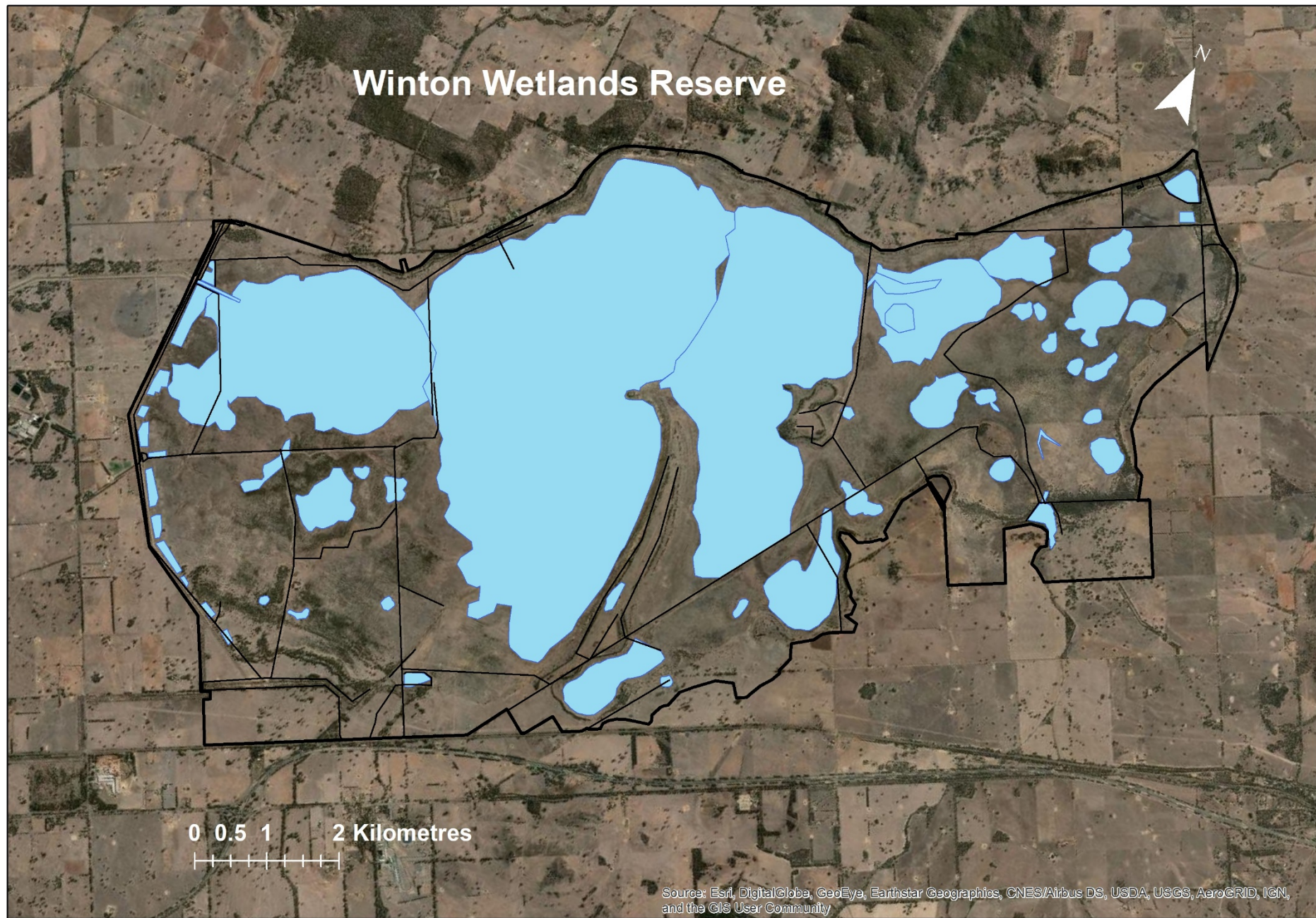


An aerial photograph of the Winton Wetlands at sunset. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are numerous small, rectangular islands of green vegetation. In the background, a range of low mountains is visible under the colorful sky.

