etc • Integrate Ramsar wetlands into nature based 		
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		<p>tourism sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of national guidance by preparing case studies and collaboration at the Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems Sub Committee (WAESC) • Support the implementation of the blue carbon initiative <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <p><u>1. Formally recognise the roles NRM Regional bodies and nested landcare and “Friends of” groups play in managing Ramsar sites.</u></p> <p><u>2. PHCC’s NRM Strategy “Binjareb Boodia Landscapes 2025” (http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/?page_id=2499) addresses this Target:</u></p> <p><u>Strategy B4.1: Protect priority terrestrial and aquatic natural areas; Activity B4.1.1 Influence land-use planning to afford protection to priority natural areas. An example of how this has been actioned is as per item 3 below:</u></p> <p><u>3. The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) has been directly involved with the development of the Strategic Assessment for the Perth-Peel Region (SAPPR). The Peel-Yalgorup System (PYS) is a key element of the SAPPR and the PHCC made a formal submission in April 2016, available here:</u></p> <p><u>PHCC SAPPR submission 13/05/2016 - for information only http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/0041_2016_0513_DPC_strategic-assessment_AW_AG.pdf</u></p> <p><u>Attachment to PHCC SAPPR submission 13/05/2016 - for information only http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/0041_2016_0513_DPC_strategic-</u></p>		
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		<p>assessment Attach-A.pdf</p> <p>4. PHCC will work closely to support the WAESC’s IECA Case Study being undertaken on the PYS.</p> <p>5. The PHCC with Local Government, State Agency and Industry partners have developed resources for <i>Sustainable Horticulture in the Peel-Harvey Coastal Catchment. This is the direct catchment of the Peel-Yalgorup System (Global Ramsar Site 482). Policy documents developed include :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Guide for Investors and Growers – Horticulture in the Peel-Harvey (http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Horticulture-Brochure_2015_08_19.pdf) • A model local planning policy (LPP) for Local Governments of the Peel-Harvey Coastal Catchment (http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Version-3-0-New-horticulture-in-LGs-of-the-Peel-Harvey-Coastal-Catchment-140416-LPP.pdf Appendix: http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Version-3-0-New-horticulture-in-LGs-of-the-Peel-Harvey-Coastal-Catchment-140416-Appendices-to-LPP.pdf) • Updated Soil-Landscape Mapping for the Peel-Harvey Coastal Catchment (links available http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/?page_id=4895) • Local Planning Policy Horticultural Developments – Shire of Murray • The Shires of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Murray have <i>Local Biodiversity Strategies, and Shire of Harvey a draft Strategy, that help protect Ramsar values</i> • Reference to Ramsar values in Local Planning Strategies are encouraged and supported. 		
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<p>Target 2: Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale <i>inter alia</i> at the basin level or along a coastal zone.</p>	<p>Continue cooperative government action on provision of water to sustain wetland assets (environmental flows), and monitor and report on results. (NWI, Basin Plan) (Q2.1-2.5)</p> <p>Continue to coordinate policy, planning and management across jurisdictional borders (including through WAESC/RIC) and across systems (to maintain hydrological and habitat connectivity of waterways, wetlands, estuaries and their catchments. (NWI, National Water Reform Committee, WAESC, Basin Plan, GAB, LEB) (Q2.1-2.5)</p>	<p>Joint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver environmental water to Ramsar and other significant wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin and report on outcomes at catchment and Basin scale <p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAESC meetings to be held 6 monthly to coordinate approaches to wetland policy, planning and management, including through the development of National Guidance • Support catchment based action to reduce adverse impacts on GBR (\$5m program with landholders to reduce sediment- through Reef Trust) • Implement Reef Alliance project to improve farmer practices (cane, grazing, grains, dairy and horticulture) to improve water quality in reef catchments (\$56 m to 2019 - NFF and Reef Trust) • Integrate consideration of wetland functions and services into development of northern Australia’s water resources • Report on evaluation findings on delivery of Commonwealth environmental water at the asset and Basin scales as part of the Long Term Intervention Monitoring Project. <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Water Plans at appropriate scales • Deliver environmental water to Ramsar wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) and report on outcomes at asset scale to realise outcomes at catchment and Basin scale • <u>Develop EWPs for all waterways feeding Ramsar wetlands</u> • Integrate wetland functions and services into NRM planning and reporting <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <p><u>PHCC’s NRM Strategy “Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025”</u> <u>PHCC’s NRM Strategy “(http://www.peel-</u></p>	<p>Extent of integration of wetlands in national water resource strategies</p> <p>Number of Ramsar sites where water use considers ecosystem requirement with water provisions that maintain ecological character or are within their LAC.</p>	<p>High</p>
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Commented [KW2]: What about Ramsar sites outside of the MDB?

