

‘Snapshot’ of Australia’s Ramsar-Listed Wetlands

As a party to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (*Ramsar Convention*), Australia is required to meet its obligations under the *Convention* in terms of reporting, management planning and provision of supporting information on Ramsar-listed wetlands. The Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW) is responsible for implementation of the *Ramsar Convention* in Australia, and for ensuring Australia complies with the requirements and responsibilities under the *Convention*.

BMT WBM was commissioned by DEW to undertake a preliminary review (Snapshot) of the current status and management of all of Australia’s Ramsar-listed wetlands.

The project involved the collection and collation of data on Australia’s Ramsar estate through review of files held by DEW, external public sources (e.g. internet), and survey of site managers and state representatives (members of the Wetlands and Waterbirds Task Force) including:

- the current status of management documents such as Ramsar Information Sheets, maps, Management Plans and Ecological Character Descriptions (ECDs);
- financial information including funding per site/year or decade, and funding sources; and
- an initial assessment of the major threats (internal and external to the wetland) and impacts.

Gaps evident through the initial data collection and collation process were filled where appropriate through the survey process. Following analysis of results, recommendations were provided for the Rolling Review planned by DEW for ongoing management of Australia’s Ramsar estate.

Client

Australian Government
Department of the Environment
and Water Resources

Date

2007

Services & Expertise Provided

Review of information held by
DEW on current Ramsar sites;

Creation and implementation of a
Ramsar management database;

Survey of Ramsar site managers
across Australia;

Systematic analysis of gaps and
priorities; and

Recommendations for ongoing
rolling review.

