

# Coastal connections

## From you to the sea... and back again

### Woodlands to waterways

#### Forest filters ... clean water for all

Native plants along waterways slowly filter water, helping prevent soil erosion. Where rain falls on a healthy catchment, a balanced system thrives.

#### Drinking dinosaur water

Water we use has cycled over and over. Keep it clean for your next drink!

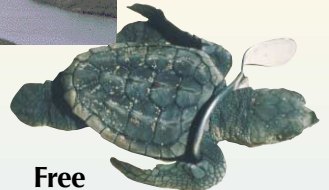
#### Be stormwater smart!

Pollutants and rubbish from our homes, farms and industry often end up in rivers and oceans — disrupting vital food chains, many of which we depend on.

*Take care of what goes into streams and stormwater drains.*



Treeless banks promote erosion



### Free of debris ... the way it should be

Some people think oceans are rubbish dumps. But many animals mistake rubbish for food — plastic bait bags for jellyfish and algae-covered cigarette butts for plants.

**Ring-shaped rubbish** may strangle growing fish, turtles and birds.

*Cut all rings ... but not life's cycles. Stow your rubbish ... don't throw it!*

### Fragile flats: handle with care

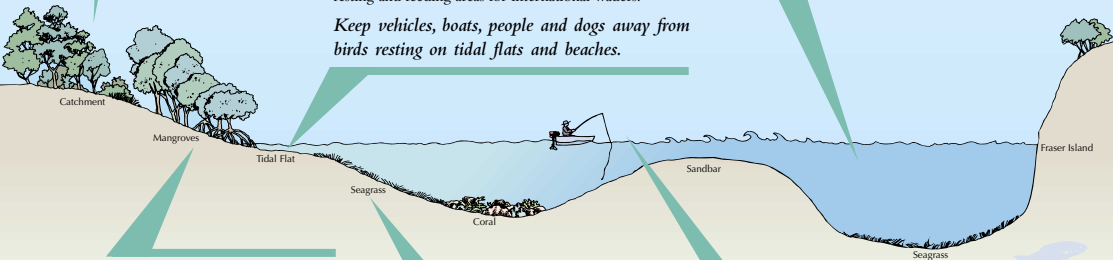
#### More than desolate wastelands

Plants and animals make their home on Great Sandy's tidal flats. Some plants take years to recover from footprints! ... let alone vehicle and boat impact.

#### Let them have a rest

Sand and mud flats important to local birds, are essential resting and feeding areas for international waders.

*Keep vehicles, boats, people and dogs away from birds resting on tidal flats and beaches.*



### Mangrove buffers protect our shores

They absorb the strength of wind and waves, trapping sediments and soaking up nutrients, promoting cleaner water offshore and nurturing young fish and crabs.

*Remember: mangroves are protected by law; do not remove or damage them.*



### Meadows of the sea

Seagrass and corals provide food and refuge for marine wildlife — dugong, turtles, dolphins, fish and hords of spineless little creatures. Seagrasses in shallow water are easily damaged by boat propellers, while anchors tear at coral.

*Go slow for those below ... when boating in shallow water.*



### Help keep it a great place to fish

Give them a chance to grow and breed. Before fishing, make sure you know bag limits and minimum and maximum lengths. Remember that fishing tackle carelessly discarded may entangle and kill other animals.

*Take only legal size fish in amounts you can eat. Release others straight away — they are food for other animals too.*

Seagrass damage from boats



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