# WINTON WETLANDS

## A Story of Hope & Renewal







# HISTORY

- Indigenous people have called this place “Mokoan” since ancient times.
- *“Friday, November 26: They arrive on the summits of another range of hills, whence they obtain a fine view to the northward and westward of a beautiful level open country, consisting of good and apparently even now of fresh pasture, interspersed here and there with small plains or meadows....”*  
William H. Hovell and Hamilton Hume,  
Journey of Discovery to Port Phillip in 1824-1825.
- In the 1830s it became known as Mokoan Swamp and in the 1850s it was renamed ‘Winton Swamp’ following the surveying of the nearby township of Winton.



# Water

- Discussion about water storage began as early as 1885.
- In 1961, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission proposed that the Broken River be connected via a channel to Winton Swamp, creating a large off-river water storage.
- The construction of Lake Mokoan cost \$8.9million
- It was built between 1967 to 1971.
- Lake Mokoan was officially opened in October 1971.
- Popular recreation destination for fishing and boating enthusiasts with a yacht club being erected on the northern shore.







Dam wall construction, 1969



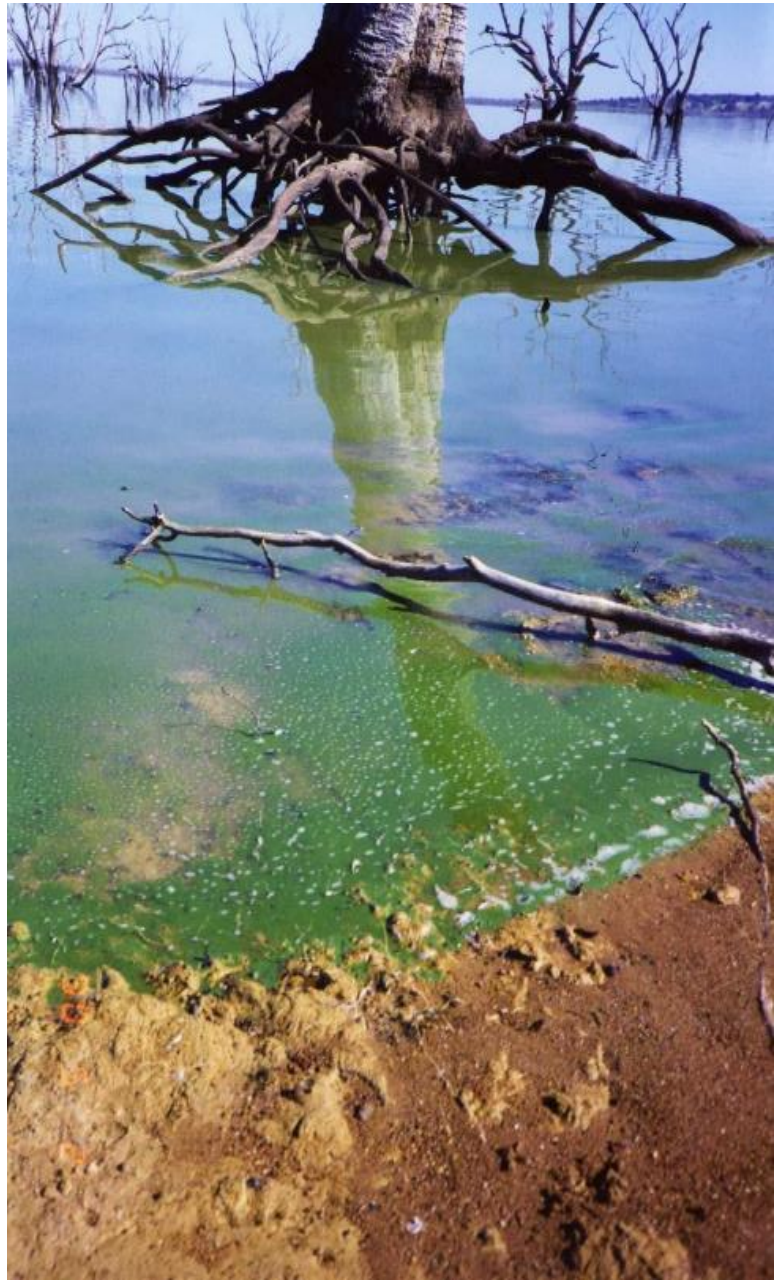




FROM THIS











# TO THIS

## Overall goal of the Winton Wetlands Project

To renew the ecology of the reserve growing its natural, scientific, cultural and environmental significance , while delivering education, research, tourism, recreation and community development outcomes.





