



I work for the environment

Find out what wetlands and rivers conservation officer Tim Hosking loves best about his work at OEH.

What I do

My work is all about improving the health of wetlands in north and north-west NSW.

I am currently working in the Macquarie catchment, helping to maintain the iconic Macquarie Marshes, the Macquarie River and nearby wetland systems.

A key part of my work is the management of water for the environment. I run a collaborative community-government decision making committee and take part in monitoring and reporting about the state of the catchment.

It's a job I take very seriously because the river and the Marshes are such important parts of the environment for the community. It is also very satisfying personally to be able to do something that directly improves the environment.



Who inspired me

I developed a love for the environment from an early age during fishing and birdwatching trips with my family. As a teenager I also joined a volunteer environmental organisation – the Dubbo Field Naturalist and Conservation Society – and met many passionate people with a great knowledge and love for a healthy natural environment. As a birdo, wetlands are always sensational places to visit!



Where I studied

I grew up in Dubbo, NSW, and opted for a regional, multi-disciplinary university education. I undertook a Bachelor of Environmental Engineering and Natural Resources (combined, with honours) at the University of New England, Armidale, followed by some postgraduate study in urban and regional planning. I feel being a generalist has helped me deal with the range of challenges wetlands and water management tend to throw at people.

Things I've done

My role has taken me around NSW to some of our best wetlands, which has been fascinating. I get to fly in a helicopter every year to check for water spread and nesting waterbirds, and visit many places that are not open to the public. The ability to get directly involved with the watering of wetlands is always notable. You never get the same results twice which keeps you on your toes!

People I've met

Working with an iconic system like the Macquarie Marshes means that we get politicians and high-level government staff visiting, and we take them around the Marshes where we can. What is equally memorable to me is working with the wider group of great people who look out for places like the Macquarie Marshes, whether they are government staff, landholders, Aboriginal community members or otherwise, and meeting a broad range of interesting people involved in water management more generally in the catchment.



Best bits

The best bits of my work are nearly always outside. To see some areas of the Macquarie Marshes in the floods of 2010 and 2016, and monitoring the few precious colonies with many thousands of nesting birds, is something I'll not forget. Some of the kayaking trips have been highlights. Spending time in the landscape with people who are passionate about wetlands is often one of the most rewarding experiences. Wetlands are complex – they challenge people to think outside the square. I spend a lot of time talking to landholders, community members, water user groups, science researchers or other government agencies.

Find out more at www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Photos:

Page 1: Tim Hosking in the Bora Channel, northern Macquarie Marshes, spring 2016, N Brookhouse.

Golden-headed Cisticola (*Cisticola exilis*), D Love/OEH.

Page 2: Wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax*), D Herasimtschuk/OEH. Wetland view, D Herasimtschuk/OEH.