

Wetland health a Trust project focus

Trust for Nature has announced a new funding opportunity for landholders in the Gippsland Lakes region.

This project funded by the State Government for the Gippsland Lakes is directed at landholders wishing to protect, enhance and learn more about wetlands on their properties.

Specifically, Trust for Nature is offering free wetland health assessments, full cost fencing for stock exclusion, revegetation and permanent protection services.

Wetlands in the Gippsland Lakes system provide critical habitat for many species of flora and fauna.

Eighty-six species of waterfowl rely on the system for resting, feeding or breeding including four nationally threatened species, the hooded plover, red knot, Latham's snipe and fairy tern.

Five other nationally threatened species also call the wetlands of the region home including two species of amphibian, the growling grass frog and green and gold bell frog and three species of

flora, dwarf kerrawang, the metallic sun orchid and swamp everlasting daisy.

Protecting and enhancing the wetland habitats of these species is critical for securing populations. With a large portion of the wetlands fringing the Gippsland Lakes privately owned this cannot be achieved without help and engagement from private landholders.

For more information about the project and how to get involved contact Trevor de Freitas at Trust for Nature East Gippsland.