

## **11 Glossary**

- Aesthetic:** A theory as to what is beautiful or appealing. In this plan the aesthetic amenity of the estuary is a combination of scenic attributes and water quality.
- Denitrification:** The microbial reduction of nitrate to di-nitrogen gas.
- Estuary:** *'The tidal portions of river mouths, bays and coastal lagoons, irrespective of whether they are dominated by hypersaline, marine or fresh water conditions'* (Hutchings & Collett 1977). Included in this definition are inter-tidal wetlands, where water levels can vary in response to the tidal levels of the adjacent waterway, together with perched freshwater swamps, as well as coastal lagoons that are intermittently connected to the ocean.
- Eutrophication:** The collapse of a marine, estuarine or aquatic ecosystem due to excessive algal blooms, accumulation of nutrients in sediments, and low levels of dissolved oxygen.
- Filamentous:** Long and thread-like.
- Hydrodynamics:** The study of fluids in motion.
- Hydrographic:** Of or relating to the studies of the Earth's surface waters.