# INFRASTRUCTURE

## Onsite

- Boat ramp
- Campsites
- Fencing
- Interpretive Signage
- Bush Toilets x4
- Picnic shelters
- Parking areas
- 150km of shared paths, roadways & walking tracks

## Foreshore

- Mokoan Hub & Café
- Nature Playground
- Former Yacht Club refurbishment into a research centre
- Worm Farm
- Outdoor Education and Indigenous School Campground
- Sculpture Walk comprising 15 Yorta Yorta artists' work spread around 950m path designed as a turtle geoglyph











# Visitors

**2021-22**

95,835

**2020-21 (COVID-19)**

45,066

**2019-20 (COVID-19)**

47,726

**2018/19**

65,287

**2017/18**

52,396

**2016/17**

36,264

## WHO ARE OUR VISITORS

- Locals & neighbours
- First Nation people
- Visiting family & friends
- Cycle tourists
- Special Interest Groups
- Education excursions
- Guided tours
- Volunteers
- Artists and art tourists









A photograph of a wetland landscape. In the foreground, there are patches of green and brown grasses growing in shallow water. The water reflects the sky and clouds. In the background, there is a line of trees under a sky with large, white and grey clouds. The overall scene is a natural, open landscape.

# Why are wetlands important?

## ‘Kidneys’ of the landscape

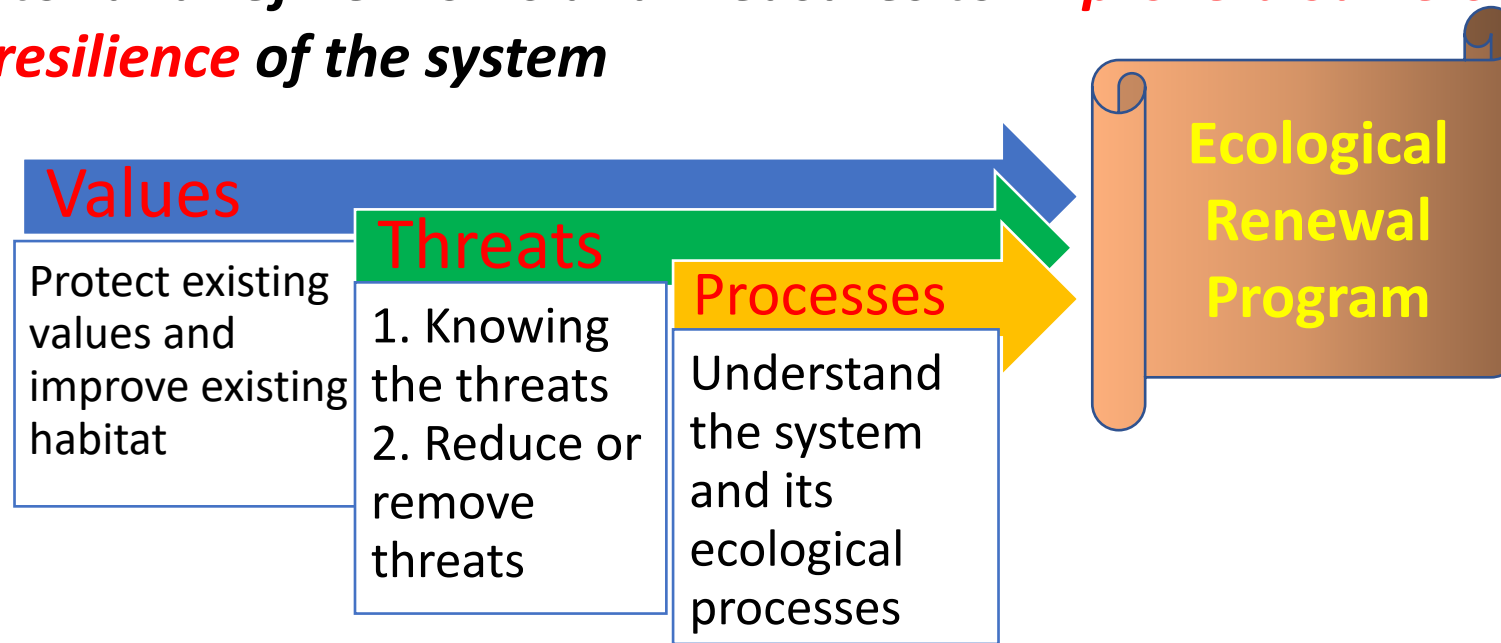
Productivity- as high as rainforests and reefs  
- support a vast array of species