		<p>harvey.org.au/?page_id=2499) addresses this Target: Goal B5: Natural water resources are managed and used wisely Strategy B5.1: Support water allocation planning and management for wise use</p> <p>PHCC has worked with a number of partners since 2009 including Lake Mealup Preservation Group and Department of Parks and Wildlife to successfully implement the Lake Mealup Recovery Plan. Lake Mealup being part of the PYS. This has addressed hydrological issues/declining rainfall that had led to the acidification of the lake, and the invasion of the open water body with Typha. This successful recovery program was a finalist in the 2015 Thiess International River Prize (DPaW) and provides a very positive case study. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNFvWTTicTI) This recovery project was initiated during the development of the PYS's ECD in 2007. The ECD was developed by PHCC with the then State Department of Environment (now Parks and Wildlife), the Lake Mealup Preservation Society are key players in the Lake's management and recovery. Hydrological issues at nearby Lake McLarty are now being investigated by the Friend of Lake McLarty and Department of Parks and Wildlife with the support of the PHCC.</p>		
<p>Target 3: The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands</p>	<p>Identify and promote sustainable use of wetlands, and provide guidance on good practice, for sectors including local government, water, energy, mining, agriculture, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries. (Q3)</p> <p>Provide opportunities for wetland managers (including Ramsar site managers) to share experience and best practice.</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund research and development projects through any relevant funding or grants programs, such as the National Environmental Science Program, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, CSIRO, Reef Trust and other programs which identify good practice in wetland management • Prepare and make available good practice case studies of coastal/urban wetland management and environmental watering. • Hold an annual wetland forum for stakeholders • Provide support to wetland managers on private land 	Public and private sector investment and activities for conservation and wise use of wetlands	Med

		<p>through NRM programs such as National Landcare Program.</p> <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the preparation of case studies of wetland management and wise use by public and private sectors • <u>Make wetland information, including best management practice guidelines, available on websites (eg Qld WetlandInfo), and share through networks</u> • <u>Require Ramsar values to be recognised and threats addressed in all legislation that “regulates” activity at Ramsar sites. E.g. In WA Transport legislation determines the number of boat launching and mooring facilities in the Ramsar site, based on population growth. The legislation does not consider the recreational carrying capacity of the Ramsar site i.e. the capacity before recreational activities degrade the Ramsar values e.g. disturbance of migratory shorebirds from recreational activities on the foreshores and wetlands.</u> • <u>Provide funding for NGOs to continue their active site management.</u> <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <p><u>Please refer to our comments against Target 1 regarding resources for Sustainable Horticulture in the Peel-Harvey Coastal Catchment.</u></p> <p><u>PHCC’s NRM Strategy “Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025” (http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/?page_id=2499) addresses this Target:</u></p> <p><u>Strategy B5.2 Support land managers to manage water resources for multiple benefits.</u></p> <p><u>The PHCC’s draft Wetlands & People Plan (CEPA) has a focus on influencing decision makers towards wise use.</u></p>		
Target 4: Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion	Improve access to information on wetland invasive species and their management, and coordinate control action nationally (Q4.1, 4.2)	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote protection of wetland habitats through the Invasive Plants and Animals Committee, in their work to 	Inventory of wetland invasive	Med

