Biological Survey of Tilley Swamp

Stewart, H. J., van Weenan, J., Croft, T., Carpenter, G. and Matthew, J. (1998). *A Biological Survey of Tilley Swamp, South Australia in December 1996*. Biological Survey and Research, Heritage and Biodiversity Division, Department of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

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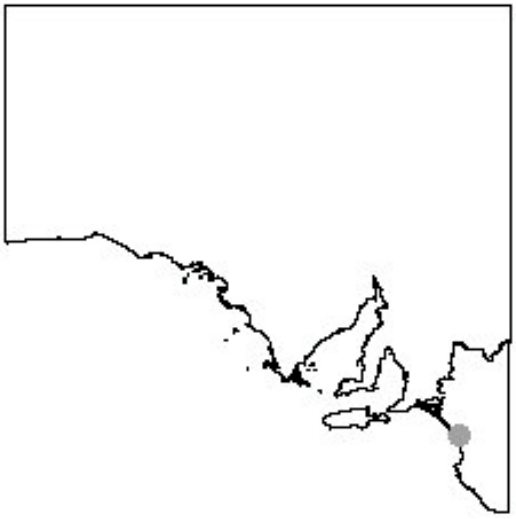

Summary:

A ten day survey of the vegetation and vertebrate fauna of the Tilley Swamp watercourse was undertaken in December 1996. This resulted in the recognition of:

- 10 floristic plant communities containing 227 plant species (41 introduced);
- 19 mammal species (8 introduced);
- 107 bird species (5 introduced);
- 17 species of reptile and 4 species of frogs.

11 species of plant, 2 plant communities, 3 species of mammal and 26 bird species of conservation significance were recorded during the present survey. In addition, a further 53 plant species and 9 bird species have been recorded in the study area previously. Although currently not recognised, the Tilley Swamp watercourse contains several populations of plants, mammals and birds of conservation significance. It is therefore worthy of inclusion in the register of important wetlands of South Australia, and as such can be considered an area of high conservation value.

As part of the Upper South East Dryland Salinity and Flood Management Plan (1993) several drainage scenarios have been proposed for the central catchment in the Upper South East of South Australia. The drainage options range from allowing natural watercourses to receive greater volumes of moderately saline water than present before periodic releases into the Coorong; to plans that would see the watercourse being used as an extensive pondage area, containing much greater volumes of relatively saline water. The latter option would result in permanent ponding of parts of the watercourse up to 2 m deep. The exact route of the drain and the nature of the drain (ie. whether it will carry water from a deep groundwater drain or a surface drain) have not been specified. This survey and report has therefore dealt with the full spectrum of drainage options and their potential biological impacts in general terms. The biological impacts of the 3 options outlined can be found in the “Conclusions and Recommendations” section.