

MEDIA RELEASE

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Celebrating World Wetlands Day at Bairnsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant

To celebrate World Wetlands Day East Gippsland Water is holding open days at its Bairnsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant.

This is a great opportunity to find out how this facility operates and protects the health of the world renowned Macleod Morass next door.

There is no need to pre-book, simply turn up at the plant on the day and please wear sturdy footwear. Entry is free and children are more than welcome.

Location	Date	Time
Bairnsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant (143 Holloway St, Bairnsdale)	Wed, 29 Jan	5pm - 7.30pm
	Sat, 1 Feb	9am - midday

The Macleod Morass is a deep, freshwater marsh covering more than 500 hectares on the southern fringe of Bairnsdale and is home to hundreds of species of birds, fish, insects, mammals, reptiles and frogs, including a number that are endangered.



The Bairnsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant and Macleod Morass

East Gippsland Water has been helping to conserve the abundant flora and fauna with recycled water from its Bairnsdale plant. It provides up to 20 percent of the wetland's freshwater flow requirements.

Said the corporation's Managing Director, Bruce Hammond: "Our priority has been to ensure that the ecological value of the wetland is protected and that its value as a wildlife habitat is maintained."

"Twelve years ago we completed a major construction project enabling the treatment plant to process wastewater for reuse on the wetland. This has proved invaluable in protecting the wetland from encroaching salinity and ensuring its place as a thriving wildlife habitat."

All the recycled water produced by East Gippsland Water's 11 wastewater treatment facilities across the region is directed at beneficial reuse, with a priority on protecting the environment. It is utilised on the corporation's properties in Newmerella, Mallacoota, Metung, Paynesville, Bairnsdale and Bemm River, and at its Bruce's Track Farm near Swan Reach to irrigate pasture, tree plantations and open areas. Third parties to benefit from the recycled water include three golf courses and the Bairnsdale Racecourse, as well as farmers in Newmerella, Swan Reach, Paynesville, Omeo, Cann River and Kalimna West.

Ends

NOTE TO EDITORS: World Wetlands Day is on Sunday, 2 February.