



Friday 19 August 2022

Circular Head Council supports Ramsar nomination for Robbins Passage

At their monthly meeting last night, Circular Head Council agreed to support a nomination to list the Robbins Passage – Boullanger Bay (RPBB) wetlands under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

The nominating parties comprise the Cradle Coast Authority, the University of Tasmania and BirdLife Tasmania.

The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Under the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:

- Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands
- Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List) and ensure their effective management
- Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.

In Australia, Ramsar sites are protected by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) meaning that the Commonwealth funds protection and enhancement of these sites. There are 66 Ramsar sites in Australia, 10 in Tasmania, and only one other in the Cradle Coast region: the Lavinia Ramsar Site on King Island.

The environment of the RPBB wetlands meets at least six of the nine criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance. In addition to the formal criteria, the wetlands have significant natural, cultural, social and economic values.

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Circular Head Mayor Daryl Quilliam said “There are benefits that come with Ramsar listing, including enhanced tourism interest in the area and additional opportunities for funding of activities that improve and protect the ecological character of the wetlands. In this case, these activities could include water quality improvement activities in the catchments of the wetlands.

Aside from protecting the unique natural environment that this wetlands provides, Ramsar listing will also provide improved branding opportunities for companies that border the site.

It is also important to note that access is not affected. The community would still be able to carry out the activities that are important to them.” Said Mayor Quilliam.

The State government reviews and endorses the nomination documentation and submits it to the Australian Government for formal review. The nomination process is likely to take between 12-18 months.

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