



THREATS

In August 2020, well-known Urangan Osprey, Queenie, was snagged and pierced in her chest by a double gang fishhook. Despite undergoing emergency surgery, she died from her injuries.

On the Fraser Coast the most prevalent threat is entanglement in fishing tackle. In recent years, several Ospreys have died from injuries sustained by becoming entangled in fishing tackle which was incorrectly disposed of.

Eastern Ospreys face a number of threats, including coastal development resulting in the loss of large nesting trees and runoff and pollution of waterways which impacts their feeding areas.

CONSERVATION

To help conserve and protect the Ospreys of the Fraser Coast, please ensure fishing tackle is correctly disposed of. Fraser Coast Regional Council has provided tackle bins in various locations around the Fraser Coast, including the Urangan Pier and the boat ramps at Marroom, Toogoom and Burrum Heads.

- ✓ Dispose of used fishing line in the tackle bins provided, or take it home and bin it.
- ✓ Pick up and responsibly dispose of any discarded fishing line and other tackle you find.
- ✓ Encourage others to do the same.
- ✗ **DON'T CUT THE LINE!**
Any animal entangled in fishing line will need to be carefully pulled to shore so the hook and / or line can be removed, and its injuries properly assessed.
- ✓ Call for assistance and advice. Hooked or entangled wildlife often have injuries or trauma that aren't always obvious. A thorough examination by an experienced carer or vet is always recommended.

Animal Hotlines



RSPCA
1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)

Department of Environment and Science (DES)
1300 130 372

(for sick, injured or dead marine mammals and turtles)

Find Out More!



Postal address:
PO Box 1943,
Hervey Bay, QLD, 4655



Phone: 1300 79 49 29
Fax: (07) 4197 4455



enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au



[/FraserCoastRegionalCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/FraserCoastRegionalCouncil)



[@FraserCoastRegionalCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/FraserCoastRegionalCouncil)



[@FraserCoastRegionalCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/FraserCoastRegionalCouncil)



www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Respecting our
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

EASTERN OSPREY

(*Pandion haliaetus cristatus*)

Discover • Connect • Conserve



Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Eastern Osprey



The Eastern Osprey is a large and graceful fishing hawk. They can grow between 50-65 cm in length, with a wingspan of 145-170 cm. Females are typically larger than males, with females weighing up to 1.9 kg and males 1.1 kg.

Eastern Ospreys are easily distinguished from other species by their white head and body, and brown colouration on their back and wings. There is a dark stripe across their eye and ear, and females have dark brown mottling on their chest.

Chest mottling on males is either sparse or completely absent. Mature Eastern Ospreys have yellow eyes.

Juveniles have a similar appearance to adults; however, their brown feathers have whitish-coloured edges. They also have yellowish-brown colouration at the base of their neck, which fades with age. The colour of their iris is darker than that of the adults and are yellow orange in colour, becoming yellow as they mature.

Did you know?

Ospreys have a third eyelid (called a nictitating membrane) which closes across their eye from front to back. When they dive into water during hunting, this eyelid is closed. It is semi-transparent and helps them to see beneath the water, a bit like wearing a pair of goggles.

HABITAT

Ospreys are generally found in coastal areas, particularly where mangroves, estuaries, mudflats and inshore coastal islands are located. They can also often be seen around wetlands, lakes, lagoons and the mouths of rivers, occasionally following major rivers hundreds of kilometres inland.

In Australia, Eastern Ospreys are found in all States and Territories, though rare visitors to Victoria and Tasmania.



DIET

Eastern Ospreys diet is almost exclusively fish, which they tear into bite sized pieces.

They will occasionally feed on crustaceans, insects, reptiles birds, and mammals when fish are scarce. Ospreys are diurnal hunters, catching their food during the day.

When searching for food, Ospreys will soar or circle high above while scanning the water below. Once a prey item is located, an Osprey will dive down with both their head and feet forward. Depending on how deep the fish is, the Osprey may either remain above the surface and snatch it from just below the water using their sharp talons, or completely submerge themselves (often up to one metre) to capture their prey. They then use their powerful wings to pull themselves up and out of the water.

Did you know?

Ospreys close their nostrils when they dive!



BREEDING

Eastern Ospreys typically mate for life and return to the same nest for multiple years. Nests are constructed with sticks and lined with seaweed and grass. Both males and females help in nest building.

Clutches of 2-4 white eggs with brown blotches are laid by the female and incubated by both sexes. Incubation takes between 33-43 days. The young fledge (develop feathers for flight) and leave the nest between seven and eleven weeks after hatching. After fledging, juveniles will often return to the nest for up to two months, looking for food.

Did you know?

Ospreys have oily plumage. This is useful during hunting and diving, as water is unable to penetrate their feathers. This allows them to fly when they are wet.

Did you know?

Ospreys have reversible toes! Normally, they have three toes in front and one at the back of their foot. When hunting, Ospreys have the ability to move one of their front toes to the back to provide a better grip when holding onto their prey.