

# For everyone!



## Marine Life

Tidal wetlands support an array of marine life at various stages of their life cycle.



## Ruby Saltbush

Common succulent plant found in salt-marsh below Highest Astronomical Tide.



## Sea Purslane

Common succulent plant often growing as mats or carpets in sunny exposed areas.



## Salt Couch

Many small animals (snails, crabs, shrimp etc.) shelter in Salt Couch which is found above Highest Astronomical Tide.

## Want to know more?

Support material, including fact sheets, are available from these web sites:

- [www.4x4training.com.au](http://www.4x4training.com.au)
- [www.bmrg.org.au](http://www.bmrg.org.au)
- [www.deedi.qld.gov.au](http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au)



*This Code of Practice is supported by the Burnett Mary Regional Group, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.*

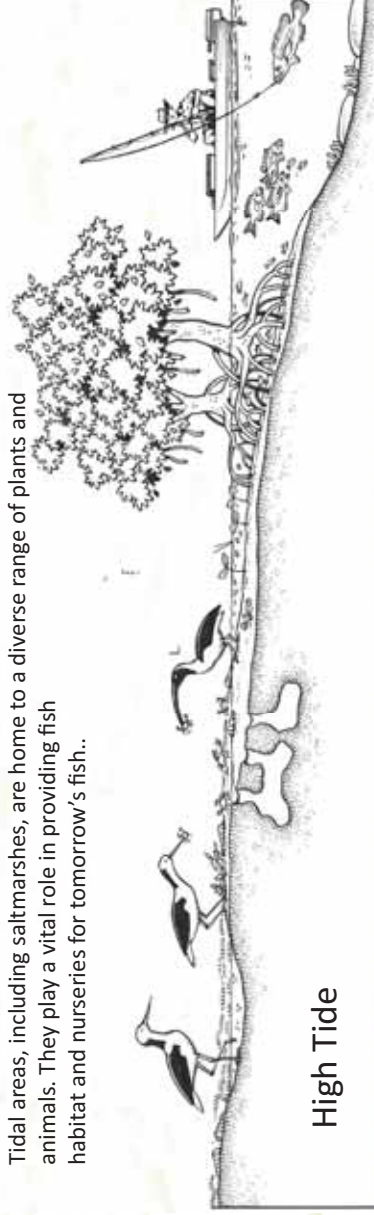
*...with special thanks to steering group members and Radium Television Productions.*



Planning for a great day in  
Tidal Wetlands!

# Mudflat or Habitat?

Tidal areas, including saltmarshes, are home to a diverse range of plants and animals. They play a vital role in providing fish habitat and nurseries for tomorrow's fish..



High Tide

## A Lasting Impression

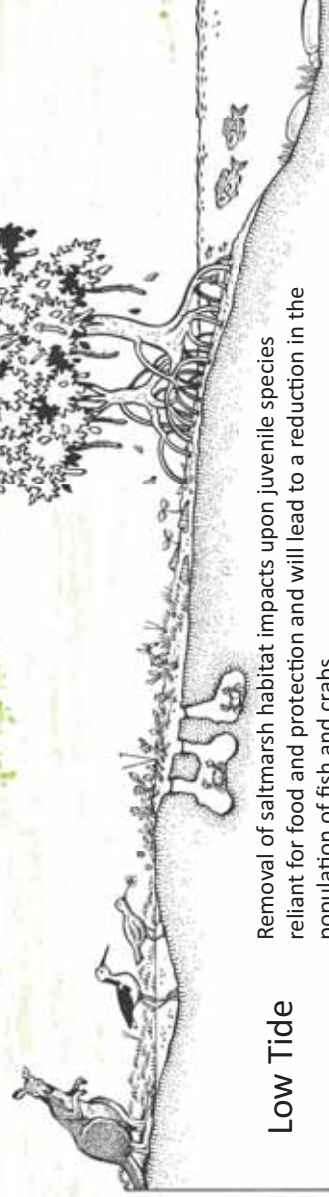
The survival of saltmarsh plants and the animals who depend on these habitats require the regular inundation of sea water. A single vehicle driven across a 'mudflat' or saltmarsh causes damage including:

- ✘ **Visible depressions** leaving fish stranded at low tide where they may die. This also creates stagnant pools where mosquitoes breed.
- ✘ **Breaks in the continuity** of vegetation and disruption of tidal flows and connectivity with the sea.
- ✘ **Surface compaction**-crushing creatures like crabs, or making the ground too hard to burrow into or to grow plants.
- ✘ **Physical damage to plants** which provide the breeding habitat animals need to complete their lifecycles.

## Treading Lightly

Some small but significant behaviour changes we can make to minimise our lasting impacts;

- ✓ Identify the beginning of saltmarsh, fish habitats and protected areas such as Fish Habitat Areas (FHA) and National Parks.
- ✓ In some places formed tracks may cross saltmarsh at low tide. Drivers should stay on these tracks. Going off track, for whatever reason, puts strain on the saltmarsh environment.
- ✓ Plan your access and exit points to creeks, rivers and beaches to avoid saltmarsh areas.
- ✓ If accessing an inlet or estuary for fishing or crabbing, leave your vehicle on ground above tidal limits and walk in.



Low Tide

Removal of saltmarsh habitat impacts upon juvenile species reliant for food and protection and will lead to a reduction in the population of fish and crabs.

