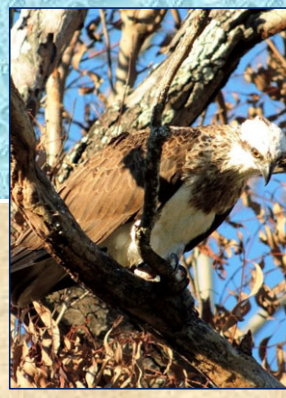


# Birds of Hays Inlet: The wetlands



The wetland areas of Hays inlet are dominated by mangroves and saltmarsh pans along with pastures of marine couch. The mangrove forests form a barrier along the foreshore and waterways. They provide habitat for invertebrates and fish as well as birdlife. The areas of saltmarsh lie adjacent to the mangroves. They are exposed to flooding in high spring and king tides and are characterised by herbaceous plants adapted to cope with high salinity and low levels of freshwater.

The saltmarsh vegetation provides feeding areas for gastropods and crustaceans and wading birds such as Ibis, Herons and Spoonbills take advantage of this bounty. The saltmarsh and mangrove areas also provide roosting sites for wading birds during high tides. The marine couch pastures are frequented by local mobs of kangaroos and swamp wallabies.