



# Disappearing Urban Wetlands: A Case Study of Pipidinnny Swamp

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**RSWA Vice-President**

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Hugo will explore the effects of drought, urbanisation and climate change on Pipidinnny Swamp, located 50km north of Perth. Urban wetlands are among the most threatened environments in Australia. In particular, the Perth Region has lost more than 80% of its wetlands to urban development and agriculture. Of those remaining many are badly degraded and continue to be threatened by changes to water habitats, water depth and water quality. Pipidinnny Swamp has been substantially modified in parts due to a long history of private ownership, however in recent years it has been incorporated within Yanchep National Park. Little baseline information is available for this wetland, and as a consequence there is much to be learnt about its ecological significance. Normally, Pipidinnny Swamp contains shallow water on a seasonal basis. In the past decade, however, the combined effects of below average rainfall and increased regional groundwater abstraction have resulted in the disappearance of these seasonal wetland conditions. Successional changes in vegetation communities, as well as other ecological impacts, are likely to be magnified over the longer term with climate change. Urban wetlands, such as Pipidinnny Swamp, have a national and international importance when considered as part of a broader network of habitats that are protected by state, national and international wetlands policy agreements.

**Members, Guests and Public All Welcome**

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