



Mangrove pneumatophores



Saltmarsh vegetation



Haswell's Shore Crab in Saltmarsh



Koala in Mangroves



Darter in intertidal flats

## The Habitats of Hays Inlet

The diagram above is a representation of the habitat types found in the Hays Inlet wetlands. They are all connected and contribute to the productivity of the surrounding marine environment. These habitats support a variety of wildlife including international waders and many of the local fish that ends up on our dinner plates. These habitats include:

- The **intertidal mudflats** which are a very productive area dominated by molluscs, crustaceans and worms.
- The **mangrove forest** which is able to contend with tidal inundation and soft unstable soils which are poor in oxygen. They provide habitat for invertebrates, birds and mammals and juvenile fish at high tide.
- The **saltmarsh** which is a very harsh area, characterised by high salt content from infrequent tidal inundation. Sedges and samphires provide cover for invertebrates including crabs and gastropods.
- **Casuarina** forest which is often associated with marine couch. Both species of plant can tolerate high salinity in the soil. This forest provides habitat for woodland birds, amphibians and reptiles and the couch provides food for wallabies and kangaroos.
- **Open Eucalypt** forest acts a buffer for the wetlands and provides habitat for birds, reptiles and mammals including the bats, possums, gliders and the koala.