

Protecting a Ramsar Wetland

IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND ON-GROUND ACTION TO RESTORE LAKE GORE AND SURROUNDS



what WE WILL ACHIEVE

- Ecological Knowledge Gain
- Resilient Wetlands
- Ramsar Protection
- Community Empowerment
- Future Stewardship

how WE WILL ACHIEVE IT

- Engaging Local Community
- Working Alongside First Nations Peoples
- Partnering with Land Managers
- Ecological Survey and Monitoring
- Implementing Recovery Actions

THE CHALLENGE

The impacts of extensive landscape clearing and alteration throughout the Dalyup River and Coobidge Creek catchments of the eastern South Coast region are significant. Whilst land clearing and subsequent fertiliser application has facilitated the establishment of a highly productive and profitable dryland agricultural economy, it has not come without cost to the unique ecological values of the catchment, and by extension, the long-term viability of the region's agricultural productivity. These impacts extend from salinisation, soil and stream channel erosion and subsequent sedimentation, increased surface water flow, poor soil water retention, nutrient enrichment in aquatic ecosystems, disrupted natural hydrological regimes, habitat fragmentation, proliferation of invasive species and biodiversity loss.

The Lake Gore project is an innovative collaboration between government agencies, First Nations Peoples, community organisations, catchment partners and the agricultural sector. This broadscale, inter-linked project will bring together partners from across the Lake Gore catchment to enhance and protect the site's ecological character and build its resilience to climate change.

A RAMSAR WETLAND

Rivers are integral to the ecological, social and economic values of the South Coast community and are of immense cultural significance to the region's First Nations communities and peoples. Across the South Coast region's highly fragmented landscape, rivers serve as vitally important connecting corridors for biodiversity and ecosystems.

Lake Gore forms the terminus of the Dalyup River and Coobidge Creek, which meander through productive agricultural country from Scaddan south to the Esperance Plains. The significance of Lake Gore and its associated wetlands in providing habitat for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl at critical points in their life cycle has earned Lake Gore its status as a Wetland of International Significance under the Ramsar Convention. The Lake Gore project will target key threatening processes identified to be affecting the Ramsar site, aiming to protect and enhance Lake Gore's ecological character and resilience to climate change.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Lake Gore project will deliver meaningful landscape-scale restorative activities to address the key threatening processes impacting the long-term viability of the Ramsar wetland and address fundamental knowledge gaps through biological survey. It also provides an opportunity to invest in restoration and protection of adjacent areas of the Threatened Ecological Community, Proteaceae-Dominated Kwongan Shrublands of the Southeast Coastal Floristic Province (Kwongan TEC). This project provides the community with an opportunity to engage in protecting the river and wetland network through revegetation and fencing to protect riparian habitat on private property, which in turn will in turn promote agricultural resilience.

This project provides an opportunity to better understand the Lake Gore Ramsar Wetland and ensure a shared community vision of maintaining this internationally-significant wetland for migratory and resident birdlife by attaining current biological data, implementing crucial recovery actions, and procure an informed, interdisciplinary and implementable catchment management plan.



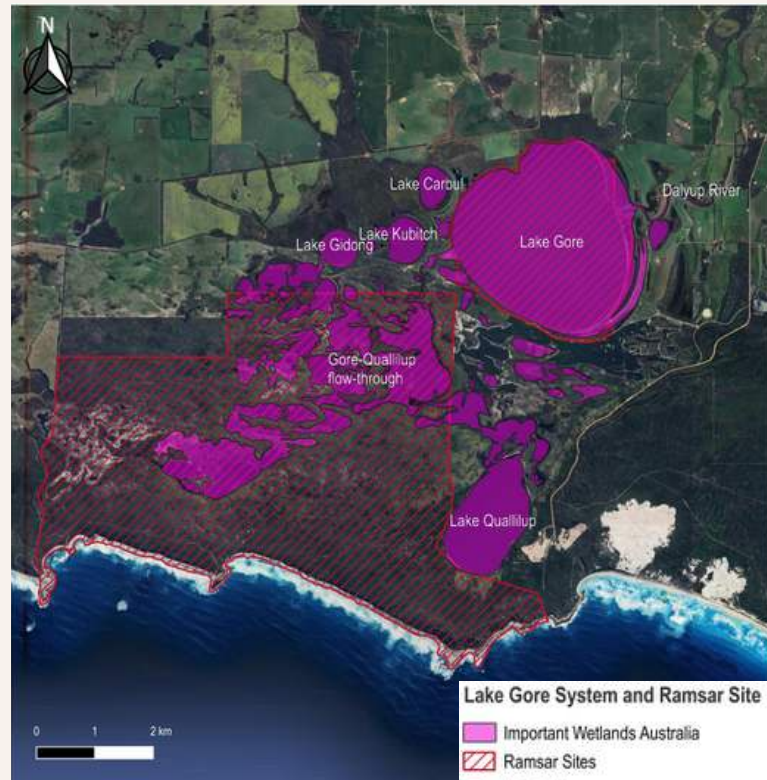
In summary, the Lake Gore project aims to:

- Maintain and / or enhance the ecological character of the Lake Gore Ramsar site and build its resilience to climate change; and
- Improve the condition of surrounding Kwongan TEC

THE APPROACH

Lake Gore is a South Coast NRM-led project which will deliver key on-ground recovery actions aimed at building ecological health and resilience within the Lake Gore Ramsar Site and its catchment. A revised, detailed catchment management plan will be developed in collaboration with technical experts and stakeholders to be implemented as a roadmap for future restoration and landscape stewardship beyond the lifetime of the project. A comprehensive suite of biological surveys and water monitoring program will enable the attainment of crucial ecological data to assess the condition and functionality of the wetland and inform future management actions.

On-ground recovery actions entailing feral predator control, weed management, riparian revegetation and access control will be implemented on government and freehold land within the Lake Gore Ramsar Site and its combined catchments of the Dalyup River and Coobidge Creek. These will be delivered in partnership with farmers, state and local government authorities, and industry professionals.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Lake Gore Project is a landscape scale, collaborative, nature project involving partnerships with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, catchment landholders, and community groups such as the Esperance Bird Observers Group and Esperance Weed Action Group.

FUNDING

This project is funded by the Australian Government under the National Heritage Trust Program, and is delivered by South Coast Natural Resource Management as a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners Panel.

get in touch

KAHREE GARNAUT

Project Coordinator - Lake Gore

0439 276 015

- 61+ 8 9845 8537
- info@southcoastnrm.com.au
- www.southcoastnrm.com.au
- 88 Stead Road, Albany WA 6330
- /southcoastnrm
- /southcoastnrm



Australian Government

