

Media Release

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SIGNIFICANT NEW WETLANDS PARK CREATED NEAR LEETON

A significant new wetlands park has been created near Leeton in the Riverina.

The general manager of Crown Lands, Graham Harding, said the park would form part of an internationally recognised wetlands area that provides a habitat for 20,000 water birds and 20 endangered and threatened species.

“This new park, with an area of 700 hectares, will be known as the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands Reserve.

“The reserve is recognised under the Ramsar Convention - an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

“The Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands Reserve is of international importance as it supports endangered or threatened water birds.

“The creation of this reserve is vital to protect the wetlands and it recognises the area’s environmental significance in safeguarding water birds and other species,” Graham said.

“The new Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands reserve will have a trust manager who will be supported by an advisory committee that will assist in mapping out the reserve’s strategic direction.

“The advisory committee will include government and other agencies representatives along with members of the community.

“The local community members are Terry McGrath and Keith Hutton and there will be a representative from the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists.

“The government and other agencies include Crown Lands division of the Department of Primary Industries, Leeton Shire Council, Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council, Charles Sturt University, Murrumbidgee Irrigation and the Office of Environment and Heritage.

“Additionally, there will be a representative from Leeton High School for the Department of Education and Training,” Graham said.

Editors note: the Ramsar Convention is formally known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. It is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It is named Ramsar after the Iranian town where the convention was adopted in 1971. Refer: www.ramsar.org

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