

# AN UNDERAPPRECIATED ECOSYSTEM ...

**Subtropical & Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh is listed as a threatened ecological community (TEC) across Australia.**

It is characterised by a dense understory of samphires and sedges, with a few scattered she-oak trees. Coastal saltmarsh occurs around estuaries and saltwater lagoons that have connection with the sea.

## THREATS TO SALTMARSH

- **Direct impacts:** driving or walking over vegetation kills saltmarsh plants and prevents regrowth.
- **Weeds:** invasive weeds like couch and spiny rush take over and reduce diversity and ecosystem health.
- **Litter:** rubbish from land and sea contaminates saltmarsh inhabitants reducing their health.
- **Altered hydrology:** earthworks, including artificially opening the bar, disrupt natural water flows leading to habitat loss.
- **Development:** filling in saltmarsh for housing means there is even less of this threatened plant community.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Avoid stepping on saltmarsh plants:** heed signs and keep to designated paths.
- **Prevent the spread of weeds:** clean your muddy boots that can spread weed seeds to new locations, don't dump garden waste.
- **Take it home:** take all your rubbish home with you, especially fishing line and plastic bags.
- **Leave the shovel at home:** don't open the estuary bar just for kicks, let it drain and fill naturally
- **Appreciate our wilderness:** there is less all the time, learn to love what we still have.



Beaded Samphire, a distinctive coastal saltmarsh plant.



Australian Government

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and NACC NRM, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partner's panel.



# Coastal Saltmarsh

A THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY



# Saltmarsh Ecosystem