<p>are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>		<p>identify priorities for weed and pest research and identify pests and weeds of national significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop National Carp Control Plan to investigate and plan for the potential release of a carp-specific virus as a biological control agent for European Carp. • Implement recommendations of the review into national marine pest biosecurity • <u>Possible Case Study: Adaptive management of fire and feral animals to improve conservation of threatened species in Kakadu National Park (National Environmental Science Program -NESP)</u> • <u>High level border biosecurity is maintained and increased/developed to prevent new invasive alien species entering the country</u> <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>High level border biosecurity is maintained and increased/developed to prevent new invasive alien species entering WA/other states</u> • <u>Incorporate pest and alien species planning into site based management plans</u> • <u>implement pest plant and animal control</u> • <u>Support NGOs to implement pest plant and animal control</u> • List and manage wetland weeds • Make information available on a range of weed species • Implement management responses to invasive alien species in Ramsar management plans • <u>Manage wetland weeds through state and local government grant programs.</u> • <u>Provide funding for NGOs/community to continue their site management activities against these threats.</u> <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Incorporate pest and alien species planning into site based management plans</u> • <u>Seek resources to implement pest plant and animal control</u> 	<p>species</p>	
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		<p><u>PHCC is working closely with the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group Inc. (PHBG).</u></p> <p><u>The PHCC supports direct pest management control through community funding rounds and indirectly through providing funding for capacity support of Landcare Groups.</u></p> <p><u>The PHCC is developing a draft <i>Biosecurity Strategy</i> due to be completed this triennium.</u></p> <p><u>The PHCC's NRM Strategy has Goal B4.2 Manage and reduce threats</u></p> <p><u>Note the Lake Mealup Recovery Program eliminated Typha from the Lake, previously 52 hectares was inundated with Typha.</u></p>		
Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network				
<p>Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.</p>	<p>Continue to update documentation of the ecological character of Australia's Ramsar sites, and develop management plans (Q5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8)</p> <p>Identify emerging pressures and threats to wetlands and put in place policies/procedures to tackle them</p> <p>Also see Target 1 strategies and actions</p> <p>Assess effectiveness of Ramsar site management (Q5.9)</p>	<p>Joint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAESC to assist in the completion and promote the implementation of the Aquatic Ecosystems Toolkit to assist with wetland management and monitoring. <p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with site managers to ensure Ramsar documentation is up to date (ECDs, RISs, management plans) for Australia's 65 Ramsar sites – increase the number of Ramsar sites with ECDs from 85% to 90% (55 to 59) • Undertake a regular review of the status of Australia's Ramsar sites to enable adaptive management, and to identify priorities for local and national action. • <u>Provide resources for management of Ramsar sites</u> • Provide appropriate national guidance on wetland policy 	Number of ECDs, RISs and management plans for Ramsar sites	High

Commented [KW3]: Indicator needs to address implementation

		<p>and Ramsar process issues and re-assess current requirements.</p> <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update Ramsar site documentation (ECDs, RISs, management plans) • Support site managers to implement management plans for Ramsar sites, consistent with Ramsar management principles • Develop, update and implement Ramsar management plans for arrangements for sites, and assess effectiveness of management • Identify threats to Ramsar sites and monitor ecological character. • <u>Provide funding for NGOs to continue their active site management.</u> <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <p><u>PHCC has led and facilitated the collaborative management of the PYS Ramsar site since 2004 when planning commenced to obtain funds to raise awareness of the Site’s international importance, followed by the development of the ECD and in turn the Site’s Management Plan. The site covers 26, 530ha, is complex both biophysically and from a governance perspective and 27 Stakeholder Groups are represented on the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). DPaW does not have jurisdiction over the entire Ramsar site, hence the important role PHCC plays in facilitating the collaborative management of the site through hosting PYS Ramsar TAG meetings and being a lead partner in planning and implementation. Responsibilities and timeframes as follows: –</u></p> <p><u>PYS Technical Advisory Group (TAG):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>27 Stakeholder groups – nominated representatives</u> • <u>established 2007 to inform the development of the Site’s</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ecological Character description (2007)</u> • <u>Monitoring & Evaluation Guide (2008)</u> 		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Management Plan (2009) • Collaborative Management (2010 - ongoing) • Activity against Strategies & Actions • Assessment against Limits of Acceptable Change/Management Triggers • Strategic Assessment (2013 - ongoing) • Other group members/officers participate as Guests • Invited Experts <p>Provide funding for NGOs to continue their active site management. PHCC works with many Agency and community group partners across the 26,530ha to implement site management and monitoring activities.</p>		
<p>Target 6: There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and Transboundary Sites.</p>	<p>Clearly define the purpose of the Ramsar estate and develop a systematic approach to Ramsar nominations, so that it adequately represents the diversity and values of Australia's wetlands (Q5.1, 5.2)</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise discussion paper on a systematic approach to Ramsar nominations and develop policy position • Continue to develop and implement Aquatic Ecosystems Toolkit <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of guidance re strategic nomination of nationally under-represented wetland types by preparing case studies and through collaboration at WAESC <p>National NGO/interest groups</p> <p>PHCC works to improve the ecological character of all wetlands in its catchment.:</p> <p>B4.1 Protect priority terrestrial and aquatic natural areas</p> <p>B4.2 Manage and reduce threats</p> <p>B4.3 Restore ecological linkages</p> <p>PHCC has active examples of on-ground activities addressing these Strategies.</p>	<p>Number of sites designated (including specific types of sites)</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats</p>	<p>Continue to protect Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar wetlands) under national environmental assessment and water policy,</p>	<p>Joint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop national guidance, through WAESC, on resolving 	<p>Number of Article 3.2 referrals,</p>	<p>High</p>

