

21/01/2004

Sue Chate
Executive Officer
NPWS NSW Scientific Committee
PO Box 1967,
Hurstville, NSW, 2220

Dear Sue,

I am writing to extend Healthy Cities Illawarra's (HCI) support for the National Parks and Wildlife Service NSW Scientific Committee's recommendation that salt marsh is listed as an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Act.

HCI has a history of environmental protection work including a dioxins project, radionuclide emissions research, public seminars and numerous bush regeneration projects. Living and working on the coast gives us an understanding of the importance of coastal salt marshes.

As outlined in the recommendation, coastal salt marshes are an undervalued ecosystem, home to terrestrial and marine fauna (including fish during tidal flooding), birds, and endangered flora species. The salt marsh environment is highly susceptible to waterborne pollution, littering and rubbish dumping, destruction through development and inappropriate recreational use, and weed infestation. The salt marshes in the Illawarra area are subject to all these adversities and need immediate protection.

The listing of salt marsh as an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Act is a crucial step to ensuring the protection and prevention of extinction of these ecosystems and Healthy Cities Illawarra unreservedly supports the NPWS NSW Scientific Committee recommendation that this occurs.

Sincerely,

Ben Grounds
Community Environmental Health Officer
Healthy Cities Illawarra