

Vasse Wonnerup Operational Plan: Guidance for Managers

Draft Management Objectives

Management Focus #1: Management directions and purpose

- 1.1. Inform, and engage with, stakeholders regarding protecting and enhancing the key values of the plan area.
 - 1.2. To increase community awareness and understanding on the key values and management issues of the wetland system.
 - 1.3. To develop and maintain partnerships and collaboration with and between key stakeholders.
 - 1.4. To clarify roles and responsibilities of government agencies involved in the management of the Vasse Wonnerup wetlands.
 - 1.5. To ensure integrated and adaptive management of the plan area.
 - 1.6. To manage the plan area to retain Ramsar wetland status and values.
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Management Focus #2: Hydrology

- 2.1. To manage water levels to protect and support nature conservation values, especially waterbirds and their habitats, and to achieve flood protection for the Busselton area.
 - 2.2. To monitor changes in hydrological regime (surface and ground water, and seawater intrusion) in the wetlands and catchment, to understand impacts on the wetlands.
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Management Focus #3: Water quality

- 3.1. To manage water quality entering and within the wetland system, to maintain and enhance nature conservation and social values.
 - 3.2. To manage salinities within the wetland system to maintain and enhance nature conservation values and avoid impact on adjoining lands.
 - 3.3. To reduce the frequency and severity of toxic algal blooms and mass fish kills.
 - 3.4. Promote collaborative management to reduce nutrient inputs at a local and catchment scale.
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Management Focus #4: Biological environment (native plants and plant communities/native animals and habitats)

- 4.1. To maintain and enhance the nature conservation values of the wetland system.
- 4.2. To maintain and enhance habitat for waterbirds, to retain the current Ramsar status of the Vasse Wonnerup wetland system.
- 4.3. To minimise human-induced impacts on native flora and fauna.

- 4.4. To manage recreational and commercial fishing in Vasse Wonnerup wetlands to minimise the impacts on the nature conservation values.
 - 4.5. To maintain and where possible enhance the viability of populations of threatened flora and fauna, and TECs.
 - 4.6. To manage and where necessary restore fringing vegetation composition, structure and condition to provide functional habitat.
 - 4.7. To maintain and enhance the condition of remnant vegetation within the planning area, and support and encourage the protection and establishment of native vegetation on adjoining properties, where appropriate.
 - 4.8. To identify, protect and enhance ecological corridors (including watercourses, native vegetation and flight paths) within the plan area and with adjacent areas.
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Management Focus #5: Threatening processes

- 5.1. To minimise the impacts of weeds and feral animals on the key values of the plan area.
 - 5.2. To protect the plan area from damaging and disturbance activities (e.g. car bodies, domestic and industrial rubbish dumping, garden waste, illegal hunting, unauthorised off road vehicle access and theft of management materials).
 - 5.3. To protect key values from unauthorised stock grazing, development of built structures and bush fire mitigation measures.
 - 5.4. To protect the key values of the plan area from adverse impacts of fire and fire management activities.
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Management Focus #6: Public amenity

- 6.1. To manage the wetlands in order to promote the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
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Management Focus #7: Cultural heritage

- 7.1. To promote and improve community awareness and understanding of the cultural heritage values of the plan area.
 - 7.2. To identify and protect culturally significant sites.
 - 7.3. To identify and conserve Other Australian culturally significant places and the history of the plan area.
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Management Focus #8: Recreation and visitor use

- 8.1. Manage and minimise disturbance impacts from recreational activities on nature conservation and cultural values, and management activities.
- 8.2. To increase visitor appreciation and awareness of the nature conservation and cultural values of the plan area.

Management Focus #9: Research and monitoring

- 9.1. Identify the potential risks of a changing climate on the wetlands.
- 9.2. To increase understanding of the relationship between the key values and management issues, and the hydrology and the water quality of the plan area.
- 9.3. To improve understanding and knowledge of the health and resilience of the wetland system.
- 9.4. To identify the research and monitoring gaps in the plan area.
- 9.5. To monitor and manage the key biological and non-biological attributes of the wetland system, through developing and maintaining effective monitoring programs.
- 9.6. To ensure the research and monitoring undertaken in the wetlands is integrated into future management actions.

Management Focus #10: Sustainable resource use (mining, extraction of basic raw materials, utilities and development proposals)

- 10.1. To identify any potential adverse impacts to the key values of the plan area from future development proposals and changes of land-uses on adjoining lands.
- 10.2. Minimise the impacts of mining on nature conservation values of the wetland system.
- 10.3. To identify and minimise any potential adverse impacts on the wetlands from significant land-use changes in the catchment.
- 10.4. To promote catchment management activities that support the management objectives of the Vasse Wonnerup wetlands and ensure that any potential impacts on the wetlands are considered.