addressed.	<p>legislation and procedures (as in Target 1) (NR 7.1, 7.2, 13.2. 13.3)</p> <p>Ensure mechanisms in place for Administrative Authority to be informed of changes to ecological character of Ramsar sites.</p>	<p>Article 3.2 notifications through WAESC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake preliminary and formal assessments of possible change in ecological character, and take action to mitigate threats where required, and monitor effectiveness. Support the further development of guidance on how to assess and handle changes in ecological character by preparing case studies and through collaboration at WAESC Aquatic Ecosystems Toolkit (as for Target 5) <p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate approaches to assessing and handling change in character due to climate change. <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Undertake regular monitoring to enable condition assessment</u> Undertake regular reporting on the state and condition of the Ramsar estate and investigate the effect of identified threats through preparation of preliminary assessments using available information in the first instance. <u>Provide resources to enable NGOs/community to facilitate adaptive management and reporting</u> <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <p><u>Access resources to enable NGOs/Regional NRM groups such as PHCC facilitate adaptive management, site management plan implementation and assessment of ecological character against LACs.</u></p> <p><u>See notes in above Targets that demonstrate PHCC's role in regard to the collaborative and active management of the Site. Lake Mealup Recovery Program is a direct example of the recovery of a Ramsar-listed wetland that was suffering changes to its ecological character and these changes have been addressed through a series of detailed, partnership driven, management practices being implemented. Happy to</u></p>	response strategies and sites removed.	
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Commented [KW4]: Is there a new process to replace the Rolling Reviews to provide a systematic way to identify and report on sites at risk?

		provide more detailed case-study information.		
Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands				
Target 8: National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	<p>Improve alignment and coordination of wetland information and mapping.</p> <p>Ensure wetland information is available in accordance with the national principles for environmental information (Q8.3)</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate agreement by jurisdictions on a way forward for the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA) or an alternative, as a tool for promoting the values of, and better managing, wetlands Improve understanding of the extent of seagrass, saltmarshes and mangroves in Australia (through CSIRO project, and complementary research under the NESP) improving extent and quality of wetland inventories and mapping Investigate incorporating information on Ramsar Wetlands into the National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII) program. <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure state/territory based wetland mapping remains current and up to date using best practice approaches (eg Qld mapping and classification program, mapping of groundwater dependent ecosystems and Aquatic Conservation Assessments using AquaBAMM) Make mapping available to managers and decision-makers <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <p>Contribute local data and knowledge</p>	Progress with wetland classification, mapping and assessment	Med
Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i> , within a river basin or along a coastal zone.	See Target 1 Strategies and Actions (Q9.1, 9.2, 9.3m 9.4, 9.6, 9.7)	<p>Joint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement sustainable wetland management through Basin Plan and Reef Plan. <p>State and Territory</p> <p>Make information available to managers on regional/catchment basis (eg Qld Wetland <i>Summary</i>)</p>	Extent of integration of wise use of wetlands in catchment and basin	High

Commented [KW5]: Needs to be adjusted so that this is measurable.

Commented [KW6]: Is the GBR Ramsar listed?

