

Addendum to the Western Drainage Scheme Operational Management Plan. July 2017

This addendum addresses changes to management practices regarding the timing and location of weed clearance in regard to the jacana (*Irediparra gallinacea*). Currently, one of the Western Drainage Scheme Operational Management Plan's (OMP) primary objectives is:

- To provide management protocols based upon best practice procedures that minimise operational impacts upon local wildlife, in particular the habitat requirements of the Comb-crested Jacana.

A major protocol of the OMP for the purpose of protecting the species is to restrict weed clearing to outside the jacana breeding season: August – October.

A survey of the WDS for jacana was undertaken in April 2017, with findings and recommendations written into a report (Hannah and Lollback 2017). The following recommendations will be incorporated into the OMP:

- Weeds and sediment could be cleared from any section of the WDS at any time given:
 - A survey for jacana is conducted within the area to be cleared to ensure that there is no jacana nesting or raising chicks within the area to be cleared. This survey should occur 0-3 days before clearing commences;
 - If jacana are found to be nesting or raising chicks within the area to be cleared, WDS maintenance within this area should not occur until the birds have left.
- Annual monitoring of jacana in autumn is recommended to understand the effects of a habitat management approach and would include habitat mapping using aerial photos in addition to counts of birds.

These recommendations will override any contradicting action within the current OMP.

Reference

Hannah, D. and Lollback, G W. (2017). Jacana survey in the Western Drainage Scheme, Banora: April 2017. Tweed Shire Council, Murwillumbah, NSW.