

Information Sheet for people with an interest in wetland restoration in the South East of South Australia & South West Victoria



Wetland Restoration on Private Land

Nature Glenelg Trust is a locally based environmental organisation working in the South East of South Australia and South West Victoria.

The wetland restoration project, funded by the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund, is an opportunity for Nature Glenelg Trust to work with local landowners toward a common goal of returning a small proportion of previously drained wetlands across the region.



In most cases hydrological restoration involves temporary or permanent blocking (regulating the water level) of outflowing drains from wetland areas and, in conjunction with other conservation measures, can bring about some visually stunning outcomes that are also of high conservation value.

Project Objective: to assist willing landholders to reinstate or improve their wetlands through hydrological restoration.

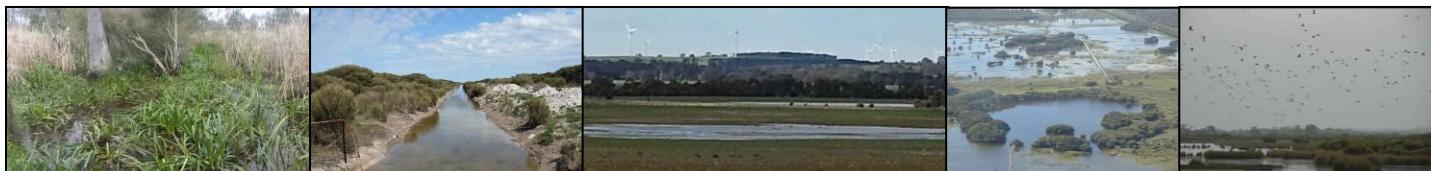
Background Information:

Wetlands are an important feature of the landscape across western Victoria and the South East of South Australia but what we see today is only a small fraction of what once occurred. Despite this overall decline in extent, wetlands in this region continue to provide critical habitat for a whole range of animal and plant species. Wetlands also help recharge our groundwater, filter nutrients and pollutants, and are of great recreational and aesthetic value to people.



The wetland restoration project will focus on water management, the key ingredient for ongoing wetland health. In simple terms, we will be looking at ways to help drained wetlands hold more water (increasing depth) and stay wet for longer (increasing duration). Wetlands that are drained either don't hold water at all, or tend to dry out much more rapidly than they should, preventing wetland plants and animals from completing their life cycles – meaning less wetland dependant wildlife on farms, such as waterbirds, fish, frogs and dragonflies. Wetland restoration works won't necessarily mean returning a site to its original state, as this won't always be possible, but aims to promote greater diversity of native wildlife and habitat.

Project area: The project will include any natural wetlands that have been impacted by drainage throughout western Victoria and the South East of South Australia.



Complementary: The hydrological restoration of wetlands goes hand in hand with other conservation projects that have been undertaken previously in the region. Many sites may have been fenced, revegetated and managed for weeds but are still impacted by existing drainage causing accelerated drying out. If you are currently managing a wetland for conservation, but you think that artificial drains may be impacting on its environmental value, then we are happy to arrange a visit, to get to know you and your site, and discuss your options. We are also very interested to look at new sites, not previously subject to conservation works but that have restoration potential. Every site and its requirements are different and importantly, to cater for this, a range of management options are possible through our program.



An example of wetland restoration: the same site before and after restoration, showing the change in wetland vegetation.

Here's your chance to get involved...

- **Do you have wetlands on your property?**
- **Do you have an area that gets wet** but you wouldn't really consider it as a wetland because it dries out?
- **Do you have a wetland that only holds water for a short time**, particularly following high rainfall events?
- **Have the wetlands in your area changed**, are they not holding water for as long as they used to?
- **Have you undertaken wetland restoration already?** We're keen to share ideas and implement cost-effective practical solutions for new wetland restoration sites across the region.
- **Are you involved in a community group?** In upcoming months Lachlan is planning to visit groups across South West Victoria and South East SA in order to provide an overview of the project and seek expressions of interest. If you are involved in any groups that may be interested then please contact Lachlan on 0401 208 717 or email lachlan.farrington@natureglenelg.org.au.

Nature Glenelg Trust will continue to make information available about how you can get involved through its website: www.natureglenelg.org.au. Subscribe to our blog and keep up to date with all the latest news on the project and other happenings.