		<p>NGO see earlier comments re PHCC's contribution to the local Strategic Assessment. PHCC facilitates collaborative management for the PYS Ramsar Site Community groups/NGOs have very active roles in on-ground site management, monitoring, advocacy and planning</p>	planning	
<p>Target 10: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels</p>	<p>Recognise and protect Indigenous traditional knowledge of wetlands, and rights to access and use wetlands, through legislation, planning, management and communications. (EPBC Act, NWI, ANZECC Guidelines, Basin Plan) (Q10.1, 10.4)</p> <p>Increase participation of Indigenous people in planning, decision-making and management of wetlands. (EPBC Act, Water Act, IPAs) (Q10.2, 10.3)</p>	<p>Joint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidance re handling of cultural services in ECDs through collaboration at WAESC <p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Indigenous organisations, communities and committees in progressing wetland research, management and monitoring projects. Through the NESP, support and promote Indigenous research projects Support use of Indigenous knowledge through National Landcare Program investments Increase participation of Indigenous people in National Landcare Program through Indigenous NRM stream Prepare guidance through the WAESC on how cultural services are included in Australian Ecological Character Descriptions <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Indigenous engagement in management and monitoring of Ramsar sites, flyway sites and other wetlands <p>NGO/interest group PHCC's NRM Strategy K2.3 Incorporate Aboriginal Knowledge to improve natural resource management.</p> <p>PHCC has developed an Indigenous Participation Plan. Traditional knowledge has informed the development of our NRM Strategy and also three Sub-catchment Water Quality Improvement Plans. Traditional Custodians are represented on the Ramsar TAG. PHCC actively engages with Local</p>		

		<u>Noongars on a work site by work site basis with respect to cultural values and heritage. PHCC has engaged with and continues to engage with local Noongar communities for shared cultural learning opportunities internally and with the broader community, especially around the Wetlands and wise use. We have a current project “Supporting wise-use of wetlands” project (State NRM funded) that has a direct objective to develop Wetlands-themed art and environmental events and activities, with our local Noongar community, which embraces local traditional knowledge.</u>		
Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.	<p>Undertake and widely disseminate research to planners, decision-makers and the general public on the economic value of wetland services, and on valuation methods (Q11.1)</p> <p>Undertake wetland monitoring to better understand long-term variability of wetlands and how they respond to wetting and drying, and use this to improve adaptive management.</p> <p>Integrate socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands in management planning (Q11.3)</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake economic valuation study of disaster/natural hazard risk reduction services provided by Australian wetlands Monitor and evaluate the contribution of Commonwealth environmental water to MDB wetlands through the Long Term Intervention Monitoring Project (\$30 m over 6 years to June 2020). Analyse and report results. Improve the science available to support environmental water management to MDB wetlands through the Environmental Water Knowledge and Research Project (\$10m over 6 years to June 2019). Participate in the Blue Carbon Initiative which identifies the carbon sequestration potential of coastal and marine areas. Promote the research of relevant NESP and National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) projects <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of policy re inclusion of services in Ecological Character Descriptions by preparing case studies and through review of existing guidance and collaborative development of national policy at WAESC Develop conceptual models to summarise wetland science 	ECDs (as above)	High

Commented [KW7]: This Target seems to sit better under Goal 1?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be actively involved in wetland research projects with CSIRO, tertiary institutions and other research organisations, and integrate this science into management • Monitor and report • Provide resources to support the active roles and contributions by NGOs and other community groups <p>National NGOs/interest groups Access resources to undertake monitoring, review and update ECDs and Site management plans</p>		
<p>Target 12: Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>	<p>Set priorities, at the national, basin or catchment level, for conservation, repair and restoration of wetland ecosystems, based on an understanding of their values, their natural variability and the potential impacts of climate change, and use these to guide investment through a range of programs (Q12.1)</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Basin Plan and deliver environmental water to Ramsar sites within the MDB, in cooperation with Basin States • Deliver projects to restore and repair priority wetlands along GBR coast, in cooperation with Qld (including \$2m Reef Trust funds). • Develop and deliver partnerships to repair and restore GBR catchments (Burnett May and Fitzroy) (Reef Trust Partnerships for the Reef) • Promote appropriate use of work on the Aquatic Ecosystems Toolkit • Proposal for Scientific Committee (see Target 14) • Support research that improves understanding of suitable and effective wetland restoration techniques to inform management interventions. <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify priorities for wetland restoration using a range of assessment tools (eg Qld Wetlands Decision Support System) • Implement management actions aimed at addressing threats to ecological character at Ramsar sites and reversing adverse changes in ecological character • Provide resources to support restoration by NGOs/community 	<p>Number of wetland restoration and rehabilitation programs/projects</p>	<p>High</p>