# Ecological Renewal Program

## Restoration Aim and Goals

*The restoration aim is to use adaptive management to implement, monitor and refine works and measures to **improve biodiversity and resilience** of the system*



Partnerships with research, management and community are vital which also contribute to involvement and engagement!



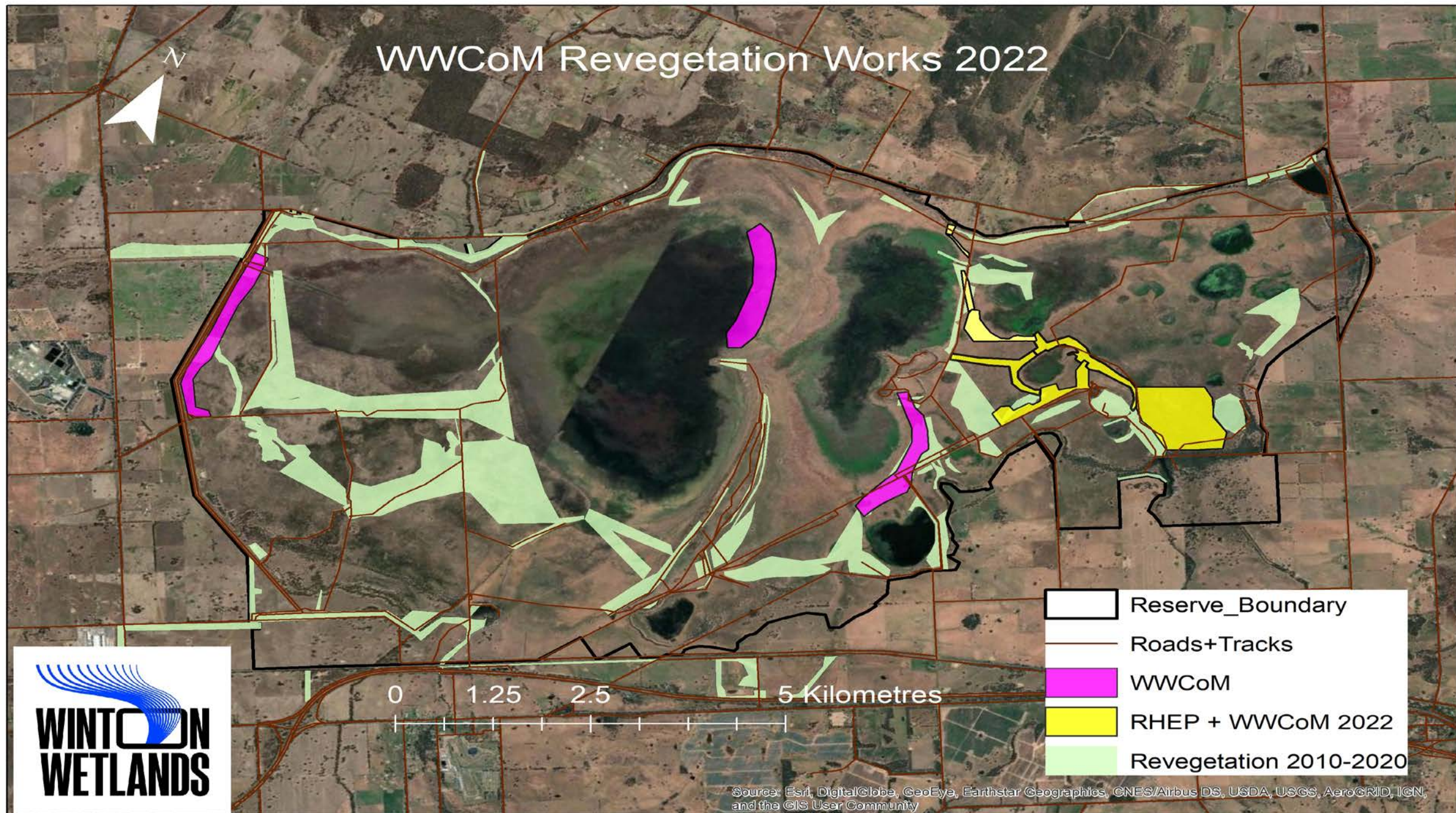


## ECOLOGY, SCIENCE & EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

- Adaptive management and restoration
- Woodland Rehabilitation
- Extensive Revegetation
- Assessment of wetlands - including surveys and monitoring for indicators groups

