

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

1998

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Australia

3. Name of wetland:

Logan Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary

4. Geographical coordinates:

Latitude: 40° 10'S ; Longitude: 148° 18'E

5. Altitude:

Less than 20 metres above sea level.

6. Area:

2230 hectares

7. Overview:

Logan Lagoon is one of three large estuarine lagoons which make up a coastal lagoon system along the south-east coast of Flinders Island. It is enclosed within the Logan Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary.

8. Wetland Type:

marine-coastal: A B C D **E** F G H I **J** K

inland: L M **N** O P Q R Sp Ss Tp Ts

U Va Vt W Xf Xp Y Zg Zk

man-made: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

9. Ramsar Criteria:

1a 1b 1c 1d | 2a 2b **2c** 2d | 3a **3b** 3c | 4a 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site:

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.

13. General location:

On the south east corner of Flinders Island approximately 6 kilometres north-east of the town of Lady Barron.

14. Physical features:

The lagoon forms when the longshore drift of beach sand blocks the drainage of surface water. The built up waters have on some occasions broken through the dunes and drained into the sea. The area consists entirely of Holocene alluvial deposits. Average annual rainfall of the area is 750 - 1000mm.

15. Hydrological values:

Not yet established.

16. Ecological features:

The area is in a relatively unspoiled condition except for some cleared and drained agricultural land on the western shore. The lagoon is fringed with *Juncus* sp. reed beds and the surrounding land is covered by savannah grassland with scattered *Eucalyptus*, *Allocasuarina* and *Banksia* trees. The lagoon is generally only 1 to 2 metres deep and fills with winter rain. Swans and other waterfowl breed in the *Juncus* tussocks during winter. As the water recedes in summer, due to evaporation, waders make use of the exposed sand and mud flats. Being a shallow evaporative basin the lagoon is rich in nutrients and provides abundant food for water birds.

17. Noteworthy flora:

The reserve provides good examples of undisturbed native coastal vegetation.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

The lagoon provides refuge for waterfowl during the shooting season and provides a resting and feeding area for migratory birds. Some of the bird species observed are the red-necked stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), the greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), and the eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), and the double-banded plover (*Charadrius bicinctus*).

19. Social and cultural values:

The sanctuary is Important for conservation education, scientific research, recreation and tourism.

20. Land tenure/ownership:

Logan Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary is a Conservation Area administered by the Tasmanian Department of Environment and Land Management. This area is bounded by the sea to the east and south and by vacant Crown land to the north, with private property along approximately two-thirds of the western shore.

21. Current land use:

(a) the site:

- Nature Conservation

(b) the surroundings/catchment:

- Low intensity livestock grazing
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22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

(a) the site: The lagoon was once drained by local landowners ostensibly to improve soil drainage on nearby low-lying pasture. This belief was shown to be erroneous but one landowner recently threatened to do the same again. This was only narrowly averted and must be considered a real possibility in future.

(b) the surroundings/catchment: Drainage ditches run into the lagoon and increased clearing could result in excessive salinity or contamination from agricultural runoff. Rabbit numbers are increasing on Flinders Island. If they cannot be controlled they may become a problem in this area.

23. Conservation measures taken:

Logan Lagoon and much of the land to the east and south of it was originally proclaimed a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1968. Additional proclamations were subsequently made bringing the sanctuary to its present size. The area is protected against further manipulation of the habitat. The site has been included on the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Network.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

There is a proposal to upgrade the status of the sanctuary from Conservation Area to State Reserve so as to improve the Department's control.

The Parks and Wildlife Service is in the process of preparing a proposal to extend the sanctuary to include Crown Land to the north as far as Cameron Inlet and possibly a section of Crown Land to the west. The Ramsar boundary may also be extended at some time in the future to include these additions. Cameron Inlet this year supported all birds usually found at Logan Lagoon, which is presently dry.

A draft management plan has been written but not yet implemented. The draft plan will be revised following the submission of public comments, and the proposed final plan will then be forwarded to the State Minister.

25. Current scientific research and facilities:

Waterfowl numbers are counted annually and other bird numbers are monitored periodically.

26. Current conservation education:

The sanctuary is valuable to current conservation education in serving as a demonstration of a relatively undisturbed wetland.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

The area is visited by amateur bird watchers but no facilities are provided.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Flinders Municipality

Functional: Tasmanian Department of Environment and Land Management, Parks and Wildlife Service, 134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, 7000

29. Management authority:

Tasmanian Department of Environment and Land Management, Parks and Wildlife Service, 134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, 7000.

30. Bibliographical references:

Milledge, D.R. (1983) Migratory Waders of the Furneaux Group Islands, *Tasmanian Shorebird Study Group Bulletin* 2, 42-48.

Departmental Files (DELM, Tas)
