

Natural Resource
Management Strategy

Summary

Southern
Tasmania

2015
–2020



Disclaimer

In developing this Strategy, every effort has been made to ensure that the information is correct and that the content reflects the combined input from the Southern Tasmanian community. The NRM South Board hopes that this Strategy will assist in guiding and coordinating natural resource management activity throughout Southern Tasmania.

Although NRM South is not wholly responsible for implementing the Strategy, it will update information as it becomes available (and resources allow) and encourage commitment from others in Strategy implementation, monitoring and reporting.

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Further information about the Strategy and contact details

To find out more about this Strategy and how you or your organisation may be involved in its implementation, contact NRM South.

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Message from the CEO

Southern Tasmania's natural resources are lived in, visited and enjoyed by many people – families, tourists, farmers, businesses, school children, workers, locals and more. Similarly, the management of these resources is a task that is shared by many people and organisations in the community.

The *Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2015–2020* (the Strategy) has been developed by NRM South working closely with the Southern Tasmanian community. NRM South thanks the many individuals, organisations, industry leaders and agencies who worked with the project team to guide and shape this Strategy. NRM South was also supported by PDF Management Services and Associates (Resonance Consulting, Climate Planning and Natural Resource Planning) and Landscape and Social Research in the development of this Strategy.

The NRM South Board appreciates and acknowledges the funding from the Australian Government which realised such a comprehensive review of the 2010–2015 regional strategy. Additionally, funding and support for further resources was provided by the CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology and the Southern Slopes Climate Change Adaption Research Partnership.

In particular, the Board and I would like to acknowledge key staff from NRM South for their dedication and contribution to the development of this Strategy.

In developing this Strategy, every effort has been made to ensure that the information is correct and that the content reflects the combined input from the Southern Tasmanian community. We hope that this Strategy will assist in guiding and coordinating natural resource management activity throughout Southern Tasmania. Although NRM South will work closely with the wider community to implement the Strategy together, we will update information on implementation, monitoring and reporting as it progresses.



Donald Coventry
CEO

About this Strategy

Purpose of the Strategy

The purpose of the *Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2015–2020* (the Strategy) is to provide a framework to guide activity that will help manage and improve Southern Tasmania's natural resources.

It is a whole-of-community Strategy that identifies the social, economic and environmental values of the region and outlines how the community can work together to manage and improve the region's condition. The health outcomes of our community are dependent on the maintenance of our natural resources.

The Strategy is one of three in Tasmania and is complemented by the Strategies for Northern Tasmania and the Cradle Coast.

Vision

The Vision for natural resource management in Southern Tasmania is:

Southern Tasmania's natural resources will be protected, sustainably managed and improved, while adapting to change, for the shared environmental, social and economic benefit of our region by a collaborative, well-informed, well-resourced and actively committed community.

How the Strategy supports this Vision

The Strategy supports this Vision by:

- > Identifying the value and strength of the natural assets within the region to provide for productive, resilient and healthy socio-economic and environmental landscapes;
- > Encouraging and supporting key agencies, sectors and natural asset managers and regulators to plan strategically and coordinate action;
- > Increasing the community's awareness and capacity to manage natural resources;
- > Maximising return for natural resource management investment through innovative and collaborative solutions; and
- > Fostering collaboration between organisations and individuals that monitor and report on natural resource condition and management activity.

What is in this Strategy?

- > A Vision for the natural resources and community of the Southern Tasmanian region.
- > Consideration and assessment of climate change impacts on the region's assets and landscapes.
- > Descriptions of Southern Tasmania's landscapes, their possible futures and long-term goals.
- > Descriptions of the region's biophysical assets—land, water, coasts and marine, biodiversity, and community—and short-term Asset Management Targets and Priority Actions.
- > Identified Key Contributors required to implement this Strategy.
- > How the Strategy will be implemented, assessed, evaluated and improved.

What is NOT in this Strategy?

- > NRM South's corporate plan or operational strategy.
- > Comprehensive assessment of local-scale assets.
- > Detailed risk and feasibility assessments.
- > Detailed activity planning, budgeting and on-ground works assessment.

How does the Strategy work?

