

Forming Partnerships, Taking Initiatives

Something can be done and together we can make a difference. Partnerships between Council and the Community in management of the reserve can lead to beneficial outcomes for both people and the environment. Following is a list of initiatives the Community can take to help in managing the reserve:

- Dispose of household and garden wastes thoughtfully and away from the wetland and sand island area.
- Limit the use of fertiliser in gardens (phosphates and nitrates help all vegetation grow).
- Form partnerships and support the Council in environmental management of the Reserve.
- Participate in initiatives to maintain and enhance the conservation values and integrity of the reserve. For example, tree planting activities, weed and rubbish clean up.

Benefits for the Environment

- A healthier environment and an improved habitat for the native wildlife.

- Enhancement of its conservation and aesthetic values.
- Enhancement of the diversity of flora and fauna.
- Ensuring the long-term survival of the wetland and sand island areas, for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Benefits for the Community

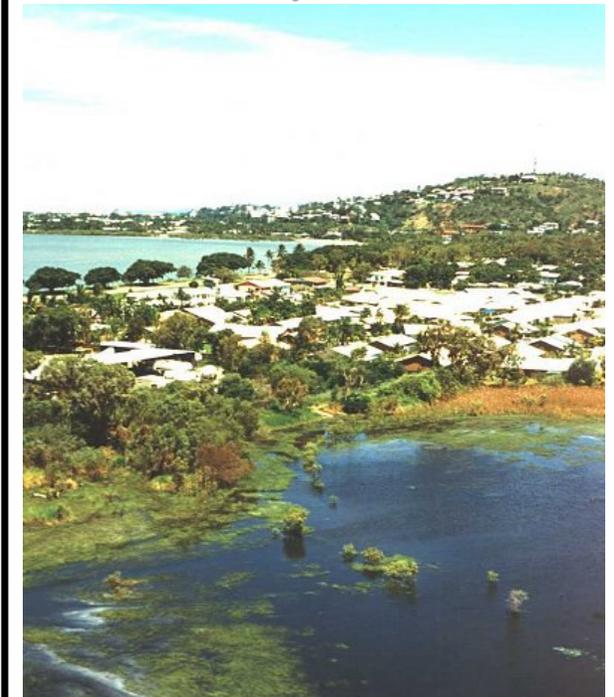
- An enhanced urban environment. A well maintained and protected wetland and sand island adds to the scenic beauty of the city, and can enhance property value.
- Beautiful scenery of the wetland and sand island is an attraction, allowing for recreational and relaxation activities. For example, bird watching, nature walks and photography. It also offers great eco-tourism opportunities, which can enhance the local economy.
- Coastal wetlands and the unique sand island also provide for great educational opportunities for field studies of plant and animal communities.

For further information, suggestions or feed-back, contact: Environmental Management Services, Townsville City Council, on (07) 4727 9310



Townsville City Council

Rowes Bay Reserve: wetland and sand island



(Rowes Bay Wetland)

**“Living in Harmony with the
Natural Environment: a reciprocal
relationship.”**

Conservation Values

The Rowes Bay Wetland and Sand Island Reserve is recognised as having high conservation values.

It represents the closest examples of intact beach scrub and sand island community in the Townsville urban environment.

Roles of Wetland and the Sand Island:

- **Productivity.** Wetland areas provide important organic material, which is food for fish and other animals. Wetlands also provide important nurseries for many fish species, and are habitat for mud crabs. Wetlands have both recreation and commercial fishery value.
- **Water and Soil management.** Coastal wetlands trap sediments and pollutants, preventing them from entering coastal waters, and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
- **Habitat.** The Rowes Bay Reserve provides an important habitat for water birds, migratory waders and local native wildlife as well as a habitat for Burdekin Plum (*Pleiogynium timorense*) and Red Condoe (*Mimusops Elengi*). Both plant species are locally significant.

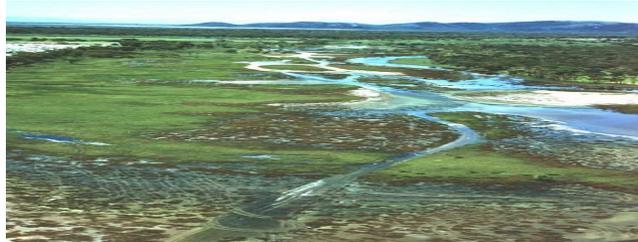
- **Landscape.** The reserve offers unique and beautiful panorama, which enhances the aesthetic values of the region. There are great opportunities for eco-tourism.

Threats to its Integrity

Due to its close proximity to urban areas and residential settlements, the reserve is prone to threats that can undermine its integrity.

There are direct threats, in which our activities within the wetland and sand island directly impinge on its values.

On the other hand, the area can also be affected by our use of the surrounding land and waterways draining into it.



(Aerial view of Rowes Bay Wetland)

Human Induced Threats

- Urban development and expansion. For example, residential development and gardens encroaching on the reserve.
- Careless disposal of household and garden wastes.
- Encroaching garden vegetation into the wetland and sand island areas. For example,

gardens, which extend into the boundary of the wetland.

- Excess nutrients (fertilisers) and overwatering, which can contribute to the growth of native bullrush and reeds.
- Water and soil pollution.
- Deliberate lighting of bush fires.
- Vandalism, which damages the natural vegetation and threatens native wildlife (e.g. illegal vehicle access and dumped cars).

(Mangroves in Rowes Bay Reserve)