- Ongoing Site Maintenance
- Pest control
- Education
- Science Partnerships





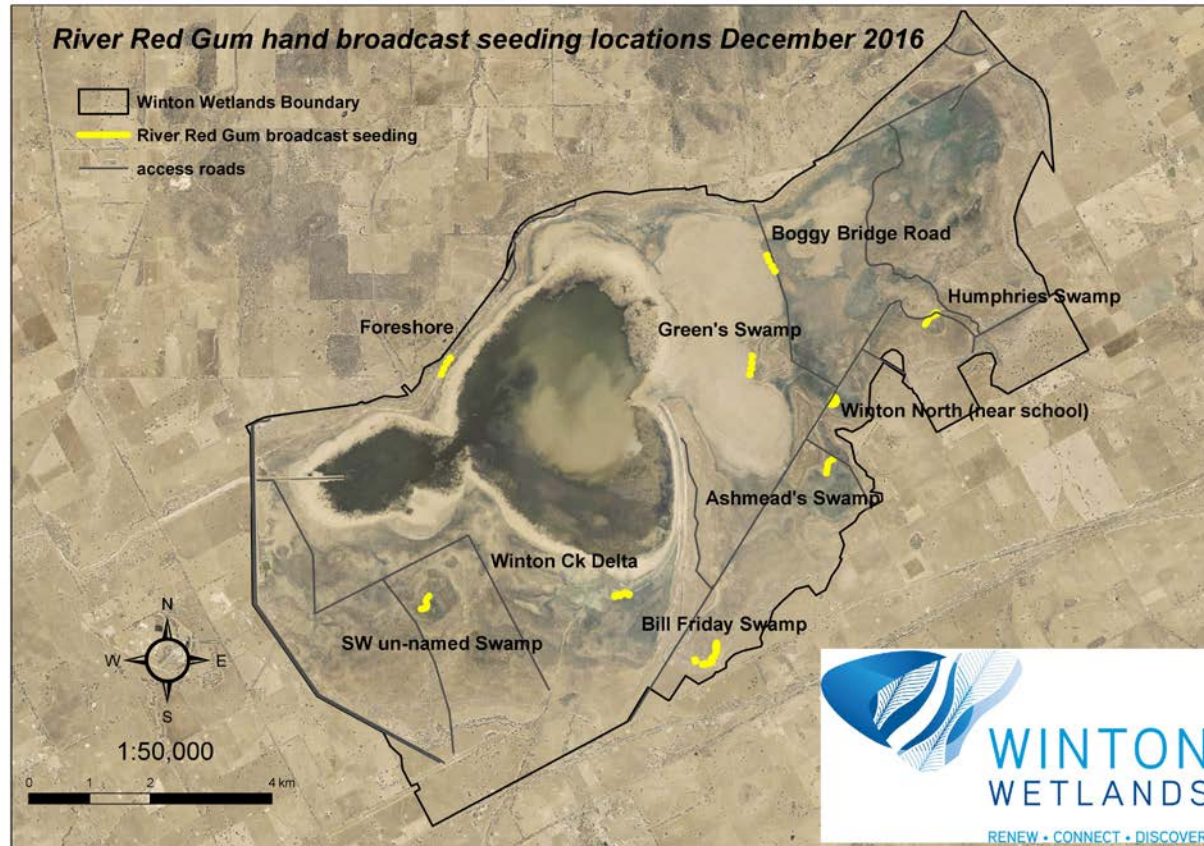






# River Red Gums

## Aquatic Revegetation Sites



## Legend

- Cane Crass cuttings
- E. camaldulensis seed
- Reserve Boundary
- FOWW aquatic planting sites