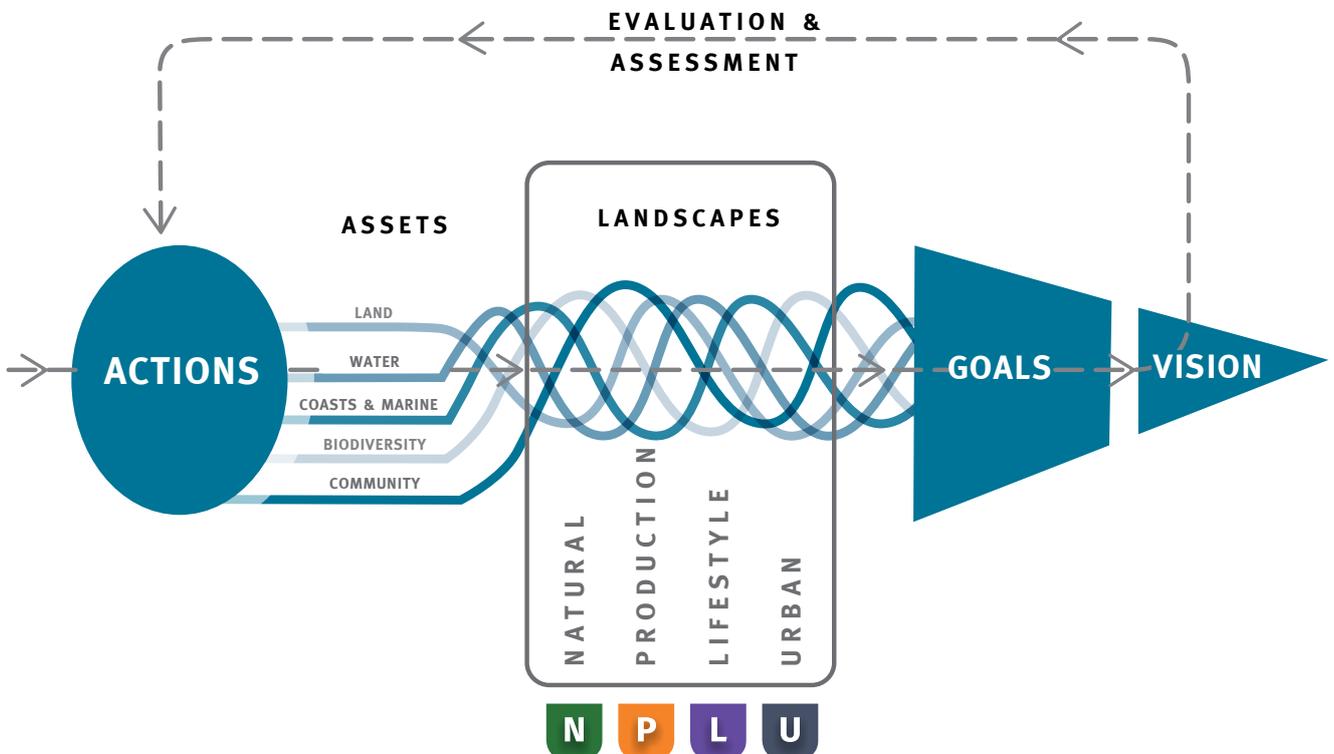
The Strategy takes both a Landscape Approach and an Assets Approach to managing Southern Tasmania's natural resources:

> **A Landscape Approach:** Categorises the region's landscapes (including seascapes where relevant) by predominant use. It defines the Natural Landscapes, Production Landscapes, Lifestyle Landscapes and Urban Landscapes, identifies their natural, social and economic values, and articulates a focus for action for managing these landscapes. The Landscape Approach sets out long-term Goals for each Landscape, which are then supported by five-year Targets for each regional asset, and Priority Actions that will help achieve the Targets.

> **An Assets Approach:** Details the region's Land Assets, Water Assets, Coasts and Marine Assets, Biodiversity Assets, and Community Assets. It articulates specific threats and opportunities to these assets and outlines Targets and Priority Actions so the Southern Tasmanian community can work together to ensure the ongoing health and resilience of our natural resources.

These two complementary approaches, illustrated in Figure 1 below, allow for how different people in the community view and work within the landscapes.

Figure 1: A Landscapes and Assets Approach to natural resource management



Key contributors to the Strategy

The Southern Tasmanian community

The whole community has a critical role to play in natural resource management in Southern Tasmania.