		<p>National NGOs/interest groups <u>PHCC's NRM Strategy Goal B1 Wetlands and waterways are healthy and productive</u> <u>Strategy B1.1 Support the establishment and operations of coordinated governance frameworks for the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar System.</u> <u>B1.3 Improve the condition of wetlands and watercourses</u> <u>B1.3 Protect wetlands and watercourses.</u></p> <p><u>Access resources to implement site management plans through sound application of adaptive management principles.</u> <u>As explained above PHCC has a very active role in implementing, and supporting the implementation, of the PYS's Site Management Plan.</u></p>		
<p>Target 13: Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods</p>	<p>Promote sustainable use of wetlands, and provide guidance on good practice, for sectors including local government, water, energy, mining, agriculture, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries.(as for Target 3) (Q13.1-13.3)</p> <p>Compensate by offsets any loss of wetlands through development (including urban, mining and ports).</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply environmental assessments to actions that may affect Ramsar sites and other matters of National Environmental Significance Implement Offsets Policy under EPBC Act where wetlands are lost Continue to support the Independent Expert Scientific Committee to provide scientific advice to decision makers on the impact that coal seam gas and large coal mining development may have on Australia's water resources, including wetlands (as for Target 1) Contribute information on wetlands to national State of Environment reporting <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate reporting on the Ramsar estate into state based State of the Environment Reporting Investigate use of offsets provisions for improved wetland management <p>National NGOs/interest groups <u>PHCC's NRM Strategy - B4.1.1 Influence land-use planning to afford protection to priority natural areas.</u></p>		High

Commented [KW8]: Surely Ramsar wetlands should be being "lost" and in need of offsets?

		<u>B4.1.3/4 Assist land managers to protect priority natural areas – terrestrial/aquatic</u>		
Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation				
Target 14: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.	<p>Continue to contribute Australia’s expertise to wetland-related scientific guidance and technical methodologies.</p> <p>Undertake research and make information available on wetland management in a changing climate, and the role of wetlands in both mitigating and adapting to climate change.</p> <p>Develop innovative strategies for identifying and addressing wetland knowledge gaps, including through the use of strategic partnerships and citizen science, and increased collaboration.</p> <p>Make wetland research, data and information nationally and freely available to wetland policy and decision-makers, managers and the community, in appropriate formats (Q15.1, 15.2)</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate establishing a national wetland scientific committee to coordinate research, undertake a wetland research audit, and establish stronger links between governments, NGOs and academic/research institutions Identify opportunities through NESP to develop research that will inform management of Australia’s Ramsar sites Ensure that all relevant information, data sets and reports from bioregional assessment are accessible to wetland decision-makers, managers and the community. Fund research and development projects through National Environmental Science Program, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, CSIRO, Reef Trust and other programs which identify good practice in wetland management (see Target 3) <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all relevant information, data sets and reports are accessible to third parties in line with open 	Number of wetland research and development projects	Med

