

Zone 9 Hewitts Creek Remnant Swamp Wetland	
Soil	Intact soil profile within wetland area and immediate environment
Vegetation Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrences of characteristic species of the SCESFC • Swamp wetland apparently created when the lagoon of Hewitts Creek was isolated following the straightening of the section of Hewitts Creek south of Seabreeze Place
Weed Density	Low
Habitat Value	HIGH
Major Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a significant remnant swamp wetland zone that has had minimal disturbance due to existing fencing around the industrial site. • The area is potential for the threatened Green and Golden Bell Frog, as well as numerous bird and reptile species. • Bounded to the north and east by an eight foot fence construction to deter trespassing onto the industrial site, and to the west and south by waste soil mounds, this site has survived relatively intact despite the precarious nature of its location. • The considerable large edge interface relative to size is possibly the major threat to this wetland site. • Development proposals would have a devastating effect on this wetland site.
Contribution to Conservation Value of Sandon Point	SIGNIFICANT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>This swamp wetland is among the most intact and undisturbed remnant vegetation on the Sandon Point site. It also defines the original creek line of Hewitts Creek.</u>²² • Significant number of characteristic species for the SCESFC • <i>Melaleuca stypheliodes</i> is cited as uncommon north of Corimmal • A 1938 aerial photograph shows this wetland as an extended lagoon riparian zone bounded to the north, east and south by the original flow course of Hewitts Creek prior to the straightening of the creek line to the south of Seabreeze Place and the gabion diversion of Woodlands Creek. The wetland is a highly valuable source of seed source. • Potential habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog

Swamp wetlands are located on terrain with closed or almost closed depressions, which has the watertable seasonally or permanently at or above the surface.
NSW State of Environment Report 2000: Biodiversity

²² Quality Environmental Management for Wollongong City Council (1992) *Local Environmental Study, Sandon Point*, Community Hotline Response Report refers to "a clear lagoon on Hewitts Creek which had been suitable for swimming and carried mullet" Appendix B p3



Plate 32: Looking east across Zone 9 showing dominant association of *Casuarina glauca*/*Melaleuca styphelioides* (a characteristic species association of the endangered Sydney Coastal Estuarine Swamp Forest Complex)



Plate 33: Looking south-west from Zone 10 into the protective fencing and Casuarina's of remnant Hewitts Creek swamp wetland in Zone 9



Plate 34 & 35: Looking west from the gabion diversion of Woodlands Creek into the protective fencing and Casuarina's of remnant Hewitts Creek swamp wetland in Zone 9. Note the high density weed at the foreground in the gabion constructed channel.