

RALPHS BAY

values = natural • scientific • aesthetic • community



Fringing saltmarsh is amongst the most biodiverse in Tasmania

Extensive sand flats provide critical feeding habitat for shorebirds

Spotted Handfish, found only in the lower Derwent estuary

Internationally recognised Pied Oystercatcher feeding, roosting, breeding habitat

Aesthetic qualities enhance sense of place for local communities

A top windsurfing location for beginners and the more experienced

Ralphs Bay Values: natural, scientific, aesthetic, community.

Ralphs Bay in the lower reaches of the Derwent estuary is widely recognised for its ecological significance. Migratory shorebirds such as Red-necked Stints arrive from Siberia each spring and resident Pied Oystercatchers nest around the shores of the Bay.

Ralphs Bay sustains a population of the critically endangered Spotted Handfish, contains one of the most biodiverse saltmarsh vegetation communities in southern Tasmania and delivers important ecosystem services such as denitrification and other biogeochemical processes.

The extensive sand flats and fringing saltmarsh provide important habitats for a wide variety of microalgal and invertebrate species, which support a rich and complex food web unique in the Derwent.

In addition to natural and scientific values, Ralphs Bay has significant aesthetic, community and recreational values, for local residents and visitors alike. Recent threats to the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area have ignited passionate debate.

This poster celebrates the values that Save Ralphs Bay defends and lists the management and planning legislation, policies and plans relevant to protecting this estuarine ecosystem.

Statutory “protective” framework includes...

Local

Local Government Act
Clarence Planning Scheme
Climate Change Impacts on Clarence Coastal Areas
Draft Clarence Bushland and Coastal Management Strategy
Derwent Estuary Program Environmental Management Plan
Derwent Estuary Water Quality Improvement Plan for Heavy Metals

State

Resource Management and Planning System
Land Use Planning and Approvals Act
Ralphs Bay Conservation Area (Clarification) Act
State Policies and Projects Act
Tasmanian State Coastal Policy
Threatened Species Protection Act
Nature Conservation Act
Regional Forest Agreement
State Water Quality Policy
Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act
Crown Lands Act
Living Marine Resources Act
Natural Resource Management Act
National Parks and Reserves Management Act

National

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
Register of the National Estate
Recovery Plan for the Spotted Handfish
National Control Plan for the Northern Pacific Seastar

International

International Migratory Bird Agreements with Japan, China and the Republic of South Korea
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
Ramsar Convention
Convention on Biological Diversity

