



## PROTECTING PEATLAND ECOSYSTEMS AND ADDRESSING THREATS IN SOUTHWESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Introducing the PEAT Southwest Project

### Why Peatlands?

The peatlands of southwestern Australia are a remarkable ecosystem. These pinjer (swamp country, wetlands) support specialised boorna (plants) and taajt (animals) found nowhere else on yaa-jee (earth). They also play an important role in storing kayup (water) and carbon in the landscape.

### Threatened Ecological Community

However, peatlands are increasingly under pressure. Changing climate, altered kaal (fire) regimes, feral animals, urban expansion, clearing for agriculture and some land-use practices can all impact their health. As a result, peatlands dominated by *Empodisma gracillimum* have been recognised as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under Australian environmental law.

### Collaboration

The project is a six-year research and implementation collaboration (2023–2028) co-led by The University of Western Australia and Edith Cowan University and guided by Noongar Merningar/ Minang, Wadandi, Pibbulman Elders. It brings together researchers, land managers, community groups and volunteers to build knowledge of the biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural significance of peatlands across the southwest.

The collaboration includes the Undalup Association, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, the Western Australian Museum, the Walpole-Nornalup National Park Association, Biologic Environmental, South West NRM and South Coast NRM. PEAT Southwest is proudly supported by Lotterywest as Major Supporter and The Ian Potter Foundation.

The PEAT Southwest Project (Protecting Peatland Ecosystems and Addressing Threats in Southwestern Australia) has been established to better understand and protect these unique ecosystems.





## PEAT Southwest Project activities include:

**Identifying peatlands** and mapping where they occur in the landscape

**Assessing their condition** including plants, animals and hydrology

**Understanding threats** that affect them

**Working with landholders and managers** to identify practical ways to protect and restore peatlands

## Landholders involved in the project can benefit from:

**Increased understanding** of the natural values on their property

**Information** to support sustainable land management

**Opportunities** to contribute to research and conservation of these unique ecosystems



**PEAT SOUTHWEST**

For more information visit the **PEAT Southwest** website:  
[www.peat southwest.com.au](http://www.peat southwest.com.au)

Or contact your local NRM Office:  
South Coast NRM [www.southcoastnrm.com.au](http://www.southcoastnrm.com.au)  
South West NRM [www.southwestnrm.org.au](http://www.southwestnrm.org.au)

### Partners | Collaborators



### Funders

