



Ramsar

Protecting our global wetlands

Did you know?

Half of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1900

The Ramsar Convention aims to protect, conserve and reverse this global trend

What is the Ramsar convention?

Also known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Ramsar is an intergovernmental treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

The term wetland refers to rivers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, tidal flats and estuaries as well as artificial sites such as rice paddies and reservoirs.

Under the Ramsar criteria, wetlands are selected for listing based on their international significance in terms of their role in preserving biological diversity and uniqueness.

The Ramsar Convention aims to:



Halt the worldwide loss of wetlands



Conserve, through wise management, those that remain



Encourage international cooperation, policy making, capacity and technology transfer

Australia is one of 168 contracting parties that have signed the Ramsar Convention.

World-wide there are 2186 Ramsar sites, covering over 208 million hectares, 65 of these sites are listed in Australia.

The local Peel-Yalgorup System was listed as global Ramsar Site 482, and Australian Ramsar Site 36, in 1990.

For more information visit: www.birdlife.org.au
www.peel-harvey.org.au

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
People Working Together for a Healthy Environment





Ramsar Site 482

A globally recognised wetland

Did you know?

Our local Peel-Yalgorup System is the largest and most diverse estuarine complex in Australia's south west

Ramsar Site 482



A globally recognised wetland



The Peel-Yalgorup System was listed as a Ramsar wetland in 1990.

It covers 26,530 ha and includes the Peel Inlet, Harvey Estuary, Lake McLarty, Lake Mealup, and the lands and lakes of Yalgorup National Park.

The system is known globally as Ramsar Site 482 and nationally as Ramsar Site 36.

The Peel-Yalgorup System meets 7 of 9 criteria for Ramsar listing.

What makes the Peel-Yalgorup System so important?

It is the largest and most diverse estuarine complex in Australia's south-west.

It supports unique and critically endangered communities like the thrombolites of Lake Clifton, thought to be over 2000 years old.

It is the most important area for migratory and resident waterbirds in Australia's south-west.

The Peel-Yalgorup System's wetlands form a part of the annual shorebird migration path known as the East-Asian Australasian Flyway.

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East Asian-Australasian Flyway

Highways in the sky



Did you know?

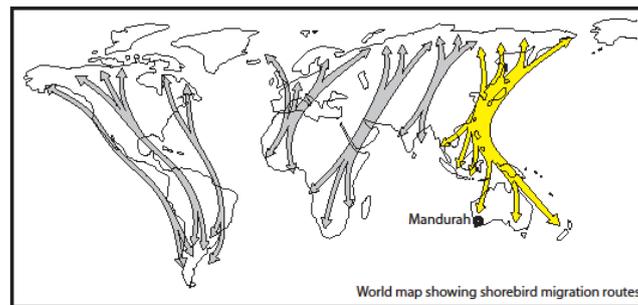
5 million birds fly from their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere to the feeding grounds in Australasia and South East Asia every year



Highways in the sky

A flyway is simply a flight path that migratory birds follow.

The East-Asian Australasian Flyway stretches across 22 countries from Australia to Siberia.



5 million migratory birds travel the Flyway every year.

Approximately 55 migratory species breed in the northern hemisphere's summer before escaping winter & travelling south to feed at the southern hemisphere's wetlands.

The populations of more than 40% of migratory species using the flyways are declining.

With the flyway extending across the most densely human-populated parts of the world, migratory birds face extreme pressures. Internationally, natural habitats such as wetlands are under enormous pressure from reclamation, deforestation, climate change and other human impacts.

Every year over 20,000 of these migratory, as well as resident, shorebirds make their summer homes in the Peel-Yalgorup System's Ramsar listed Wetlands.

Feeding on the mudflats and near shore waters, these shorebirds include the Red-necked Stint, Eastern Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit.

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Shorebirds

Birds without boundaries

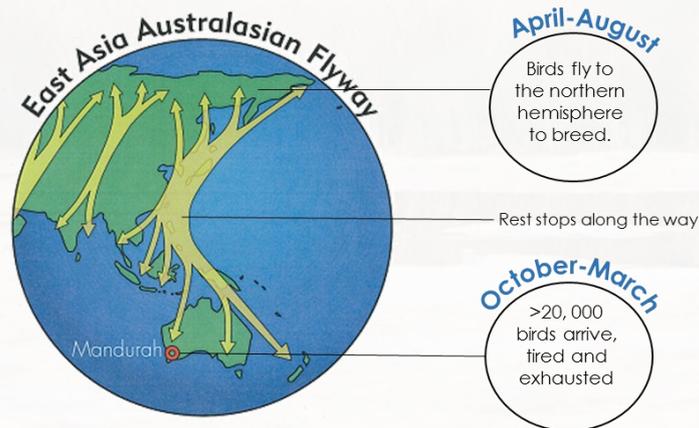


Did you know?
Over 20,000 shorebirds travel up to 26,000km a year to our Peel-Yalgorup System's Ramsar listed wetlands to feed and escape the northern hemisphere winter



Shorebirds - Birds without boundaries

Migratory shorebirds breed in the northern hemisphere and then migrate to the southern hemisphere to feed on areas like the mudflats of the Peel-Yalgorup System's Ramsar listed wetlands.



Migratory shorebirds can lose up to 75% of their body weight on their journey south.

Therefore, they rely on healthy and undisturbed mudflats and wetlands within the Peel-Yalgorup System's Ramsar listed areas to feed and regain their strength before flying back to the northern hemisphere to breed.

Migratory shorebirds co-exist on the mudflats and wetlands with many resident shorebird species that remain in the area all year long.

In one year alone, over 150,000 resident and migratory shorebirds were counted feeding and roosting on the Peel-Yalgorup System's Ramsar listed wetlands.

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