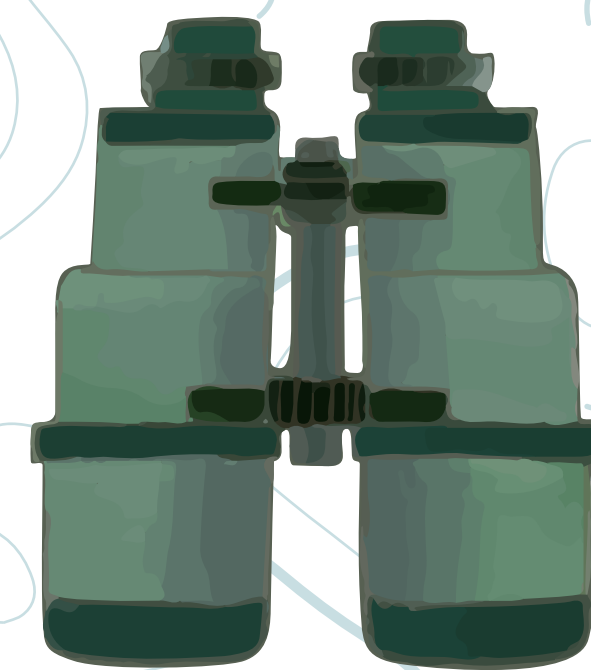


# About this Conservation Area



**Purga Nature Reserve has national significance as one of the last stands of critically endangered Swamp Tea-tree.**

The 140 hectare reserve was purchased by Ipswich City Council through the Ipswich Enviroplan Levy in 1997 because of its ecological and cultural significance.

Visitors can enjoy an easy stroll along the all-abilities boardwalk to take in the natural sights and sounds of this reserve.



## TRADITIONAL OWNER CONNECTION

Purga maintains its highly significant landscape value as a traditional healing site, due to its richness of Swamp Tea-tree, and an area providing an abundance of resources.

The Swamp Tea-Tree has many medicinal and other uses for Traditional Owners. There are many artefacts recorded in the region and the site is in proximity to the former Purga Mission.

Purga was named from the Aboriginal word (pur pur) meaning a meeting place. (*Language and dialect unknown; possibly Illawarra/Dharawal language*)

## EUROPEAN HISTORY

European settlers were known to use the wetlands for watering cattle, referencing 'Gammies Swamp' as a well-used location by farmers in the area in the 1800s.

The name is thought to have come from Scottish-born John Gammie who migrated to Australia in 1817.



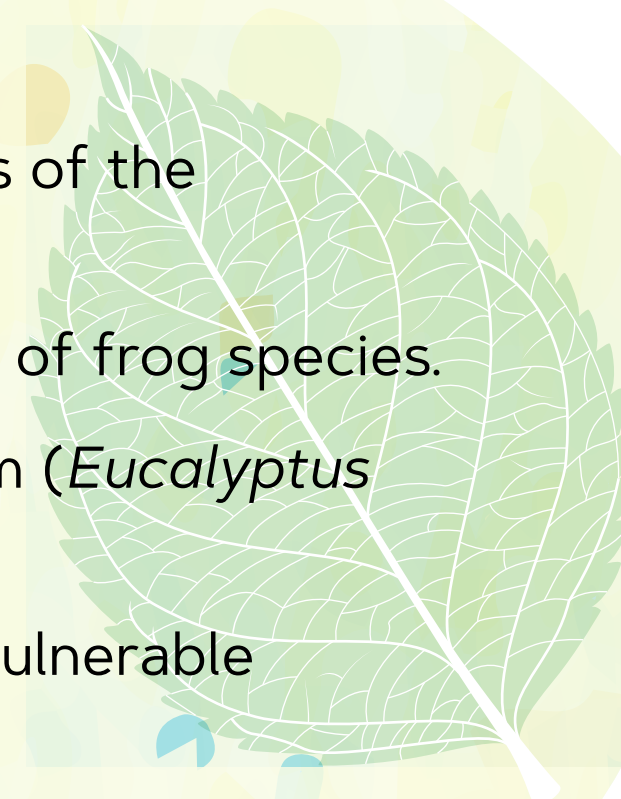
## ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Purga Nature Reserve contains one of the largest remaining stands of the endangered Swamp Tea-tree (*Melaleuca irbyana*) in Australia.

Waterlogged areas lead to an increased presence of a wide variety of frog species.

It also supports a koala population within the endangered Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) community along Purga Creek.

The reserve shelters about 150 native flora species, including the vulnerable Slender Milkvine (*Marsdenia coronata*).



## GEOLOGY

Purga is dominated by cracking clay soils, known as Tea-tree clays. The soil is dark grey to dark brown with heavy clay subsoil.

Clay soil has poor drainage and is frequently waterlogged.

Tea-tree clays are sticky when wet and extremely hard when dry. It is recommended that these soils are best left vegetated and used as wildlife corridors, habitat or buffers.

Alluvial soils are found in the eastern section of the reserve.