# AUSTRALIA’S RAMSAR SITES

T**he Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the** Ramsar Convention) was **signed in Ramsar, Iran on 2 February 1971.** The Ramsar Convention aims to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and to conserve, through wise use and management, those that remain. The Convention encourages member countries to nominate sites containing representative, rare or unique wetlands, or that are important for conserving biological diversity, to the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List). Australia was one of the first countries to become a Contracting Party to the Convention and designated the world’s first Ramsar site, Cobourg Peninsula, in 1974.

Australia’s 65 Ramsar sites cover more than 8.3 million hectares, forming an impressive estate of diverse wetland types; freshwater and marine; permanent and ephemeral; in every climatic zone. More information on Australia’s wetlands and the Ramsar Convention in Australia is available from [www.environment.gov.au/wetlands](http://www.environment.gov.au/wetlands) or the Ramsar Convention website at [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)



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| **Ramsar site** | **Area (ha)** |  | **Ramsar site** | **Area (ha)** |
| 1. Cobourg Peninsula
 | 220 700 |  | 1. Eighty-mile Beach
 | 175 487 |
| 1. Kakadu National Park
 | 1 979 766 |  | 1. Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes
 | 784 |
| 1. Moulting Lagoon
 | 4 507 |  | 1. Peel-Yalgorup System
 | 26 530 |
| 1. Logan Lagoon
 | 2 257 |  | 1. Toolibin Lake
 | 493 |
| 1. Lavinia
 | 7 034 |  | 1. Vasse-Wonnerup System
 | 1 115 |
| 1. Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon
 | 3 334 |  | 1. Lake Warden System
 | 1 999 |
| 1. Apsley Marshes
 | 880 |  | 1. Hosnies Spring
 | 202 |
| 1. East Coast Cape Barren Island Lagoons
 | 4 473 |  | 1. Moreton Bay
 | 113 314 |
| 1. Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River
 | 3 519 |  | 1. Bowling Green Bay
 | 35 500 |
| 1. Jocks Lagoon
 | 19 |  | 1. Currawinya Lakes (Currawinya National Park)
 | 151 300 |
| 1. Interlaken
 | 517 |  | 1. Shoalwater and Corio Bays (Shoalwater Bay Training Area, in part – Corio Bay)
 | 239 100 |
| 1. Little Waterhouse Lake
 | 56 |  | 1. Ginini Flats Wetland Complex
 | 368 |
| 1. Corner Inlet
 | 67 186 |  | 1. Pulu Keeling National Park
 | 2 602 |
| 1. Barmah Forest
 | 28 515 |  | 1. Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve
 | 258 |
| 1. Gunbower Forest
 | 19 931 |  | 1. Blue Lake
 | 338 |
| 1. Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes
 | 955 |  | 1. Lake Pinaroo (Fort Grey Basin)
 | 800 |
| 1. Kerang Wetlands
 | 9 419 |  | 1. Gwydir Wetlands: (Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses)
 | 823 |
| 1. Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula
 | 22 645 |  | 1. Great Sandy Strait
 | 93 160 |
| 1. Western Port
 | 59 297 |  | 1. Myall Lakes
 | 44 612 |
| 1. Western District Lakes
 | 32 898 |  | 1. Narran Lake Nature Reserve
 | 5 531 |
| 1. Gippsland Lakes
 | 60 015 |  | 1. Becher Point Wetlands
 | 677 |
| 1. Lake Albacutya
 | 5 731 |  | 1. Lake Gore
 | 4 017 |
| 1. Towra Point Nature Reserve
 | 604 |  | 1. Muir-Byenup System
 | 10 631 |
| 1. Hunter Estuary Wetlands
 | 2 969 |  | 1. Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands
 | 261 |
| 1. The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert
 | 140 500 |  | 1. Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve
 | 58 300 |
| 1. Bool and Hacks Lagoon
 | 3200 |  | 1. Coral Sea Reserves (Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reefs and Cays)
 | 1 728 920 |
| 1. Coongie Lakes
 | 2 178 952 |  | 1. Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve
 | 187 726 |
| 1. The Macquarie Marshes
 | 19 850 |  | 1. The Dales
 | 583 |
| 1. 'Riverland'
 | 30 640 |  | 1. Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps
 | 689 |
| 1. *There is no site with this number*
 |  |  | 1. Banrock Station Wetland Complex
 | 1 375 |
| 1. Ord River Floodplain
 | 141 453 |  | 1. NSW Central Murray State Forests
 | 84 028 |
| 1. Lakes Argyle and Kununurra
 | 117 495 |  | 1. Paroo River Wetlands
 | 138 304 |
| 1. Roebuck Bay
 | 34 119 |  | 1. Piccaninnie Ponds Karst Wetlands
 | 862 |
|  |  |  | **Total area (ha)** | **8 314 125** |

\* In May 2010, two separate Ramsar sites in Kakadu National Park were expanded and merged to form the Kakadu National Park Ramsar site. See site 2.