

Inquiry into Ramsar wetlands

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Melbourne Water

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Birdlife at WTP. Photo: Watkin McLennan

Ramsar wetlands

66

Ramsar wetlands in Australia

11

Ramsar wetlands in Victoria

2

MW Ramsar wetlands

Melbourne Water sites



Western Treatment Plant

- Site coordinator: Corangamite CMA
- Site manager (WTP): MW

The Western Treatment Plant is part of the Port Phillip (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site

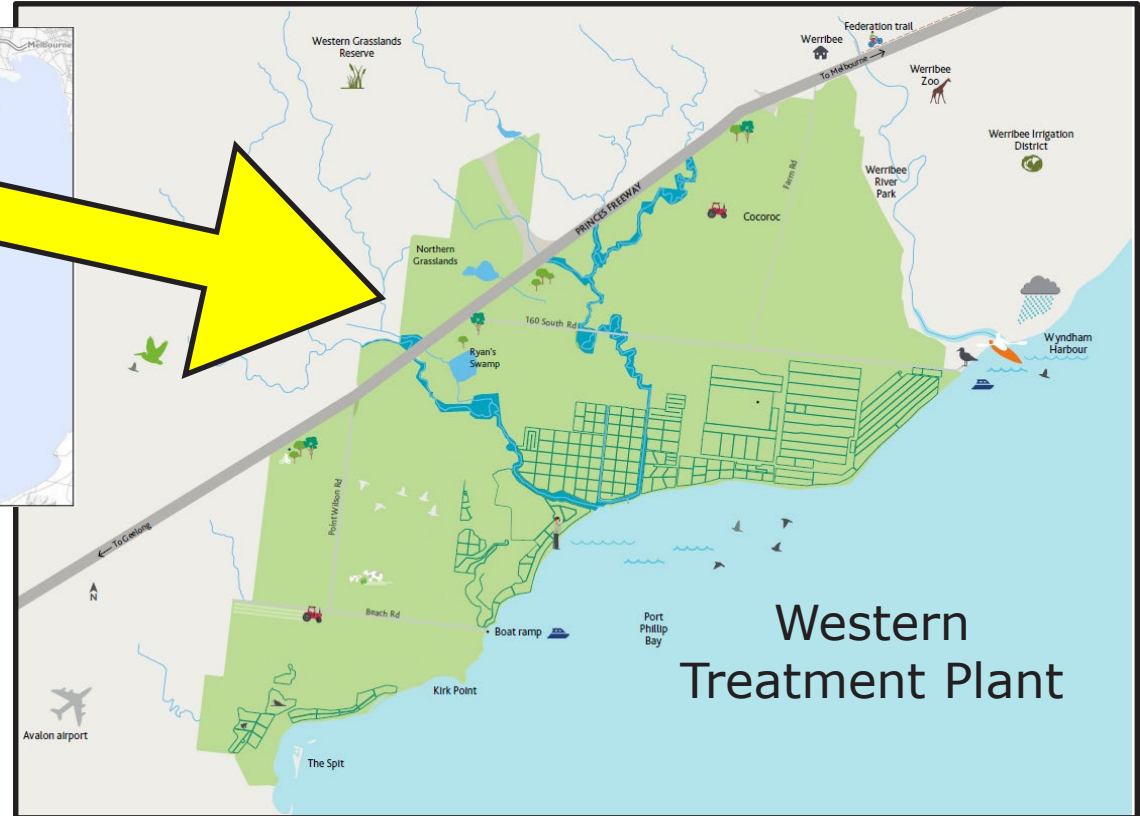
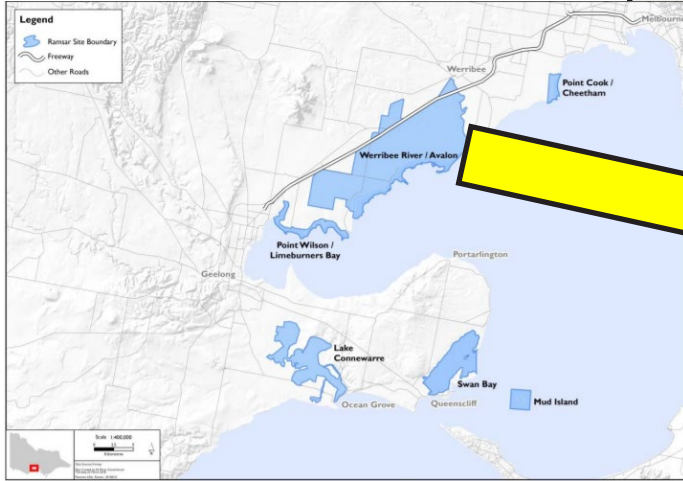


Edithvale-Seaford wetlands

- Site coordinator and manager: MW

Seaford wetlands is jointly managed with Frankston City Council but Melbourne Water is the primary Ramsar site manager.

