

Introduction to *Wetlands Australia*

February 2016

The global theme for World Wetlands Day 2016 is 'Wetlands for our future: sustainable livelihoods'.

Wetlands include rivers, lakes, swamps, estuaries and coasts. In Australia, our wetlands play an important role in the processes that keep our landscapes healthy and productive. They support industries such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism by supplying water for crops, stock and people, maintaining water quality, providing habitat for commercial species and having cultural and recreational values. Maintaining and restoring Australia's wetlands makes an important contribution to our future environmental, economic and social sustainability.

This edition of *Wetlands Australia* highlights how wetlands are centres of productivity in the landscape and how we can manage them to provide a range of services and benefits for our communities.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of *Wetlands Australia*, please contact wetlandsmail@environment.gov.au



Birdlife near Lock 1 on the Murray River at Blanchetown (© Copyright, John Baker and Department of the Environment)