



the Benefits of our Wetlands

As well as forming vital habitats, wetlands are nature's way of filtering stormwater before it reaches the ocean.

In the construction and operation of its wetlands, the City of Salisbury has been working to simultaneously restore habitat and provide a reliable water supply.



Top Protecting the Barker Inlet will ensure it remains the largest fish-breeding nursery in South Australia and home to Port Adelaide's dolphins.

Above Clean water can be extracted from wetlands for irrigation and other human uses.
Photo: Luke Simon

Due to the large expanses of non-permeable areas in our suburbs, such as roads, roofs and paved surfaces, there is a much greater quantity of stormwater run-off than would occur in a natural environment where much of the rainfall can soak into the ground. Even with the large number of constructed wetlands now on the Adelaide Plains, much of this stormwater run-off is still discharged into the Gulf St Vincent and other aquatic ecosystems.

The southern parts of the Gulf are naturally clear. Where muddy or unclean stormwater has entered in the past, large meadows of seagrass have died.

These seagrass meadows are a vital part of marine ecosystems and provide habitat and food for resources such as the Western King Prawn and the iconic King George Whiting. The seagrass meadows also help keep our shoreline intact by preventing erosion. The Barker Inlet, an estuary leading off the Gulf St Vincent, is a delicate marine environment of mangroves and seagrass meadows. The City of Salisbury is determined to protect the extremely valuable but fragile Barker Inlet. The use of wetlands to cleanse stormwater is the key strategy to help maintain the inlet as the largest fish-breeding nursery in South Australia.



In addition to improving the quality of water entering the Gulf, constructed wetlands provide precious natural habitat and wildlife 'corridors' that connect the hills to the sea.

Stormwater - traditionally regarded as a problem and in some cases a threat - can be managed and harnessed through constructed wetlands. The water from wetlands can be recycled for irrigation or industrial use. This recycling of water has proven to be a good way of reducing demand on the River Murray, groundwater and other surface water resources that we have relied on in the past. Treated water from wetlands can also be stored in the natural underground aquifers to be used in dry seasons.

Wetlands also offer us a place to take a walk, play, or just sit, relax and observe nature.

They can greatly improve the appearance of public open space and provide excellent opportunities for environmental education.

Learn more

For more information on related topics, see the other fact sheets in the Wetlands series. You may also like to visit the following websites for more information:

Friends of Gulf St Vincent

<http://users.sa.chariot.net.au/~littoral/fogsv/>
www.murrayusers.sa.gov.au/

Save the Murray

www.savethemurray.com

*Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
NRM Board*

www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au

Murray-Darling Basin Authority

www.mdba.gov.au



Top Wetlands offer all sorts of exciting opportunities for recreation and learning.

Above Constructed wetlands can be an important part of our long-term water security.

Photo: Luke Simon

Contact the Watershed

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Salisbury, Sustaining Our Environment

