



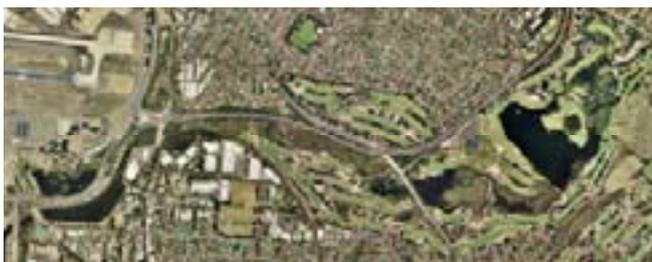
## FACT SHEET



# Sydney Airport Wetlands

Located in close proximity to the Sydney CBD, the Botany Wetlands are the largest freshwater wetland in the metropolitan area and provide a precious haven for native wildlife.

On the northern side of Botany Bay in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, the Wetlands' catchment extends from Moore and Centennial Parks in the north, south through Eastlakes and The Lakes Golf Courses before eventually flowing into Botany Bay next to Sydney Airport's third runway.



Aerial view of the southern section of the Botany Wetlands

Although extensively altered in the 1800s to provide water for expanding local industries and a drinking water supply for colonial Sydney, the wetlands remain highly valued to this day for a range of environmental, social and economic reasons, including flood mitigation, wildlife habitat, cultural heritage and recreation.

The wetlands cover an area of 58 hectares, consist of 11 interconnected ponds and stretch over 4 kilometres. They are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register and are classified as significant in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

Sydney Airport manages the section of the Botany Wetlands known as the Mill Pond, East and West Engine Ponds and the Mill Stream. Collectively, these are known as the Sydney Airport Wetlands.

Despite the airport and its immediate surroundings having been highly modified over the last century or more, the wetlands are still considered to be an environmentally significant area, providing important habitat for a range of native flora and fauna species including reptiles, fish and birds. A number of migratory birds protected under international conservation agreements can also be found there.

There are various pressures on the Sydney Airport Wetlands including pollution caused by stormwater run-off, sewage overflows and upstream catchment activities. The overriding need to protect aircraft from bird hazards and to manage impacts caused by introduced pest species also require constant attention.

To address these pressures and associated impacts and to improve the quality and ecological function of the wetlands, Sydney Airport has developed and is implementing a Wetland Enhancement Program. In recent years, a number of important initiatives have been completed, including:

- installation of a gross pollutant trap to remove litter from stormwater run-off into the wetlands

# PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



White-faced Heron



Fish ladder



Carp removal

- installation of a fish ladder to allow movement of native fish from Botany Bay upstream into the wetlands
- a comprehensive survey of fish species
- revegetation of a section of the East Engine Pond with native plant species

Other initiatives that are carried out on a regular basis include:

- removal of aquatic and terrestrial weeds
- control of pest animals, including rabbits, foxes and carp
- stocking with native fish

To successfully manage, protect and restore the Botany Wetlands, an integrated approach that involves all relevant land managers and stakeholders is needed.

Sydney Airport is therefore a key member of the Botany Wetlands Environmental Management Steering Committee, which was formed to oversee management of the wetlands. The Committee is convened by Sydney Water and includes representatives from local councils, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, NSW Department of Water and Energy, RailCorp and the Centennial and Moore Park Trust.

Sydney Airport will develop a new Plan of Management to formalise its management of the wetlands and carry out an ecological assessment of the whole Airport, including the Sydney Airport Wetlands.

For further information, contact Sydney Airport's Environment Department on (02) 9667 9111.

