



# FRESHWATER WETLANDS ON COASTAL FLOODPLAINS

## Conservation Status

Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and the South East Corner bioregions are listed as endangered ecological communities under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

## Distribution

Freshwater wetlands are found along the coast of NSW in areas less than 20m above sea level on silts, muds and loams. They occur on floodplains where the soils are waterlogged. There can be permanent water, seasonal inundation or ephemeral/short-term waterlogging.

## Description

The structure and floristic composition of wetlands depends on tidal influence, salinity, depth of standing water and length of inundation. A mosaic of vegetation often occurs with areas dominated by taller reeds and bulrushes, smaller sedges/rushes and moisture-loving herbs and grasses. Open-water areas have water-plants such as Water Primrose, Water-milfoil and Water Ribbons. Open wetlands may integrate with swamp forest or shrubby communities.

In Fairfield the number of wetlands is increasing through the creation of stormwater retention basins.

## Where is it found in Fairfield

Fairfield City's original wetlands have been extensively drained for farming. In recent years the importance of these wetlands has been recognised for flood mitigation and flora and fauna biodiversity. Council has been restoring and reconstructing wetlands in the local area including De Freitas Wetland, Clarevale Wetlands, Cabramatta Wetlands, Stockdale Wetlands and Chipping Norton Lakes.

The Cabramatta wetlands is the largest freshwater wetland within the Georges River catchment and supports at least 45 different bird species.

## Threatened and regionally significant species

There are no listed threatened species occurring in this community although several regionally significant species are found including *Cladium procerum* (Leafy Twig-rush), *Carex fascicularis* (Tassel Sedge) and *Brasenia schreberi* (Watershield).





## SPECIES LIST

These species are typical species found within the community.

### Herbs

*Centipeda minima*  
*Eclipta platyglossa*  
*Eclipta prostrata*  
*Gratiola pedunculata*  
*Ranunculus inundatus*  
*Triglochin procera*

### Grasses

*Hemarthria uncinata*  
*Leersia hexandra*  
*Panicum obseptum*  
*Paspalum distichum*  
*Pseudoraphis spinescens*

### Floating Water Plants

*Azolla filiculoides* var. *rubra*  
*Azolla pinnata*  
*Lemna* spp.  
*Spirodella* spp.  
*Wolffia* spp.

### Shallow Aquatic

*Alisma plantago-aquatica*  
*Baumea articulata*  
*Baumea rubiginosa*  
*Bolboschoenus caldwellii*  
*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*  
*Carex appressa*  
*Cyperus lucidus*  
*Eleocharis acuta*  
*Eleocharis equisetina*  
*Eleocharis sphacelata*  
*Fimbristylis dichotoma*  
*Juncus polyanthemus*  
*Juncus usitatus*  
*Lepironia articulata*  
*Ludwigia peploides* subsp. *montevicensis*  
*Maundia triglochinoidea*  
*Persicaria attenuata*  
*Persicaria decipiens*  
*Persicaria hydropiper*  
*Persicaria lapathifolia*  
*Persicaria strigosa*  
*Philydrum lanuginosum*  
*Phragmites australis*  
*Schoenoplectus litoralis*  
*Schoenoplectus mucronatus*  
*Schoenoplectus validus*  
*Typha orientalis*

### Submerged Aquatic / rooted aquatics

*Brasenia schreiberi*  
*Ceratophyllum demersum*  
*Hydrilla verticillata*  
*Marsilea mutica*  
*Myriophyllum crispatum*  
*Myriophyllum latifolium*  
*Myriophyllum propinquum*  
*Myriophyllum variifolium*  
*Najas marina*  
*Najas tenuifolia*  
*Nymphoides geminata*  
*Nymphoides indica*  
*Ottelia ovalifolia*  
*Potamogeton crispus*  
*Potamogeton ochreateus*  
*Potamogeton perfoliatus*  
*Potamogeton tricarinatus*  
*Utricularia australis*  
*Vallisneria* spp.

#### References:

Department of Environment & Heritage (2014) Freshwater Wetlands threatened species profile.

James T (2015) Rare and Threatened flora of Fairfield Local Government area.