		<p>data policy via the internet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make wetland information, including best management practice guidelines, available on websites (eg Qld <i>WetlandInfo</i>), and share through networks (as for Target 3) • <u>Invest in formal monitoring programs</u> • <u>Facilitate citizen science based monitoring at wetland sites</u> • <u>Provide resources to support NGOs to manage sites that are part of regional/international flyways.</u> <p>National NGO/interest groups <u>Access resources to manage sites that are part of regional/international flyways.</u> <u>Provides resources to enable implementation of site management plans and adaptive management</u></p>		
<p>Target 15: Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.</p>	<p>Promote the development of Ramsar Regional Initiatives for the Oceania Region, both involving Australian partners, and involving only other parties (Q15.1, 15.2)</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on and support development of a Ramsar Regional Initiative for Oceania • Continue to provide support for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). • Progress development of a Ramsar Regional Initiative for Oceania <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and implement jurisdictional initiatives that support the EAAFP and the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds (eg the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary) <p>National NGOs/interest groups <u>Manage flyway sites to remove disturbance and other threats</u></p>	<p>Progress on development of Oceania Regional Initiative</p> <p>Support for EAAFP</p>	<p>Med</p>
<p>Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.</p>	<p>Develop a National CEPA Action Plan (Q16.1)</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See actions within proposed CEPA National Action Plan <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement actions in CEPA National Action Plan • Maintain and promote websites and other educational initiatives and networks 	<p>Australian WWD activities</p> <p>Website hits related to</p>	<p>High</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake targeted stakeholder engagement and training Influence decision makers beyond “awareness” to incorporate Ramsar values and address threats Provide resources to enable the implementation of Wetlands and People Plan (CEPA; PHCC) by NGOs and local interest groups. <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include an NGO representative on the Ramsar Implementation Committee <p><u>Access resources to enable the implementation of Wetlands and People Plan (CEPA; PHCC) by NGOs and local interest groups.</u></p> <p><u>Act to change social norms.</u></p>	WWD activities and products	
Target 17: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4 th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.	Australia provides resources to support Ramsar Convention and its implementation.	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Ramsar financial contribution, support attendance of Oceania technical representative at STRP and attend relevant Ramsar meetings (including Standing Committee and other meetings) Support Regional Oceania meeting. Provide funding, research and technical support for wetland conservation and wise use <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for wetland conservation and wise use within environmental and sectoral programs Provide resources to enable local actions and monitoring by NGOs and local interest groups. <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <p><u>Access resources to enable local actions and monitoring by NGOs and local interest groups.</u></p>	Financial resources provided to support Ramsar Convention <u>Financial support for wetland management & monitoring</u>	Med
Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.	Continue to play a strong role in Ramsar Convention implementation, including in the Oceania Region, and in bilateral and multilateral cooperation on wetland conservation and wise use (including the East Asia-Australasia Flyway Partnership and	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role as Vice-Chair of Ramsar Standing Committee Participate in bilateral and multilateral arrangements relating to migratory birds EAAFP as per Target 15 	Regional initiatives (see above)	Med

	<p>bilateral migratory bird agreements).</p> <p>Build synergies with other relevant international conventions and strategies, with cross-referencing or common actions and reporting requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Carbon as per Target 11 • Continue collaboration between Australian National Focal Points for biodiversity-related Multilateral Environment Agreements • Ensure jurisdictional representatives are aware of relevant meetings, and incorporate their input into briefings <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation to recognise and support migratory bird habitat • Provide advice and information on relevant issues and activities relevant to bilateral and multilateral cooperation on wetland conservation and wise use • Promote and implement jurisdictional initiatives that support the EAAFP and the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds (eg the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary) (see Target 15) • Provide resources to enable local actions and monitoring by NGOs and local interest groups. <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <p>Access resources to manage sites and capture and provide monitoring data on migratory species.</p> <p>PHCC with Birdlife have >60 volunteers contribute annually to Shorebird 2020 count. This is a fantastic volunteer effort but requires resources to co-ordinate and to train new volunteer counters each year.</p>		
<p>Target 19: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.</p>	<p>Improve knowledge and capacity of wetland managers, including through information sharing, networking and training (detail in Ramsar National CEPA Action Plan).</p>	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how best to coordinate and provide access to existing on-line resources • Improve networking with and between wetland education centres (building on data gathered through Ramsar survey of Centres) • Establish and maintain relationships with conservation groups, environmental water managers and other wetland stakeholders (including through Australian Wetland Network), and with other agencies who work 		<p>Med</p>

		<p>with farmers, irrigators, tourism operators, recreational fishing organisations, etc</p> <p>State and Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Continue to engage with and support Ramsar site managers and other wetland stakeholders.</u> • <u>Provide resources for NRM Regions to support the community's role in Ramsar site management and monitoring.</u> <p>National NGOs/interest groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Continued delivery of wetland training through universities, research organisations and wetland centres</u> • <u>Access resources for implementation of CEPA programs.</u> 		
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