



# Media Release

Monday, 1st February, 2010

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## PLEASING REPORT CARD FOR COASTAL WETLANDS AND LOGOONS

A new report has found coastal lagoons and wetlands sites in Tasmania's Break O'Day region are generally in good health.

NRM North, in conjunction with the Break O'Day Council, has released the results of a scientific health assessment of east coast lagoons and wetlands to coincide with World Wetlands Day tomorrow.

The project assessed 22 lagoons and wetlands between Grants Lagoon at Binalong Bay to the Douglas River north of Bicheno.

NRM North's Healthy Coasts and Seas Coordinator, Emma Williams, said the purpose of the assessment was to carry out a health check on each wetland and identify necessary 'first aid' works and prioritise these tasks.

"Many of the wetlands are on private land and no one has previously checked their aquatic and riparian habitats to see how valuable and healthy they are." Ms Williams said.

"Generally, the wetlands have reasonable water quality and vegetation buffers and they provide an array of habitats with high conservation values, including newly identified sites of threatened species.

"However, the report also shows the environmental and social values of Break O'Day's coastal wetlands are threatened by weeds, altered drainage and poor vegetation cover."

The NRM Break O'Day Facilitator, Polly Buchhorn, said the next stage of the project would be to undertake 'first aid' work on the high priority wetlands in conjunction with landholders.

"This is being undertaken with funding from the Break O'Day Council and Australian Government.

"Coastal lagoons and wetlands are a feature of the Break O'Day landscape and lifestyles and are important ecologically, lying between the land and the sea.

"During the health assessment stage we made a point of talking with landholders as they have the most knowledge and influence.

"We want to focus the funding for the first aid works where there is both ecological value and a will to care for these gems in the Break O'Day municipality." Mr Buchhorn said.

Landholders interested in helping care for lagoons and wetlands are encouraged to read about the sites near them in the health assessment report.

Landholders interested in undertaking large high priority works may be able to access funding assistance through the project and should contact NRM North or the Break O'Day council for more details.

The report is available from NRM North.

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