

Restoring mangroves and saltmarsh



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Saltmarsh and mangroves occur naturally in tidal areas at the mouth of the Brisbane River. Five species of mangroves are found here together with 15 species of saltmarsh (low growing and salt tolerant succulants, grasses and sedges).

In addition to protecting the land from coastal erosion and storms, mangroves and salt marsh are also an essential source of food for many marine animals and are home to many birds, crabs and marine creatures.

Revitalising the mouth of the Brisbane River

The mouth of the Brisbane River is the Port entry to the City of Brisbane. Across from the Port, is an area known as Myrtle town, once a semi-rural residential area that is now a mix of natural and industrial areas.

Although now heavily developed with a number of factories, the area is still home to a beautiful stretch of mangroves and saltmarsh that sit between the river and factories.

These areas are a valuable asset for Brisbane and also provide great recreational value for fishers, outdoor recreationalists, bird watchers and walkers.



A Black Wing Stilt's nest and eggs in salt marsh at the mouth of the Brisbane River.



Salt marsh and mangroves between industry and the Brisbane River at Myrtle town. (Source: Nearmap)

Innovative solutions

Healthy Land & Water has been working to restore an important stretch of mangroves and saltmarsh that had been degraded by unmanaged vehicle use, wave action and illegal dumping.

Long term solution

The starting point in salt marsh and mangrove regeneration is to remove the forces that are causing the degradation.

Large rocks were used to demarcate the inter-tidal zone and prevent further uncontrolled entry by vehicles to allow regeneration of the salt marsh.

A car park was built with dedicated walking tracks to the water's edge.

The next step was to help protect the river bank from wave forces, by constructing rock groynes and rock beaching in the most susceptible areas.

A range of techniques have been used to establish saltmarsh mangroves and seedlings and encourage natural regeneration.



Rock groynes and rock beaching were constructed in the most susceptible areas.



Large rocks were used to demarcate the intertidal zone and prevent vehicle access to give the mangroves and saltmarsh a chance to recover.



Mangrove seed collected from the mouth of the Brisbane River (left) and two months after planting (centre). Mangrove and saltmarsh tube stock ready for planting (right).



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