

Lake Amadeus and Lake Neale

Location and Description

Lake Amadeus and Lake Neale are located about 275 km south-west of Alice Springs, and are part of a chain of saline lakes that extends 500 km from Lake Hopkins in Western Australia to the Finke River in the southern NT. The lakes are inundated episodically but Lake Amadeus is a major discharge area for the central Australian groundwater system and contains several springs. The lakes comprise extensive salt pans and are surrounded by numerous smaller lakes. The lake beds are mostly bare with fringing areas of samphire.

Tenure and Land Use

The lakes are predominantly Aboriginal freehold land held by three Aboriginal land trusts (Petermann, Katiti and Haasts Bluff). A small portion on the western end of the Site is pastoral leasehold land (Curtin Springs). The main land use within the Site is Indigenous.

Significance Rating

National Significance

Ecological Values

Lake Amadeus is the largest brine lake that is entirely within the Northern Territory, and it supports several reliable springs. Six threatened species are recorded from the Site including one plant (quandong), three birds (Emu, Malleefowl and Princess Parrot), and two mammals (Brush-tailed Mulgara and Sandhill Dunnart). Islands within Lake Amadeus and hollow-bearing trees are likely to be significant for nesting birds during periods of inundation.

Management Issues

The increase in the number of camels is of greatest concern. Otherwise, the ecological values of this Site are poorly known, as are the processes affecting those values.

Condition

No information located.

Current Conservation Initiatives

No information located.

