

What is Coastal Saltmarsh?



Coastal Saltmarsh is the name given to a particular group of plants that grow together on the tidal flats and edges of estuaries and **Intermittently Closed and Open Lakes or Lagoons (ICOLLS)**.

It's made up of salt-tolerant, grasses, sedges and succulent herbs.

For more information

To become a Bushcare volunteer, and contribute to protecting our unique environment, contact the Shoalhaven Bushcare Coordinator, bushcare@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au or 4429 3592 or visit www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushcare



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Bridge Road, Nowra NSW 2541
P: (02) 4429 3111 | council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au  



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Protecting our Coastal Saltmarshes



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Identifying Coastal Saltmarsh

Some common plants found in Coastal Saltmarsh communities:



Creeping Brookweed
(*Samolus repens*)

Beaded Glasswort
(*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*)



Sea Rush
(*Juncus kraussii*)

Saltwater Couch
(*Sporobolus virginicus*)



Austral Seablite
(*Suaeda australis*)

Why is Coastal Saltmarsh important?

- It protects water quality because it acts as a filter for urban runoff. This reduces the amount of nutrients and sediment entering lakes and rivers.
- It protects foreshores from erosion by trapping and binding sediments. This also assists in the process of land building.
- It's an important food source for juvenile fish, crustaceans, birds and bats.
- It provides habitat for marine and terrestrial organisms, which are themselves endangered and protected.

Coastal Saltmarsh is an Endangered Ecological Community and is protected by NSW legislation.

Threats to Coastal Saltmarsh

In the past Coastal Saltmarsh was extensively filled in for development.

Current threats include damage by vehicles, mowing, dumping of rubbish and garden waste, weed invasion, boating activities, building jetties, trampling and grazing by domestic animals.

How you can help

- Do not mow or walk on Coastal Saltmarsh
- Do not drive on Coastal Saltmarsh
- Only use designated boat ramps, walking tracks and lake / river access points
- Keep dogs on leash
- Do not dump garden waste
- Join a local Bushcare Group to learn more and help protect local vegetation.

What is Council doing to protect Coastal Saltmarsh?

Shoalhaven City Council protects Saltmarsh through

- Installing vehicle barriers such as the one below at Lake Wollumboola



- Establishing 'no mow' zones
- Installing educational signage such as the one below at Burrill Lake



- Supporting the Bushcare program, in which volunteers restore and protect all kinds of vegetation in natural areas, including Coastal Saltmarsh
- Implementing Council's Foreshore Policy and Natural Areas Plan of Management, which include the protection of endangered plant communities such as Coastal Saltmarsh.
- Resourcing Ranger patrols at sensitive locations