

Sydney Freshwater Wetlands

Classification:

Sydney Freshwater Wetlands

Conservation Status in NSW:

Endangered Ecological Community



SPECIAL NOTE: Sydney Freshwater Wetlands have been extensively cleared and filled for recreational purposes, such as playing fields, car parks and roads.

Description:

The Sydney Freshwater Wetlands vegetation communities are restricted to freshwater swamps in swales and depressions on sand dunes and low-nutrient sandplain sites in coastal areas. It is characterised by plant species able to survive in damp environments such as *Banksia robur*, *Callistemon citrinus*, *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and *Gahnia sieberiana*.

Habitat:

The Sydney Freshwater Wetlands are a mosaic community with considerable variation due to fluctuating water levels and seasonal conditions. This community provides habitat for various animal species of conservation significance including the Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*).

Threats:

Sydney Freshwater Wetlands have been extensively cleared and filled for recreational purposes, such as playing fields, car parks and roads. Remnant wetlands are threatened from illegal filling with commercial, industrial and residential waste, dumping and burning of stolen vehicles, sand extraction and clearing for urban development.

Other threats include urban rainwater run-off, off-road vehicles such as trail bikes, and weed invasions.

(NPWS, 2000)

Community Action:

Warringah residents can protect the remaining areas of Sydney Freshwater Wetlands by understanding the main threats to the community and how they can be avoided. Residents can assist by having a "bush friendly" garden which requires no additional fertilisers or heavy watering.

Residents are asked to stay on existing tracks to avoid any physical damage to the surrounding bush in reserves and to notify Council of any new disturbances such as rubbish dumping and clearing.