



With a war going on, it's maybe not a good time to be to be visiting...

Ramsar, Iran

By Rod Anderson*

We know that RAMSAR is an international treaty for the protection of ecologically significant wetlands. But why does no-one know what RAMSAR stands for?

Ramsar isn't an acronym at all. It is a city on the Caspian Sea in northern Iran, and where the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat was held way back in 1971.

Australia has been signed up to the treaty since its inception and has 67 Ramsar sites totalling 8,346,911 ha. Twelve of these sites are in Victoria, and many are quite extensive: Barmah Forest, Corner Inlet, Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands, Gippsland Lakes, Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetlands, Gunbower Forest, Hattah-Kulnine Lakes, Kerang Wetlands, Lake Albacutya, Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula, Western District Lakes, and Western Port.

Recently, Victoria has sought to add additional areas to the Port Phillip Bay and Bellarine Peninsula sites. Four new areas have been nominated to the Australian Government to be included, initiating a formal approval process.

Australia is a signatory to many other international agreements, and they are sometimes a trigger that enables the Commonwealth to become involved in what would otherwise be State responsibilities.

The Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* protects a range of matters, including Ramsar-listed wetlands world heritage areas, listed threatened species, and ecological communities.

This means that public land managers need to be aware of any EPBC Act requirements when considering developments or planning projects.



The Ramsar convention has major repercussions for significant growth areas around Melbourne

Even though Australia is also a signatory to the Paris Agreement, climate change and greenhouse gas emissions are not dealt with directly by the EPBC Act. Climate change does, however, indirectly influence decisions under the EPBC Act because of the impact our changing climate is having on many of the protected environmental values. For example, the effects of changing hydrology and coastal erosion on Ramsar wetlands.

What's a good way to get a better understanding of climate change, the Paris Agreement, the Victorian Climate Change Act, and your responsibilities as a manager of public land? Come along to our new course "Climate Change for Public Land Managers".

***Rod Anderson** presents our new course 'Climate Change for Public Land Managers' Until recently Rod was a Regional Manager for DEECA.

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Three Victorian Ramsar sites we have consulted on

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- Risk Management
- Climate Change

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Our calendar of Professional Development presentations

Independent professional advice and support for managers and users of public land

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An Excursion to Ramsar Sites

No, we're not going to Ramsar itself. It's at the opposite end of Iran from the Strait of Hormuz, but nevertheless we're keeping well away.

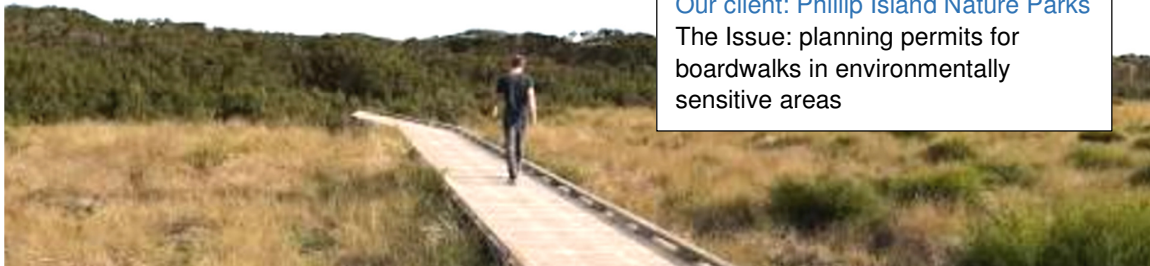


Port Phillip foreshore, Altona Meadows

Habitat for 300 bird species
Our client: [Cheetham Salt P/L](#)
The Issue: Public risk management in remote areas

Churchill Island, Western Port

Habitat for bar-tailed godwit, red-necked stint, and whimbrel.
Our client: [Phillip Island Nature Parks](#)
The Issue: planning permits for boardwalks in environmentally sensitive areas



Kangaroo Lake and Lake Charm

Habitat for 77 bird species
Our client: [Gannawarra Shire](#)
The Issue: reconfiguration of road reserves affecting stormwater runoff



The Public Land Consultancy provides advice on governance of, and policy relating to, Crown land and other public land. The Public Land Consultancy is not a legal practice and its reports are not and should not be regarded as legal advice. The Public Land Consultancy will, on request, arrange legal advice for clients from its various legal associates.

Two additions to our suite of Professional Development Courses

Risk Management on Public Land



PRESENTER

Michael Beasley

LLB (Monash), B Econ (Monash)

Michael has over 40 years of experience in relation to liability claims and litigation involving public authorities and risk management

Matters addressed in this course

- The Risk: Injury to the Public
- The Insurance Industry
- Road and Traffic Accidents
- The Risk: Workplace Injury
- The Risk: Loss of your Assets
- Managing Risk

Some case law discussed in this course

- Gosling v Great Ocean Road Committee
- DPP v VicRoads and Downer
- Hart v Beaumaris Football Club
- Pyrenees Shire Council v Day
- Nugent v Victorian TAC
- Brodie v Singleton Council
- Clarke v Shepparton Council

Climate Change for Public Land Managers



PRESENTER

Rod Anderson

Until recently Rod was a Regional Manager for DEECA. He has extensive experience in environmental and ecosystem policy and programs, particularly integration of climate change into land and resource

Session 1 Overview -

- International and National context
- Victorian State Policy and legislation
- The role of Local Governments

Session 2 Adapting to the changing climate

- Climate projections, and impacts
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Dealing with the uncertainty
- Adaptation Action Plans
- Regional Adaptation Strategies
- The Adaptation Pathways approach

Session 3 Putting it all Together

- Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigation
- Energy sources
- Transition to a net-zero society
- Putting it all together
- What it means for Parks & Reserves, Roads & Streets, Waterways

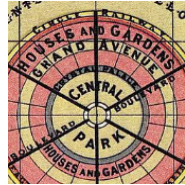
Forthcoming presentations of these courses – see Page 4

The Public Land Consultancy acknowledges that our core work relates to the lands of Victoria's Traditional Owners. We promote recognition of Indigenous rights through study, policy and the law.

Professional Development August to November 2026

*NOTE: some presentations are 2 sessions, each of 3 hours.
Others are 3 sessions, each of 2 hours duration*



	Roads Governance In Person (Bendigo) 4 August 9 am to 4 pm David Gabriel-Jones		Property Law and Planning 4 & 5 August 10 am to 1 pm Lydia Eastwood (Principal, Redman Lynch lawyers)
	The Law relating to Vegetation 1, 2, 3 September 10 am to 12 pm Matt Looby (Director, Biosis)		Roads Governance 1, 2, 3 September 10 am to 12 pm David Gabriel-Jones
	Leases and Licences of Public Land 1, 2, 3 September 10 am to 12 pm Richard O'Byrne		Crown Land Governance 15, 16, 17 September 10 am to 12 pm David Gabriel-Jones
	Climate Change for Public Land Managers 6, 7, 8 October 10 am to 12 pm Rod Anderson		Risk Management for Public Land Managers 13 & 14 October 10 am to 1 pm Michael Beasley (Beasley & Associates)
	Land Law and Subdivisions 20 & 21 October 10 am to 1 pm Mark Bartley (Russell Kennedy Lawyers)	How our retainers work... Your authorised staff call us whenever they need our advice. We keep a log of time committed and send you a quarterly invoice against your purchase order. <i>It's a service being taken up by metropolitan and provincial councils. If it interests you, please call David on (03)9534 5128</i>	

Cost:

\$550 including GST, course notes and certificate of attendance

Accreditation:

These courses are eligible for CPD points for lawyers, planners, valuers, and surveyors.

Registrations:

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