



Carlton Estuary

Where River meets the Sea

A fragile coastal system where saltmarsh, seagrass, threatened plants and animals depend on clean water, connected habitat and careful use.

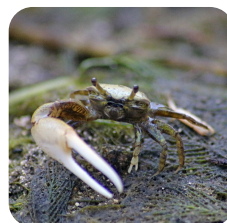
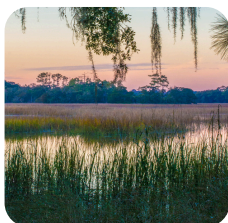
The estuary helps filter runoff, buffer erosion and provides habitat for birds, frogs, fish and estuarine invertebrates such as crabs, mussels, shrimps and planktons.

Why this place matters

Natural filter	Saltmarsh and riparian vegetation improve water quality.
Wildlife refuge	Mudflats and wetlands support birds, frogs and estuarine life.
Blue carbon	Saltmarsh stores carbon and strengthens coastal resilience to climate change.
Connected habitat	Foreshore buffers help keep wildlife corridors intact.
Ecotourism opportunities	The estuary is also a valued place for walking, paddling, fishing and enjoying nature.

⚠ Pressures on the estuary

- ✓ Population growth and hard surfaces can quickly send stormwater, sediment and pollutants into the estuary.
- ✓ Septic leakage, chemicals and nutrient runoff can worsen algal growth and water quality.
- ✓ Weeds, garden escapees and vegetation clearing can reduce native habitat value.



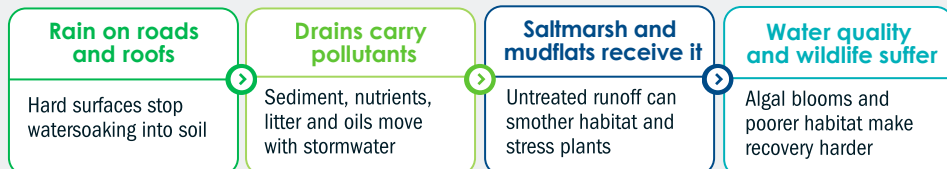
From street to estuary

Everyday choices can either protect or pressure the Carlton estuary.



How pollution reaches the estuary

Fast runoff from developed areas can carry sediment, nutrients, chemicals and litter through the drainage system.



Best practice: slow water down, let clean water soak in, keep pollutants out and leave saltmarsh edges vegetated.

Did you know?

A recent study suggests large amount of pollutants reach Carlton estuary each year

122 million litres

UNTREATED RUNOFF

19.8 tonnes

SEDIMENT

280 kg

NITROGEN

4.5 tonnes

RUBBISH

6 practical ways to help;

Simple actions at home and along the foreshore can reduce pressure on the estuary.

- 1 Think before pouring**
Keep oils, paint, medicines and chemicals out of drains.
- 2 Garden for the estuary**
Mulch, use fertiliser sparingly, choose native plants and keep clippings on site.
- 3 Stop weeds early**
Remove garden escapees and never dump green waste near beaches or wetlands.
- 4 Slow the runoff**
Use gravel, rain gardens and permeable paving where possible.
- 5 Maintain septic systems**
Inspect and repair failures early to reduce nutrient and bacteria risks.
- 6 Protect habitat and wildlife**
Avoid clearing or driving through saltmarsh, stay on tracks and control dogs near shorebirds.

Give saltmarsh room to move

- ✓ Avoid filling or hard edging wetland margins where possible.
- ✓ Keep foreshore buffers vegetated so saltmarsh can adapt as sea levels rise.
- ✓ Think long-term before removing dunes, native shrubs or wetland plants.

Things to consider

- ✗ Do not dump garden waste, soil or aquarium contents near drains or wetlands.
- ✗ Do not wash cars where soapy water runs to the street.
- ✗ Do not drain chlorinated pool water into stormwater.

Please scan for more information:

Natural Resource Management



About Saltmarsh

