



## Location of the tank

Recreational fishers can collect green weed when available, from the weed tank located at the western end of Kooragang Wetlands (Ash Island site).

Access is via Ash Island Bridge located on the Pacific Highway at Hexham (12 km west of Newcastle).

Images inside:  
 Curlew (left), shorebirds (top), luderick, also known as blackfish (centre), green weed bait tank (right).  
 Bird photos courtesy Chris Herbert. Luderick illustration Kristii Melaine.

## Further information

- **Green weed bait tank**

Phone Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project  
 02 4964 9308  
 or visit the website  
[www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/kooragang](http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/kooragang)

- **Recreational Fishing Trusts**

Phone the Information Advisory Line  
 1300 550 474  
 or visit the website of  
 NSW Department of Primary Industries  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)



# The green weed bait tank



*A weed bait tank for fishers ...  
 that helps protect shorebird habitat*

*The green weed bait tank is another example  
 of your recreational fishing fees at work.*

NSWDPI 6027\_DEC05

Your fishing fees at work



*The green weed bait tank is an initiative to provide bait for recreational fishers while protecting migratory shorebirds*

### **The purpose of the tank**

Green weed is used by recreational fishers as bait to mainly catch luderick (also known as blackfish). It is a filamentous algae of the *Enteromorpha* genus which grows in shallow tidal waters of the Hunter River estuary.

Collecting green weed can disturb migratory shorebirds at a critical time in their migratory cycle.

To reduce the impact on birds, a tank has been established, away from the birds' habitat, where recreational fishers can obtain the weed for bait.



### **How will migratory birds benefit?**

Some of the most popular places to collect green weed in the Hunter River estuary are places where migratory shorebirds feed and rest.

Birds such as curlews, godwits, sandpipers and plovers build up important fat reservoirs to fly thousands of kilometres to the Northern Hemisphere for the breeding season.

Some of these birds are vulnerable or endangered and regular disturbances can make the shorebirds too weak to successfully complete the journey north.



### **Take only what you need**

When available, the green weed from the tank is free, but to keep the tank sustainable, fishers are asked to take only as much as is needed for a few days' fishing.

By leaving a sufficient amount of weed, the tank can replenish itself.

### **How has the tank been funded?**

By law, all money collected from the NSW recreational fishing fee is placed into the Recreational Fishing Trust and spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW.

As a service to fishers, the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust provided funding to build the green weed tank at Newcastle.

