

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

Official publication of The Australian Rangeland Society

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Form of Reference

The reference for this article should be in this general form;
Author family name, initials (year). Title. *In*: Proceedings of the nth Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference. Pages. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

For example:

Anderson, L., van Klinken, R. D., and Shepherd, D. (2008). Aerially surveying Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) in the Pilbara. *In*: 'A Climate of Change in the Rangelands. Proceedings of the 15th Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference'. (Ed. D. Orr) 4 pages. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

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The Australian Rangeland Society

QUEENSLAND WETLANDS PROGRAMME WETLAND MAPPING, CLASSIFICATION AND WETLAND/INFO QUEENSLAND

V.E. Bailey¹, M. Ronan² and Qld Wetlands Mapping Team³

¹Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland, PO Box 202, Longreach, QLD. 4730

²Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland, PO Box 15155,
Brisbane City East, QLD 4002

^{1,2,3}Email: wetlands@epa.qld.gov.au

ABSTRACT

The main driver behind the Queensland and Australian governments' work on wetlands is to support projects and programs that will result in long-term benefits to the biodiversity, management and sustainable use, and conservation of Queensland wetlands.

The Queensland Wetlands Programme is funded through two sub programmes and involves cash and in-kind government support. The two Programmes are the Queensland Natural Heritage Trust Wetlands Programme (NHT Wetland Programme) and the Great Barrier Reef Programme. It commenced in 2003, and is being implemented over 5 years. A number of projects are being funded under the NHT Queensland Wetlands Programme including:— Wetland Mapping and Classification; Wetland Inventory Database (*WetlandInfo* Queensland); Wetland Management Profiles; Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy; and Information Review and Gap Analysis.

This poster will broadly focus on the Wetlands Mapping and Classification and *Wetlandinfo* Queensland projects.

INTRODUCTION

No one organisation –industry, research or government department is responsible for all knowledge and information, research and management of Queensland's wetlands. Through the various projects under the Queensland Wetlands Programme, information on Queensland wetlands will be captured, stored, disseminated, and updated through *WetlandInfo* Queensland. This can assist stakeholders with wetland self-management; regulatory frameworks; education and extension; science and research; partnerships and incentives; priorities and targets; and monitoring and evaluation.

METHODS

The purpose of the Queensland Wetland Mapping and Classification project is to incorporate existing knowledge, and to map and classify Queensland wetlands into a comprehensive, wetland coverage, at a scale and level of detail that can support informed management decision-making.

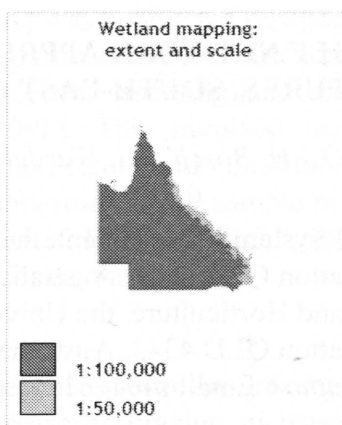


Figure 1: Qld Wetland Mapping Extent and Scale

The mapping methodology uses existing mapping layers (topographic, vegetation, satellite imagery etc.) and combines these in a manner that maximises the usefulness of each layer. All areas of the state will be mapped to a 1:100,000 (min of 5 ha) scale, with areas of the Great Barrier Reef being mapped to 1:50,000 (min of 1 ha) scale.

Wetlandinfo Queensland will provide a first stop shop for wetland information. It will consist of a number of databases, specifically a geodatabase (spatially enabled relational database) that will integrate with other databases and websites and will capture pre-existing information collected, and the information developed by the Wetlands Programme, and its underlying projects.

ADVANTAGES AND OUTCOMES FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Wetlandinfo Queensland, will provide a single information system on wetland maps and data, in an easy to use format. This addresses the challenge of capturing, storing, sourcing and disseminating wetlands information through a single point, and delivers the information through a number of mechanisms eg web-based, CD's and information sheets.

Some outcomes include:

- Improves the Queensland wetland information base;
- Enables multiple stakeholders to access, and add data and update information;
- Guides investment areas in Natural Resource Management funding;
- Assists in developing on-ground activities to protect and rehabilitate wetlands;
- Provides education and capacity building;
- Improves wetland communication; monitoring, evaluation;
- Guides priority acquisitions and conservation agreements; and
- Provides specific and consistent advice to State government agencies, regional bodies and community, local government regarding wetland extent, values and impacts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/habitats/wetlands/wetlandinfo/

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/qldwetlands/nhtwetlands.html>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr Bruce Wilson, Dr Arthur Knight, Dr Doug Ward, Cathy Ellis, Daniel Tindall, Felicia Schardin, Jack Kelley, Nick Cuff, Paul Cavallaro, Michele Deveze, Doug Morriosn, Sharon King, Kerry King, Don Cook, Susan Cunningham, Beck White, Chris Hill, Paul Clayton, Michael Herring.