

Simple ways we can all help to look after foreshore public land in East Gippsland Shire

Know your property boundary

- Keep your garden within your property boundary. This includes plants, lawns, paths, sheds, barbecues, landscaping, compost, soil or gravel heaps, any garden waste or burning of this waste.

Support your community and protect the environment

- Keep pets under control.
- Help preserve Aboriginal cultural sites by reporting finds to Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. Do not disturb coastal shell middens or remove artefacts from sites.
- Get involved with Coastcare, Landcare, friends groups or Committees of Management.
- Let the authorities know if you see someone doing the wrong thing.

Grow a sustainable garden

- Dispose of garden waste appropriately such as in your green waste bin or by "solarising" weedy waste.
- Identify and learn about the plant species in your garden and know which ones are likely to be weeds.
- Incorporate native plants into your garden design.

More information

If you have questions about the management of Crown Land adjoining your property, the following organisations may also be able to provide information:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment, phone 136 186
- Department of Primary Industries, phone 136 186
- East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, phone (03) 5152 0600
- Parks Victoria, phone 13 1963

Information in this brochure has been collated with the assistance of Cradle Coast NRM

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Is Your Backyard Creeping?



How you can protect our coastal reserves





Is Your Backyard Creeping?

Who manages the foreshore?

Reserved for conservation, recreation or as public parks most foreshores that adjoin built-up areas in towns are managed by East Gippsland Shire Council.

Council is responsible for undertaking works, as well as enforcing the local laws to protect our foreshore reserves from “creeping backyards”.



Vegetation cleared to create a better view

Creeping beyond private boundaries

It may be tempting to clear vegetation to create a better view, or mow your lawn that little further to extend your boundary.

These “creeping backyards” are not just potentially illegal; they are one of the major causes of damage to our foreshores and coastline reserves.

Foreshores serve us all

We all want to enjoy East Gippsland’s magnificent lakes and coasts. Foreshore reserves are an important buffer to private land, set aside by early surveyors to protect our fragile coastline and lakes.

- Foreshore land protects private property from erosion and may be critical in the face of sea level rise.
- Foreshores provide recreational opportunities and access to the water.
- Native vegetation on the foreshore protects biological diversity, as well as providing important habitats for wildlife.
- Vegetation in coastal reserves can sometimes be the only local examples of a once extensive plant community.
- Many foreshore reserves contain evidence of use and habitation by Aboriginal people for thousands of years. Sites such as shell middens provide valuable information about Aboriginal use of the coast and can show the history of diet, behaviour and settlement over thousands of years.

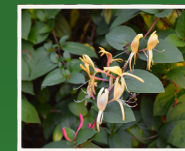
- Healthy coastal and estuarine landscapes have great scenic appeal, enhancing opportunities for tourism and a flourishing local economy.

Protecting our reserves—ask before you act

Permission must be obtained before you:

- Remove trees and any other modification to vegetation including planting, clearing shrubs, lopping branches, mowing and grazing.
- Build anything including fences, paths, access ways, slipways, boat sheds, boat ramps or jetties.
- Change the formation of the land in any way including using earthmoving equipment or undertaking drainage, reclamation or erosion protection works.

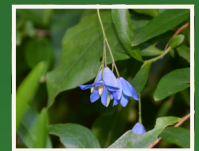
Weeds and the environment



Honeysuckle



Freesia



Blue-bell Creeper

Weeds invade quickly and destroy the natural values of coastal and other reserves.

Some of the most commonly found weeds in the environment have ‘escaped’ from gardens: Kikuyu, Agapanthus, Bridal Creeper, Pampas Grass, Cotoneaster and Banana Passionfruit are all on-going problems.

Emerging problem weeds include Gazania, Polygala, Blue-bell Creeper and some succulents.

- Freely seeding or creeping garden plants can easily spread over your boundary.
- Dumping of garden waste on foreshores spreads weeds quickly.
- Weed seeds may also be accidentally transported, trapped in mud on vehicle tyres or on clothing and shoes.

