

Protecting the Gippsland Lakes

Future management of the internationally recognised Gippsland Lakes is under the spotlight with the release of the draft Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Management Plan.

This draft plan aims to maintain, and where necessary improve, the ecological character of the Gippsland Lakes as a RAMSAR site. Ramsar wetlands are protected by an international convention.

The project, coordinated by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA) has involved a wide range of people.

“Scientists and community specialists, as well as staff from the management agencies have worked hard to develop the plan to the draft stage.” EGCMA chief executive officer, Graeme Dear, said.

“The draft plan outlines actions for management agencies as well as priorities for monitoring the condition of the site. We are now keen to hear from the broader community,” he said.

The management strategies in the draft plan focus on maintaining and restoring habitats, protecting fauna, improving water quality and continuing to build our understanding of the Lakes system.

People wanting to learn more about the draft plan can attend one of the information sessions planned for Sale and Bairnsdale in the coming weeks. These

sessions provide an opportunity to talk individually to the authors of the draft plan. Further details can be found on the East Gippsland CMA website.

The Gippsland Lakes RAMSAR site extends from Sale Common to Lake Tyers including Lakes Wellington, Victoria and King as well as Lake Reeve. The wide diversity of habitat types is just one of the reasons it is so highly valued.

The Lakes support significant populations of waterbirds including pelicans, swans and ducks. The Lakes also provide a temporary but vitally important feeding and breeding ground for migratory bird species such as the little tern. They are also a haven for vulnerable wetland species such as the green and golden bell frog.

EAST GIPPSLAND
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DRAFT GIPPSLAND LAKES RAMSAR SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Members of the community are invited to participate in discussions about the draft Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Management Plan.

Ramsar sites are wetlands that have international importance under the 'Ramsar Convention on Wetlands' and offer significant habitat for migratory birds and other threatened species.

The draft plan aims "To maintain, and where necessary improve, the ecological character of the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site and promote wise use".

The plan includes actions for management agencies and requirements for monitoring of site condition, to identify changes in the ecological character.

Sale – Wednesday 20th May 2 pm OR 5:30 pm Quest Conference Room, Sale 180-184 York Street (Princes Highway)

Bairnsdale – Thursday 21st May 2 pm OR 5:30pm DELWP, 574 Main Street (Meeting Room 1)

These sessions provide an opportunity to talk individually to the authors of the draft plan.

Please RSVP to egcma@egcma.com.au; Ph: 5150 3567



**EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

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