

Introduction

Welcome to Wetlands Australia 2017, celebrating our country's diverse wetlands and the people that care for them.

This edition highlights *Wetlands for disaster risk reduction*, the theme for World Wetlands Day 2017. Under projected climate change scenarios, extreme climatic events, including floods, droughts and storms are expected to increase in frequency and intensity. Natural features, including wetlands, can lessen the impacts of these events on communities, built infrastructure and other ecosystems.

You will also find articles about internationally significant Ramsar wetlands, wetland restoration in urban, rural, coastal and inland settings, methods for modelling, mapping and assessing wetlands, cultural values, environmental flows and wetland restoration.

Above all, *Wetlands Australia* tells the stories of communities working together to make sure our amazing wetlands and the people, plants and animals that rely on them are well looked after.

We hope you enjoy this edition of *Wetlands Australia*. [Fact sheets](#) highlighting the importance of wetlands are also available.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of *Wetlands Australia*, please contact wetlandsmail@environment.gov.au and if you would like to subscribe to *Wetlands Australia* to receive new editions please go to our web page to sign up: www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/publications/wetlands-australia



Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia, Newcastle, looking west towards Hexham Swamp in Hunter Wetlands National Park (Hunter CMA)