Key contributing groups have legislative, corporate and social responsibilities to oversee ethical and sustainable resource management. They are:

- > Australian, Tasmanian and local government
- > NRM South
- > Land, sea and water managers
- > Industry, and industry bodies
- > Aboriginal community organisations
- > Community groups and volunteers
- > Business
- > Research and education organisations
- > Non-government organisations (NGOs).

These groups require whole-of-community support to appropriately plan, resource and act on priorities. The broader community can only provide the motivation and support to these core contributors if it has an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the natural assets which create wealth and lifestyle and enable our wellbeing.

This Strategy aims to support the whole community in guiding collaborative and outcome-focused action.

NRM South's role

NRM South, through its committee, has legislative responsibilities for natural resource management in Southern Tasmania. This responsibility includes the identification of priorities, development of the region's NRM strategy and evaluation of its implementation.

Building on more than 12 years of work, NRM South will continue to work with and support the key contributing groups. It will also engage and empower the broader Southern Tasmanian community to integrate this Strategy into policy and decision-making and to drive the identified Priority Actions.

NRM South will also evaluate the Strategy, providing biennial performance reports and annual reports.



Image: Luke Diddams

Structure

Parts of the Strategy	Use this section...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part 1. Natural Resource Management in Southern Tasmania: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ <p>Provides context to the Strategy by describing Southern Tasmania’s natural resources and the Key Contributors who play a role in managing them.</p>	<p>To gain context about Southern Tasmania’s natural resources.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ● Part 2. Managing Southern Tasmania’s Landscapes: ○ ○ ○ ○ <p>Defines the region’s Natural Landscapes, Production Landscapes, Lifestyle Landscapes and Urban Landscapes (including seascapes within these) and identifies their natural, social and economic values. It highlights an overall regional goal, key influences of change, and possible futures for the landscapes.</p>	<p>If you are involved in the management of landscapes; want to gain a picture of the long-term goals for the region; are interested to understand the social, environmental or economic value of each landscape; and to view the possible futures and focus for action of each type of landscape.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ○ ● Part 3. Managing Southern Tasmania’s Assets: ○ ○ ○ <p>Details the region’s Land Assets, Water Assets, Coasts and Marine Assets, Biodiversity Assets and Community Assets. It describes the various attributes of each asset, outlines management elements for focus, and identifies threats and opportunities, including those projected to arise from the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>If you are interested to see a detailed examination of the region’s assets; to better understand the challenges; and to understand the key management elements, threats and opportunities of each type of asset within the region.</p>



Parts of the Strategy	Use this section...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">●●●●● <p>Part 4. Targets, Priority Actions and Key Contributors:</p> <p>Sets out the five-year Targets for each asset that are required to realise the long-term goal for each landscape in the region. It identifies Priority Actions that will help achieve each Target and the Key Contributors within the community that have a role to play in achieving this.</p>	<p>To understand how the Landscapes and Assets sections align; to examine and apply the Targets and Priority Actions; and to see the Key Contributors to the management of these actions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">●●●●●● <p>Part 5. Implementation, Assessment, Evaluation and Improvement:</p> <p>Outlines the process for assessing, reviewing and improving the Strategy. This Strategy builds on the achievements of the region’s previous strategies, and this section outlines how the Strategy will in turn be reviewed by 2020.</p>	<p>To view and understand how the Strategy can be implemented and how outcomes will be assessed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">●●●●●● <p>Part 6. Strategic Context:</p> <p>Describes how the Strategy was developed including information about previous strategies, consultation and other contextual references.</p>	<p>To gain an understanding of how the Strategy has been developed; how Targets have been derived; and context for the Strategy’s development.</p>

A Landscape Approach

Managing Southern Tasmania's Landscapes

The community has identified four broad landscape categories relevant to the purposes of this Strategy. Each Landscape has a goal and a focus for action for the next five years.

Further information is included in the full Strategy, including a summary of each Landscape in the southern region, the Landscape value (social, conservation and economic), and the influences of climate change on possible futures.

1. Natural Landscapes

Unmodified or relatively unmodified areas that support native species and communities.

Goal

The region's Natural Landscapes are managed appropriately in order to maintain ecosystem services and biodiversity values, and asset managers are aware of projected climate change effects and, where necessary, facilitate adaptation of species, communities and ecosystems.