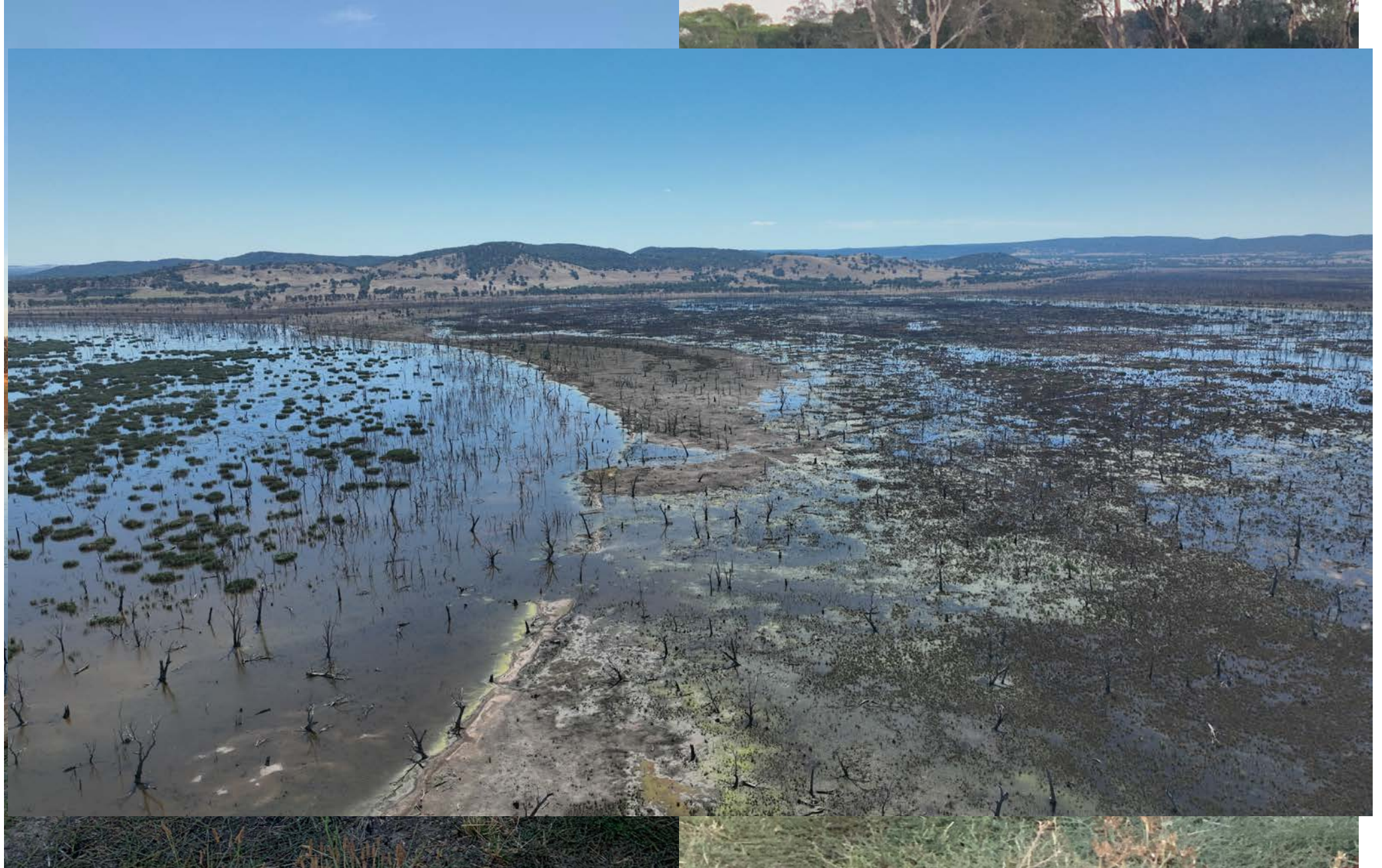
Google earth

Image © 2018 DigitalGlobe  
Image © 2018 CNES / Airbus

5 km



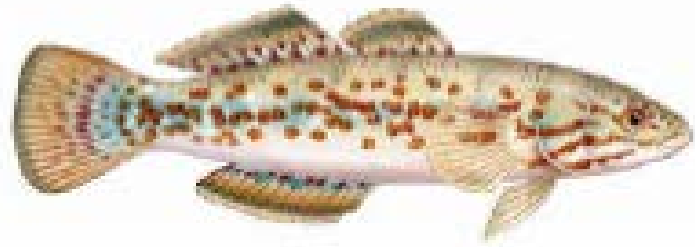
# Drone seeding River Red Gums



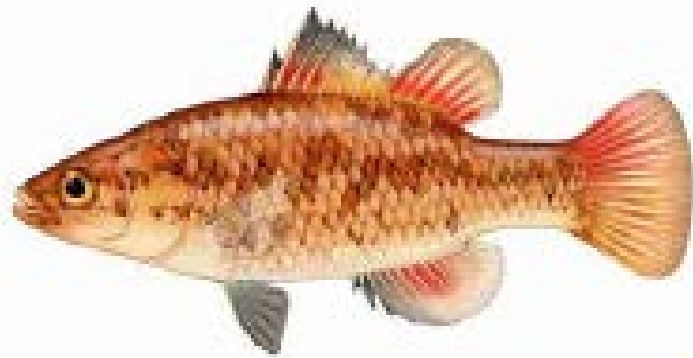




# REWILDING OF SPECIES



*Purple spotted gudgeon*



*Southern pygmy perch*







# FUTURE

- ECOLOGY
- SCIENCE & RESTORATION
- EDUCATION
- ARTS & CULTURE







# Our Contribution to Biodiversity 2037

## VICTORIA'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IS HEALTHY

No vulnerable or near threatened species will have become endangered

Critically endangered or endangered species will have ex situ or rewilding options available

Net gain in extent and condition of habitats (terrestrial, waterway, marine)

Turtle nest predation protection and research  
Freshwater species research laboratory and breeding facility

Listed as a Wetland of Distinction  
RAMSAR Listing plans (2022-2023)

We understand what we protect via extensive fauna survey work

