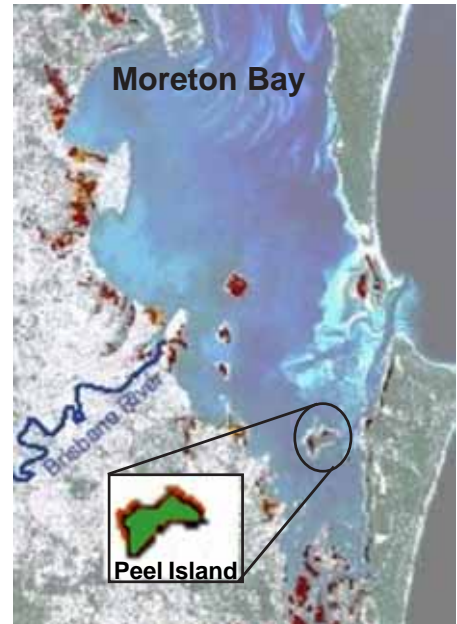




Mangroves are flowering plants, mostly trees, greater than .5 metre high. They reproduce via flowers and fruit. On Peel Island they live in the intertidal zone, and on the land side of this zone, with their roots periodically submerged under sea water. They have developed techniques to withstand living in such a salty environment such as blocking salt intake, or storing in older leaves and then shedding them.

Importance

Mangroves provide an important habitat and nursery area for juvenile fish, crabs and prawns. Leaves, fruit and twigs dropped into the water is a source of food, roots, pneumatophores (breathing roots) and overhanging branches provide shelter and protection from predators.



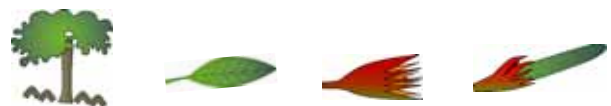
Distribution of mangroves around Peel Island (Landsat image (ACRES 2002) Results from DPI 1999)

Species

There are four species of mangroves found on Peel Island. Below are illustrations of their structural form, leaf, flower and fruit:



Avicennia marina - Grey mangrove



Bruguiera gymnorhiza - Orange mangrove



Ceriops australis - Yellow mangrove



Rhizophora stylosa - Red mangrove

Images courtesy of Marine Botany, Centre for Marine Studies, University of Queensland

Potential threats

Peel Island mangroves are vulnerable to potential human impacts such as pollution of Moreton Bay water, including from oil spills; access trampling and cutting, exposure or sediment disturbance. Other threats that are not obviously human related includes 'wrack accumulation' which from material such as seagrass and lyngbya draping over and thereby blocking the mangroves breathing roots; and climate and sea level changes.

Reference

Centre for Marine Studies (2003) *Moreton Bay Mangrove*, University of Queensland
Cath Lovelock, University of Queensland