Focus for action

- > Maintain biodiversity values and landscape-ecological function, and support implementation of the objectives of the *Natural Heritage Strategy for Tasmania* and key management plans such as the *TWWHA Management Plan*.
- > Monitor the condition and distribution of key species, communities and ecosystems to support adaptive management in response to change.
- > Develop planning instruments that recognise and, where possible, ameliorate threats that impact on environmental values such as threatened species and communities, refugia and landscape ecological function.
- > Undertake works that improve ecological function such as restoration and revegetation of riparian areas, remnant vegetation in fragmented landscapes and application of appropriate fire regimes.
- > Maintain biosecurity and encourage good biosecurity practices and coordinated control of invasive species, pests and pathogens.
- > Continue research, education and building of community capacity including support for volunteers and community groups to continue to support research.
- > Support partnerships for collaborative action to improve outcomes for threatened species and communities, cultural heritage and geo-conservation sites and refugia.



Image: Lyndel Wilson

2. Production Landscapes

Areas that have been modified for broader-scale primary production activity, including agriculture, aquaculture and forestry.

Goal

Terrestrial and aquatic Production Landscapes (including marine-based seascapes) are managed sustainably for the shared environmental, social and economic benefit of the region while responding to change and threats.

Focus for action

- > Maintain and improve returns on primary production through adaptation and exploration of emerging markets and production opportunities.
- > Improve water quality and riparian management practices, increase vegetation cover, and address tree decline in rural areas.
- > Reduce further landscape fragmentation.
- > Increase biosecurity and control of invasive species, pests and diseases.
- > Support the uptake of sustainable practices by small, medium and large-scale commercial agriculture.
- > Raise awareness, increase education opportunities and improve extension services for research outputs to be adopted.
- > Maintain biodiversity and improve recognition of its contribution to productivity.
- > Research and take up technological advances.



3. Lifestyle Landscapes

Peri-urban, fragmented and generally modified landscapes—these make up the non-income or supplementary income-generating sector of land management.

Goal

Southern Tasmania will continue to be an enviable destination for lifestyle options while ensuring development occurs in harmony with surrounding landscapes, minimising detrimental effects on the health of natural and production assets.

Focus for action

- > Build education, awareness and capacity for new and or inexperienced land, coastal and freshwater managers.
- > Develop and, where required, implement appropriate planning processes to mitigate against further habitat fragmentation, pollution and effects of sea level rise.
- > Improve biosecurity practices, including invasive species and disease control and prevention activity.
- > Improve capacity and resilience to extreme events including bushfire mitigation and fire management education and activity.



Image: Lyndel Wilson

4. Urban Landscapes

Areas associated with city, rural residential, retail and industrial development.

Goal

That Southern Tasmania's Urban Landscapes are increasingly recognised for efficient resource use, sustainable development, an active community, and well-informed and effective climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

Focus for action

- > Further integrate consistent natural resource management principles and climate change into land-use planning and decision-making to ensure that trade-offs between further development, natural, production and cultural assets are recognised and accounted for.
- > Build education, awareness and capacity to increase participation and community value in natural resource management initiatives and behaviour change.
- > Build on existing collaborative partnerships to support collective planning and action to manage natural assets within Urban Landscapes and mitigate risks and extreme events such as bushfire.



Image: Anne Gigney

An Assets Approach

Managing Southern Tasmania's Natural Resource Assets

Southern Tasmania's assets provide for the economic productivity and environmental health of our landscapes that in turn support our social and economic wellbeing.

For the purposes of this Strategy, these assets have been classified to provide direction and a focus for activity.

Asset	Five-year Targets
<p>1. Land Assets</p> <p>Encompass topography and the soils that support agriculture, plantation forestry and native ecosystems; the vegetation that covers and protects these soils; geo-conservation; and cultural heritage values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Further capacity (funding, knowledge products, extension and research) and coordinated activity are built and carried out to improve the management of soil health.> Activities and adaptation opportunities are enhanced to improve management of vegetation (native and modified) with an emphasis on improving condition, cover and ecological function.> Recognition, conservation and protection of key areas of geo-conservation significance and cultural heritage are further considered in land management and planning activities and take account of projected climate change impacts.> Response to new and existing agricultural and environmental weed, pest and disease incursions is actively coordinated.

