

Ecological Vegetation Classes present (with bioregional conservation status) include:

- Aquatic Herbland EVC 653 endangered
- Brackish Grassland EVC 934 endangered
- Brackish Sedgeland EVC 13 endangered
- Brackish Wetland EVC 656 endangered
- South Gippsland Plains Grassland EVC 132 endangered
- Sedge Wetland/Calcareous Wet Herbland Complex EVC 200 endangered
- Tall Marsh EVC 821 endangered
- Swamp Scrub EVC 53 endangered
- Reed Swamp EVC 300 endangered

These 9 endangered Ecological Vegetation Communities have been identified and mapped in various consultants' reports. All are classed as endangered because of the severe depletion of ALL wetlands in the Gippsland Plains bioregion. Whole wetland ecosystems themselves are seriously endangered

Fauna Records

The following threatened fauna species have been recorded on the property which makes up the majority of the area. Records are those from the Peninsula Bird Observers Club, surveys and various consultants' fauna reports

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Fauna & Flora Guarantee Act	Status
Lewin's Rail	<i>Rallus pectoralis</i>	L	v
Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	L	v
Glossy Grass Skink	<i>Pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>		r
Australasian Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchotis</i>		v
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>		r
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>		v
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	L	v
Swamp Skink	<i>Egernia coventryi</i>	L	v
Australasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	L	e
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	L	v
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>		v
Pacific Gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>		r
White-footed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis leucopus</i>	L	v
Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>		v

The following JAMBA & CAMBA listed species have been recorded on the same property:

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	JAMBA	CAMBA
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>		þ
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	þ	þ
Latham's Snipe	<i>Capella hardwickii</i>		þ
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	þ	þ
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>		þ
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		þ
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		þ
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	þ	þ

Criteria for determining nationally important wetlands

A wetland may be considered nationally important if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. It is a good example of a wetland type occurring within a biogeographic region in Australia.
2. It is a wetland which plays an important ecological or hydrological role in the natural functioning of a major wetland system/complex.
3. It is a wetland which is important as the habitat for animal taxa at a vulnerable stage in their life cycles, or provides a refuge when adverse conditions such as drought prevail.
4. The wetland supports 1% or more of the national populations of any native plant or animal taxa.
5. The wetland supports native plant or animal taxa or communities which are considered endangered or vulnerable at the national level.
6. The wetland is of outstanding historical or cultural significance.

Application of the criteria to individual wetland sites involves a degree of subjectivity. Not only may certain aspects of a site's significance be interpreted differently by different investigators, but information gaps often exist which make it difficult to judge whether or not a site meets a particular criterion.

Adoption of a bioregional approach to listing sites in the Directory is seen as one way of reducing the difficulty in applying the criterion relating to a system's uniqueness or representativeness. The Natural Resource Policies and Programs Committee in 2008 agreed to adopt the Australian Drainage Divisions system, along with IMCRA for marine ecosystems, as the best fit national regionalization approach for aquatic ecosystems.

What protection does a Ramsar listing give?

As a signatory to the Ramsar Convention, Australia has an obligation to promote the conservation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar listed wetlands) and the wise use of all wetlands. However, primary responsibility for managing wetlands and their associated flora and fauna is vested in the appropriate landholders/land managers, including areas managed by State or local

governments. While individual state and territory governments have the primary legislative and policy responsibility for natural resource management, the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) seeks to protect matters of national environmental significance.

Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Listed wetlands) in Australia are matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act -

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/protect/wetlands.html>

While a Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia has been established, there is no national legislation that 'protects' these wetlands, unless they contain threatened species or threaten ecological communities listed as matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act. Wetlands listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia are those wetlands identified by jurisdictions (States and Territories) as being important (in the main, from a jurisdictional perspective) - wetlands in the Directory have not undergone any national assessment to determine if they are significant. At this point in time there is no assessment of national significance for wetlands in Australia. Ramsar Listed wetlands are also included in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

As individual state and territory governments have the primary legislative and policy responsibility for natural resource management (including wetlands), legislative mechanisms used to protect wetlands not on the Ramsar list are a matter for the relevant jurisdiction - including in some cases local governments. They are also responsible for the nomination of new wetlands of national importance.