

Wetland Mapping—We Need Your Help

WetlandCare Australia and Southern Rivers CMA are hosting a series of one-day workshops in Wollongong, Nowra, Batemans Bay and Bega from 9 to 12 November 2009 to tap into your knowledge of your local wetlands.

The 'Healthy Wetlands for Healthy Catchments' project collects data and maps, classifies and prioritises wetlands within the Southern Rivers region. WetlandCare Australia recently completed the first draft of wetland mapping and classification for the project. The workshops will supply much-needed local knowledge as well as feedback on the draft wetland maps.

"There are many thousands of hectares of wetlands in the Southern Rivers region, but information about the area and the extent and type of wetlands is patchy and scattered. Now that WetlandCare Australia has collated the existing data and created the draft maps, the next step is for members of the community who are passionate and knowledgeable about the wetlands in their area to come forward and tell us what they know", said Chair of Southern Rivers CMA, Pam Green.

The Southern Rivers region has some of the most biologically important and productive wetlands in NSW.

"The mapping and database will help people living and working in the region to assess, prioritise and ideally rehabilitate and protect key wetlands. Input from the local community is invaluable and I urge all interested people to attend", said Project Officer, Ambermoon Kelly.

This project is supported by Southern Rivers CMA through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program. The project will deliver a complete wetland map and bring together existing wetland related data for the whole Southern Rivers region (around 32,000 km in total) including Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Nowra-Bomaderry and Batemans Bay.

The wetland data has been sourced from existing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data. Classification of each wetland is based on the latest Queensland wetland habitat typologies developed by the Queensland Wetland Program. These typologies will soon be adopted by New South Wales and South Australia.

The workshops will run from **9am to 3pm** and morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Sessions will be held at the following locations:

- Monday, 9 November – Wollongong. State Office Building; Level 1, 84 Crown St
- Tuesday, 10 November – Nowra. Shoalhaven City Council Chambers. 42 Bridge Rd
- Wednesday, 11 November – Batemans Bay. Southern Rivers CMA office. Unit 6/2 Cranbrook Rd
- Thursday, 12 November – Bega. Sertec, 163 Auckland St

To book your place contact Amber Kelly on 6681 6169 or **Free Call 1800 816 147** or email ambermoonk@wetlandcare.com.au. Please **RSVP** as places are limited.

