

LOWER SILVERMINE RIVER ESTUARY - THE REEDS

We are always being asked about the reeds and if anything could be done to reduce the number! There are 2 types of reeds here – both indigenous. The *Phragmites australis* and the *Typha capensis* (bulrush). Both of them have rhizomes that extend for 4 generations. This makes it very difficult to control the growth. The reeds are excellent at filtering the water and absorbing excess nutrients that enter river from storm water drains, gardens, and this encourages their growth. They are also efficient in managing high flood levels as they cause the flood water to dissipate when the water reaches them. In 2008 we had very high sea surges at the Main Road bridges, but as soon as these surges met the reeds they immediately collapsed and we had no effect further into the wetlands. This shows why a good functioning wetland is so important to the wetland upstream.

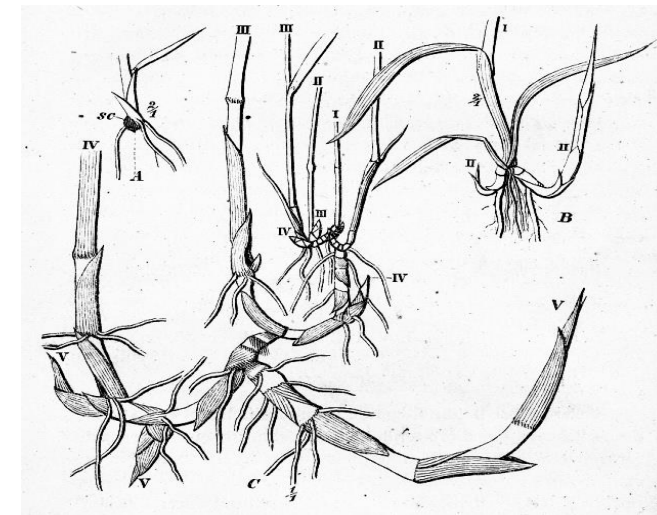
It is important to remember that the Silvermine Wetlands were constructed as a flood control measure, not a true wetland



Typha capensis Reed



Phragmites australis Reed



Phragmites australis Reed 4 Generations of growth



High sea surge going under the Railway line bridge, with no effect on the wetlands because of the reeds.