Reintroduction of Growling Grass Frogs and freshwater fish species to Winton Wetlands

Winton wetlands can then become a potential source population for elsewhere

Protected and quality habitat for other potential reintroductions

Ongoing adaptive land management including extensive pest plant and animal control

Reserve wide revegetation works in collaboration with RHEP, GBCMA, DELWP and FOWW

>120,000 trees planted, 1600 ha of revegetation

Site wide Water Quality improvements

Water management works for Bitterns

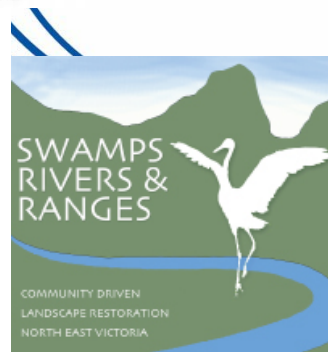
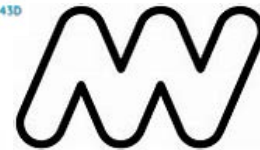
Cane grass regeneration

River Red Gum research and re-establishment


First records of Squirrel Glider and Rakali on site in 40 years



Thanks to our dedicated staff and all our collaborators so far !





A full-page background image of a sunset over a wetland. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. In the foreground, the silhouettes of bare trees and reeds are visible against the bright sky.

**THANKYOU**  
**– Any Questions?**