WETLANDS ON YOUR FARM

Wetlands provide numerous ecosystem services that not only support a healthy environment but can also benefit your farm and your livestock. Wetlands filter and capture the pollutants, sediments, and nutrients that runoff the land. This enhances on-farm and downstream water quality. In dry times wetlands can provide drought refuge for native species and can support light seasonal grazing.

Many fish and water bird species rely on the food, nursery habitat and breeding grounds that wetlands provide, particularly in times of drought.

In addition to the environmental benefits that wetlands provide, they also support many commercial and recreational industries including oyster farming, fishing, agriculture and tourism.

WETLANDS IN YOUR BACKYARD

Wetlands close to your home are valuable and can provide a range of benefits, many you may be unaware of. A healthy wetland will have fewer mosquitoes, less odour and less standing water and fewer weeds. When a wetland is healthy it attracts more animals including various species of birds, frogs and fish for you to observe and enjoy.

Wetlands are diverse and complex environments that need to be cared for and monitored by people who recognise their value.

Local wetlands provide a focus for better managing your ‘footprint’ on the environment – improving not only the wetland but downstream waterways and ecosystems as well.

Through simple practices such as recycling, using water wisely, disposing of garden clippings appropriately and using safe chemicals your local wetland will be a lot healthier.
Helpful tips to manage WETLANDS in your BACKYARD

There are numerous ways to contribute to the health of your environment including:

- Wash your car on the grass with a bucket and not a hose to conserve water.
- Plant native species with dense fibrous roots around waterways to help water filtration and bank stability.
- Reduce chemical and fertilizer use and take up composting to reduce chemicals ending up in the environment.
- Practice water wise gardening by mulching, planting drought resistant natives, fixing water leaks and watering your garden on dusk to prevent evaporation.
- Be a responsible pet owner and ensure the environment and other animals are not being harmed by your pets.
- Make it your responsibility: if everyone took ownership of their own backyard, their local environment and their actions at home and at work, our society would achieve lasting protection of our natural areas, waterways and wildlife.
- Ensure animal waste and organic material (e.g. lawn clippings) are prevented from entering storm water channels to reduce pollution and the spread of weeds.

If you would like to find out more contact WetlandCare Australia on phone: 1800 816 147 or email: coffsharbour@wetlandcare.com.au

Best practice management of WETLANDS on your FARM

There are many ways to better manage and improve wetlands on your farm including:

- Install fencing around wetlands and along waterways to control stock access and reduce erosion caused by stock trampling.
- Provide troughs for stock water on higher ground away from waterways to improve water quality and reduce trampling.
- Plant riparian trees to create native habitat corridors and shade for stock and windbreaks for pasture.
- Integrate weed control methods across your property and consider the appropriate chemical, biological or mechanical control option. Prevent weeds spreading!
- Upgrade and manage floodgates to allow tidal water movements and regular drain flushing – this improves water quality, allows fish passage and controls in-drain weeds.

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