

HBOC Conservation Policy

An important aim of the Hunter Bird Observers Club is,

To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat.

There are many important reasons for wild bird conservation:

- The maintenance and understanding of bio diversity.
- The preservation of an enormous, valuable and largely unstudied genetic resource.
- Wild bird behaviour provides a valuable educational resource.
- Wild birds are an integral part of ecosystems and cannot be studied in isolation.
- Wild birds are important indicators of environmental change and provide valuable data upon which ecological theory and conservation management depends.
- Wild birds provide immense, largely cost free pleasure for people worldwide.
- Wild birds provide a spiritual dimension to the lives of many people.
- Wild birds provide the basis for a hobby that is of scientific, ethical, physical and aesthetic value.
- Wild birds are beautiful in their own right and should be protected for this reason.

HBOC Conservation Action

- **The membership of HBOC is its most important resource, and includes many people with expert and specialist knowledge of wild birds, their habitats and their conservation needs, as well as those with experience and skills in other fields. HBOC encourages all of its members to use their talents and their commitment to promote conservation by voicing their concerns, providing advice and recommendations and being active participants in projects that contribute to the effective conservation of wild birds.**
- HBOC will concentrate (but not necessarily limit) its conservation activities to the Hunter Region.
- HBOC will seek to identify current and/or potential threats to wild bird populations. This undertaking may include (but not be limited to)
 1. The monitoring of the conservation status of a particular species, population or habitat.
 2. The accumulation of scientific data.
 3. The support of researches that increases human understanding and appreciation of the ecology of wild birds.
- HBOC aims to take a pro-active role in conservation issues that impact on wild birds. HBOC involvement in these issues may include (but not be limited to)
 1. Lobbying official bodies.
 2. Examining and commenting on Development Applications and Environmental Impact Statements.
 3. Seeking legislative protection, preservation and management of wild birds.
 4. Supporting existing local, national and international strategies, agreements and treaties that aim to help the conservation of wild birds.
 5. Developing and publishing additional conservation strategies and policies to suit local needs.
 6. Raising public awareness through education and publicity of conservation needs and values.
 7. Cooperating with and supporting other organisations involved with wild bird conservation.
 8. Supporting rehabilitation and management of wild bird habitats.