Port Phillip (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site



Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site (six sites):

1. Point Cooke/Cheetham
2. **Werribee/Avalon (including WTP)**
3. Point Wilson/Limeburners Bay
4. Swan Bay
5. Mud Islands
6. and the Lake Connewarre complex.

Western
Treatment Plant

Western Treatment Plant



Site coordinator: Corangamite CMA
Site manager (WTP): MW
Part of the Port Phillip (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site

- 10,500 ha
- 179 constructed wetlands (700 ha)
- Some natural wetlands
- Treats 50% of Melbourne's sewage
- Rivals Kakadu for birdlife diversity and abundance



Western Treatment Plant birdlife

300

Bird species recorded on site

100,000

Birds at any one time

50%

Of Victoria's waterfowl onsite in drought

1/3

Of Australia's birds sighted on site

Edithvale-Seafood wetlands



Ramsar site coordinator and manager: MW
Seafood wetlands jointly managed with Frankston Council

Two sites:

- Edithvale wetlands (101ha)
- Seafood wetlands (159ha)

Ramsar listed in 2001



Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands bird life

190

Different
bird species
recorded

7000

Birds at any
one time

38

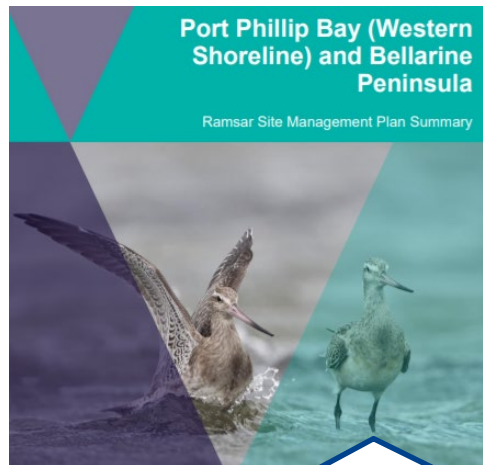
Protected
migratory
species
recorded

1%

Of global
Sharp-tailed
Sandpiper
population

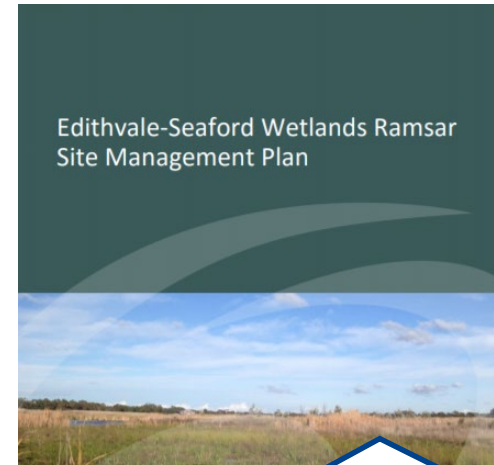


Management approach



Port Phillip (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula: Site Management Plan

- Prepared by the Corangamite CMA with input from MW and other agencies



Edithvale-Seaford wetlands: Site Management Plan

- Prepared by Melbourne Water

Funding

Ramsar-related funding per year (average):

- WTP: \$1.23M
- Edithvale-Seafood: \$430k

Funding is carefully **prioritised**:

1. Priority one: statutory obligations
2. Priority two: best management practice
3. Priority three: only as needed and if funding permits.

- Controlling invasive weeds and pest animal species like foxes
- Monitoring birds and other native wildlife
- Monitoring water regimes and levels
- Maintenance checks of fences

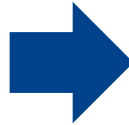
Priority
one works



VAGO audit progress

VAGO recommended

1 Robust governance arrangements



2 Oversight of management plans



3 State-wide monitoring, evaluation & reporting



Melbourne Water responded by:

- ✓ Actively participating in DELWP's Interagency Governance Group for Ramsar-listed wetlands
- ✓ Preparing or contributing to annual "action plans" for our sites

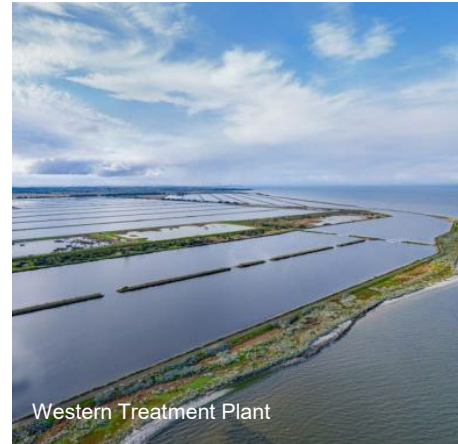
- ✓ Contributing to the Site Management Plan for the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula site (finalised in 2018)
- ✓ Reporting into DELWP's Ramsar Management System

- ✓ Contributing to DELWP's Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework

Conclusion

In summary:

- We take our role seriously.
- Our sites are actively managed to maintain or improve their ecological character.
- We have worked alongside DELWP and other organisations to implement the VAGO recommendations
- We are benefiting from the new State-wide governance and monitoring arrangements and greater collaboration.
- Questions?



Western Treatment Plant



Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands Discovery Centre