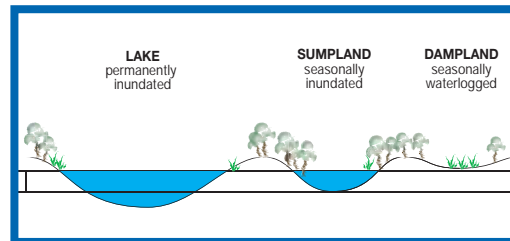




WETLAND DIVERSITY?

Wetlands are naturally low-lying areas that hold water. A common myth is that wetlands are permanently wet. Many wetlands are in fact regularly dry.

There are many different types of wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain, the majority of which are dry for a large part of the year. These seasonally dry wetlands are particularly important because of their rich biodiversity.



source: Common Wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plains



If you are interested in finding out more about Wetland Watch;
or becoming involved in the program;
or you have a wetland that you would like to manage

Contact:
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Christina Mykytiuk
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ph: 9387 6444
or check out the WWF Australia's website
www.wwf.org.au

Reference

Water and Rivers Commission (2001) Water Facts 16
- Living Wetlands: An introduction to Wetlands.

Photos © Christina Mykytiuk,
Raquel Carter & Murray Unkovich,
Birds Australia Western Australia

WETLAND WATCH

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
TO CONSERVE OUR WETLANDS





WHY CONSERVE WETLANDS?

Wetlands provide a home for a diverse range of plants and animals uniquely adapted to their environment. They also play a vital role in maintaining the health of the landscape. Some important wetland values include:

- Enhancing groundwater quality by filtering out pollutants including sediment and nutrients
- Improving the quality of water discharging into our rivers
- In times of flooding, slowing the flow of water thereby reducing flood damage
- Providing habitat for rare and threatened species, such as the Western Swamp Tortoise
- Providing a refuge for migratory waterbirds
- Providing opportunities for recreational activities such as bird watching and bushwalking.

Due to increasing urban development, many wetlands have been lost, and those which remain are under increasing threat.

Many of these remaining wetlands occur on privately-owned land, providing a unique opportunity for landowners to play a significant role in wetland conservation.

'It has been estimated that between 70-80% of all wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain have been filled, drained or cleared. The wetlands which remain are highly vulnerable to impacts from urban and rural encroachment.'

Water and Rivers Commission 2001



WWF AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE: WETLAND WATCH

WWF launched Wetland Watch in early 2004 to increase the conservation, and improve the management of wetlands on private land.

Strategies to achieve this include increasing community awareness of different wetland types and their values, as well as providing advice and assistance to landowners.

Wetland Watch priorities:

- Increasing community awareness of the need for wetland conservation
- Helping landowners to better manage and protect their wetlands
- Encouraging the adoption of long-term wetland conservation measures

WHAT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

There are many incentives available to assist in managing and protecting wetlands. These will depend on what landowners want to do with their land and how active they would like to be in its management.

The types of incentives available include:

- Technical advice
- Training
- Financial assistance
- Labour support
- Land sale concessions
- Management agreements
- Legal protection

