



Report outlines opportunities to improve wetlands management

A parliamentary committee report has welcomed efforts made to enhance wetlands management in Victoria but has also identified more opportunities for improvement, including through better engagement of Traditional Owners.

Tabled in Parliament today, [the report](#) from the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee includes 16 recommendations. It follows a detailed review that looked at whether the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning was meeting its obligations to protect Ramsar wetlands in Victoria.

“The report shows that recommendations made previously by the Auditor-General have been implemented and that is a positive outcome,” Committee Chair Lizzie Blandthorn said.

The Committee has recommended enhanced Traditional Owner engagement across Victoria to inform the implementation of a best practice strategy, including clear guidance on how Traditional Owners are engaged in the management of Ramsar sites and the representation of Traditional Owners on site coordinating committees.

Other key recommendations include:

- updating management plans for Victoria’s Ramsar sites to address high-priority threats
- exploring options to establish funding arrangements to ensure that long-term Ramsar site management and monitoring programs can be maintained
- making publicly available the state-wide monitoring, evaluation and improvement framework and plans for individual Ramsar sites.

“I believe that this report will make a positive contribution to ensuring that Victoria’s Ramsar sites are managed in a way that will maintain their ecological character and ensure these unique environments are preserved for generations to come,” Ms Blandthorn said.

The Committee received 457 submissions, held three days of public hearings and conducted two site visits to see first-hand some of the work being undertaken to manage Victorian Ramsar sites.

There are 12 wetland sites across Victoria that are internationally significant under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

The report is available from the Committee’s [website](#).

Media queries

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