



Local Action On Global Problems - Protecting Ramsar Wetlands in Victoria

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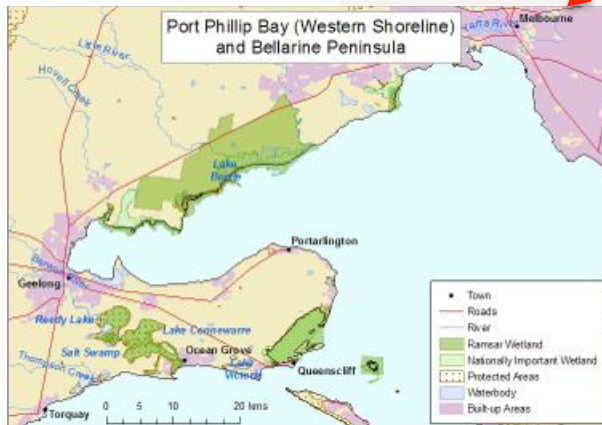
Overview

- Program Background
- Program review
- Review findings
- Conclusion - putting words into action

Program background – purpose

- Purpose: manage key threats to protect and or improve the ecological character of the two Ramsar sites
- A three year program
- Funded by the Australian Government
- Administered by the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA

Program background – locations



Program background – works

- Pest plant control
- Pest animal control
- Exclusion fencing to protect saltmarsh vegetation
- Community engagement

Program review – what did we do?

- Simplified program logic
- Development of key evaluation questions
 - Achievement
 - Impact
 - Effectiveness
 - Appropriateness
 - Efficiency
 - Legacy
- Document review

Program review – what did we do?

- Consultation

- Semi-structured interview guide
- Interviews with a range of stakeholders:
 - » Local Council
 - » Parks Victoria
 - » Phillip Island Nature Park
 - » Department of Environment and Primary Industries
 - » Landcare
 - » Westernport Biosphere

Review findings

Program achievements and impact

Activity	Total Program Targets	Quantity Achieved (Totals)	PPB	WPB
Pest animal control (ha)	4,400	17,386	5,096 (785)	12,290 (3,615)
Pest plant control (ha)	2,000	3,543	1,891 (525)	1,652 (1,475)
Number of land managers funded to deliver works	13	14	5 (5)	9 (8)
Area of native vegetation fenced to protect from domestic stock and pest animals (ha)	140 (combined program target)	433	279	154
Community involvement in Ramsar site management (number of volunteers recruited and retained)	200 (combined program target)	2,698	2,095	603

Review findings

Program effectiveness

- Strong partnerships, collaboration, knowledge sharing
- Focus on high value areas, managing key threats
- Identified gaps in activity monitoring and reporting
- Clearer linkages between activities and outcomes
- Not all stakeholders engaged in the program
- Need better communication of program achievements

Review findings

Appropriateness

- Strong oversight and coordination for WPB, less so for PPB
- Flexibility in delivery of on-ground works
- Role and expectations of the technical advisory committee unclear
- Purpose and rationale of community engagement unclear
- Strong project management from PPWCMA

Review findings

Efficiency

- Good indication the program was efficiently delivered e.g. coordination of on-ground works, leveraging of funding

Legacy

- Added to partner agency maintenance program
- Some works at risk of being undermined without continued funding

Conclusion - putting words into action

Maintain strengths

- Focus on high value areas
- Partnerships approach
- Coordination role of PPWCMA

Addressing Challenges

- Simple, clear program logic and rationale
- Use of technical advice
- Targeted community engagement
- Communication of program achievements
- Robust monitoring framework
- Options for reducing future risk to program works