Asset	Five-year Targets
<p>2. Water Assets</p> <p>Include surface and groundwater resources and freshwater ecosystems within the region, including rivers, lakes, wetlands and aquifers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Knowledge and management of water allocation and environmental values and flows are improved for key priority catchments, recognising climate change and development pressures. > Response to new and existing aquatic weed, pest and disease incursions is actively coordinated and incursions monitored. > An increase in water quality monitoring, data collection and knowledge to increase capacity and develop resources for communities to undertake positive actions. > Appropriate management regimes and conservation activities are developed to optimise water ecosystem health with an emphasis on rivers, water bodies, sites with rich Aboriginal heritage values and priority freshwater conservation areas such as freshwater Ramsar-listed sites. > Groundwater resources are managed sustainably to ensure that consumptive use and environmental flows are balanced with groundwater-dependent ecosystems and connectivity to surface waters.
<p>3. Coasts and Marine Assets</p> <p>The region's coastal and marine zones, including all areas influenced by the sea or potentially affected by coastal flooding or sea level rise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Shoreline, estuarine and marine-dependent species and ecosystems, and the processes that support them, are recognised, conserved and protected within planning systems. > Capacity will be developed and coordinated action undertaken to improve management and mitigation of specific threats, including exposure of acid sulphate soil, marine debris and pollution, disturbance or damage to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, coastal erosion, coastal inundation, and facilitation of retreat pathways. > Targeted invasive species research, management and appropriate hygiene planning and activity are implemented by agencies and industry, recognising the impact of climate change.



Asset	Five-year Targets
<p>4. Biodiversity Assets</p> <p>Encompass the region’s terrestrial native species and the complex ecological communities they form.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Biodiversity and ecological function are recognised and supported in planning processes and implementation, including a focus on riparian vegetation and establishing appropriate fire regimes.> Biodiversity-focussed activity recognises, builds knowledge of and conserves threatened species and vegetation communities, including the region’s most-dependent species, those with specific Aboriginal cultural values, and those that require specialised habitats and refugia, and is responsive to pressures such as climate change, land-use change and development.> Active monitoring, prevention and control of new and existing invasive species and disease incursions that impact on biodiversity are coordinated.
<p>5. Community Assets</p> <p>The people and organisations that represent the regional community: individuals; community groups and volunteers; local governments and State Government; business and industry; and non-government organisations. People play a critical role in the management and use of our natural resources and are in themselves a key asset.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> The Southern Tasmania community is increasingly involved in natural resource management policy, planning, action and research.> The natural resource management community is well-informed, well-resourced and has the capacity to develop and implement effective climate change adaptation and mitigation programs for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.> The engagement and participation of Aboriginal people in natural resource management activities from planning to implementation is enhanced across all assets.

Statewide Targets

To achieve the Landscape Goals, the Strategy identifies statewide five-year Targets and Priority Actions and the Key Contributors for each Priority Action.

Statewide Management Targets (Five Year)	Statewide Priority Actions
<p>This Strategy, climate change adaptation and the State's NRM Principles, will be increasingly referred to and prioritised in local, regional and statewide stakeholder strategic plans and strategies (compared to the 2015 baseline).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Enhance stakeholder knowledge of legislative principles, roles and responsibilities, and support mechanisms for effective natural resource management across the region and the State. > Provide direction for the incorporation of NRM principles into local government strategic plans and support the review and development of natural resource management-related legislation, planning and policy that affects NRM outcomes. > Facilitate investment and knowledge and information resource development to build capacity, education levels and awareness.
<p>An increasing number of asset theme or industry sector-based reference groups will be developed (compared to the 2015 baseline) to support the regional strategy (strategies) implementation in areas of institutional, policy and on-ground initiatives including climate change adaptation and capacity development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Complete a needs analysis of existing and proposed groups and prioritise mechanisms to commence and/or continue consultation. > Collaboratively develop the terms of reference, processes and methodologies for management and governance of theme and/or sector-based reference groups. > Maximise and coordinate funding opportunities to support implementation of reference group recommendations. > Implement a program for the ongoing collation, management, integration, and sharing of data, particularly providing access to spatial (GIS) information to ensure cross-jurisdictional compatibility and comparability and application to planning and management processes at all spatial scales (state to local).

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