

Managing Our Wetlands

Effective management of wetlands involves creating buffer zones for the protection of wetlands as well as the undertaking of restorative processes such as fencing and re-vegetation.

The Denmark Environment Centre promotes wetland conservation through education, advocacy and research.

For information on becoming a member phone 9848 1644 or visit us at 33 Strickland St DENMARK.

The Shire of Denmark is working to manage the Wilson Inlet and its foreshore reserves. The Shire liaises with catchment land users to ensure a landscape approach. The Shire finances and advises community groups and management bodies with fencing and revegetation works of waterways and has a dam construction policy prohibiting riparian vegetation clearing (Policy No.37 Dams and Water Features) to ensure continued protection of our water ways and wetland areas. All planning applications consider the potential impact on the Shire's wetland systems and utilise state and local policies to guide Council's decisions. Further information can be found at: <http://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/councilservices/naturalresourcesmanagement.file/wilsoninlet> or contact the Shire of Denmark NRM Officer (08) 9848 0300 or enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au



Wilson Inlet Foreshore Revegetation Photo: Yvette Caruso

Frogs of the Denmark Wetlands

There are four main species of frog found around the Wilson Inlet. Included are the Motorbike Frog (*Litoria moorei*), The Pobblebonk Frog (*Lymnodynastes dorsalis*), Moaning Frog (*Heleioporus eyrie*) and the Quacking Frog (*Crinia georgiana*).

Frogs are very sensitive to pollution and breathe primarily through their moist skin. Their skin is a poor barrier to pollutants in the environment so they are sensitive to pollution.



Motorbike Frog Photo: Xander Rowden

The Quacking frog is found only in the south western corner of WA particularly along the south coast. These sensitive frogs breed between June and October and rely on wetlands for finding shallow pools of water where they can lay their eggs. They do not cope well in saline or polluted water.

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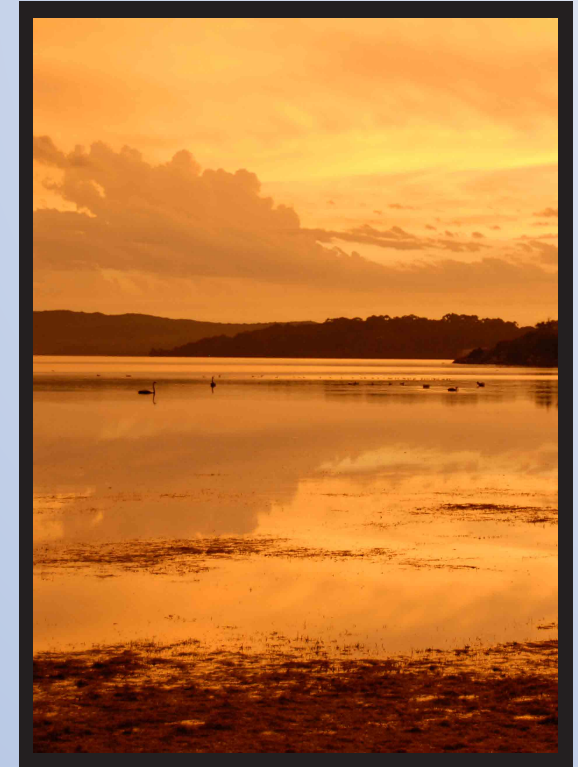
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Protect Our Magnificent Wetlands - Home Many Creatures

Conserving the Wetlands of Denmark



Unique Wetlands. Photo: Xander Rowden

Wetland values

Wetlands under threat

Conserving these areas for their intrinsic value and for future generations.



Paperbarks on the Inlet
Photo: Xander Rowden

What do we mean by Wetlands?

A wetland is a combination of environments, both terrestrial and aquatic. They can be marine dominated, estuarine (saline marsh flats) or freshwater system (floodplains, swamplands and bogs). These environments support a complex variety of both terrestrial and aquatic species. Wetland systems in the Denmark Shire include Parrys Inlet, Irwin Inlet, Wilson Inlet and Owingup Swamp.

Wilson Inlet is one of 118 sites of International Significance for migratory birds in Australia.

Denmark - A Special Place

Denmark's wetland environments are extensive and unique. Frogs, reptiles and birds that live in these areas rely on the wetlands for survival.

Migratory wading birds, such as the Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), rely on the wetlands as important feeding areas. Yellow Billed Spoon Bills (*Platalea flavipes*) patrol the shallow waters of Wilson Inlet using the vibration detectors on their spatulate bill to feel for prey items and feed by day or night.

Swamp Woodland, including stands of freshwater paper bark (*Melaleuca preissiana*), form an important habitat around the banks of the Wilson Inlet. The vegetation, including rushes, sedges and paperbarks, found in swampy areas around the inlet are essential for filtering fertilisers, nutrients and other pollutants from storm water run off and for protecting against erosion.



High nutrient levels can lead to excessive algal growth
Photo: Xander Rowden

Threats to Our Wetlands

- Irresponsible Recreation • Water Pollution • Litter •
- Erosion • Weed Encroachment • Vermin and Livestock Intrusion • Habitat Destruction • Development •
- Conflicting Land Use • Wildfire • Salinity/ Water Logging

What Can You Do?

➔ **Recreate Responsibly!**
When walking and recreating around waterways stick to well maintained tracks. Walking on other areas can damage the roots of vegetation, compact soil and lead to erosion. Remember! The roots of vegetation around the inlet filter nutrients and pollutants from the water.

➔ **Avoid Run-off**
You can reduce nutrient including superphosphate run-off into waterways. Take care where you wash your car. Use phosphate free detergents and products. Do not over fertilise and water gardens. Compost animal manure to avoid leaching.

➔ **Soil Test**
If you are a landowner in the Wilson Inlet catchment you can minimise your impact on the catchment by testing your soil for nutrients and seeking assistance to manage nutrient levels of your soil. Subsidised soil test kits are available from Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee. (35 Strickland St Denmark 6333)

Did you know?
Unauthorised vegetation clearing in foreshore reserves is prohibited by the Shire of Denmark! Always check with the Shire of Denmark before undertaking any clearing or pruning on your property!