Sand Dunes
a fragile environment

Why are dunes so important?

Biodiversity
These dunes are inhabited by many living creatures that form a unique and highly adapted ecosystem. Coastal dunes provide food, nesting material and a place of refuge for many animals.

Protective barrier
The dunes protect plant and animal communities further inland. On sandy shorelines the presence of a stable dune system provides a natural defence mechanism against the sea.

How can we help?

Don’t trample the plants
Fragile dune plants cannot survive being trampled by people. Walking on the dunes may eventually lead to the loss of the dune system.

Hardy but sensitive
This ecosystem is fragile even though it has adapted to harsh conditions with little water, few nutrients, high winds, intense sun exposure and salt spray. Sand dunes are held in place by plants that are hardy but also fragile. The underground stems (rhizomes) are brittle and easily broken. The loss of these plants leads to erosion and habitat destruction.

Keep dogs off the dunes
Dogs can destroy plants and stress or kill native animals so please control your dogs.

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Australian Kestrels forage in the dunes

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Coast Groundsel (Senecio spathulatus), listed as endangered under the NSW Threatened Species Act 1995.

Sand spinifex grass (Spinifex sericeus)