

Ecological Character Description of the Ramsar-Listed-Peel-Yalgorup System

Project Proponent: Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Location: Peel-Yalgorup System

Partnerships: South West Catchments Council, Department of Environment and Conservation, Natural Heritage Trust, Department of Water, Peel Development Commission

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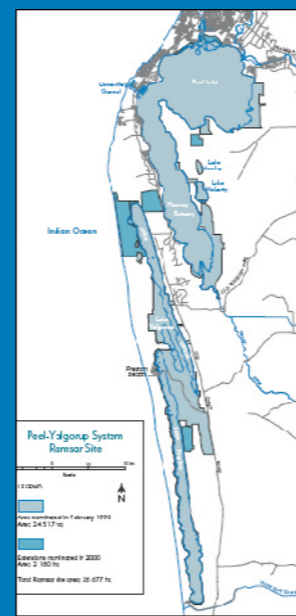
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Project Summary

This project is a key element of the broader activity to develop a management plan for the Ramsar-listed Peel-Yalgorup System. It will produce a description of the ecological character of this internationally important wetland System. While the System was Ramsar-listed in 1990, work on the development of a Ramsar management plan has only recently commenced. The important first step in development of the plan, and a key obligation of the Ramsar Convention, is to develop an Ecological Character Description for the site.

The Ecological Character Description will:

- identify the components of the wetland ecosystem and their interactions, which maintain the ecosystem functions, products and attributes;
- develop a conceptual model that describes the ecological character of the System; and,
- identify key ecological attributes that may be impacted by threatening process and the limits for acceptable change. This will form the basis of future management and monitoring.

The Peel-Yalgorup System covers an area of 26,677 hectares and includes the Peel Inlet, Harvey Estuary, Lake McLarty System, Lake Mealup, a number of conservation reserves and Yalgorup National Park, which incorporates ten lakes, including Lakes Clifton and Preston. This project will provide crucial information for the long-term protection of these key environmental assets in our region.