

SUMMARY

Connecting our land,
our waterways,
and our people

BRIGHTON

NATURAL RESOURCE

MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY.



**Brighton
Council**



**The Derwent
Catchment Project**
Increasing Productivity. Restoring Landscapes

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

OUR NATURAL ASSETS...



17,115

HECTARES
TOTAL LAND AREA

200

KNOWN ABORIGINAL SITES

Including shell middens, stone quarries
and artefact scatters*¹412 HECTARES
WETLANDS²332.5 KILOMETERS
WATERWAYS³

42%

NATIVE VEGETATION
COVER⁴41 DIFFERENT VEGETATION
COMMUNITIES6 state listed threatened plant communities
2 federally listed threatened plant communities⁵

What is Natural Resource Management?

Natural resource management (NRM) includes looking after our natural assets. Caring for our land, soil and waterways, and our plants and animals, so they stay healthy and productive. It is about people working together to manage our precious resources, now and into the future. We rely on our natural resources to support our economy, for our health and wellbeing, and to support our lifestyles.

Why have an NRM strategy?

Farmers and foresters, schools and government, land managers, businesses, tourists and visitors, community groups and individuals, we all have a role to play in looking after our natural resources.

It is important to have a document as a guide so we can all work together to achieve common goals.

The NRM strategy is the beginning of a conversation with community about natural resources in Brighton. It provides strategic direction to enable Brighton Council and other stakeholders to work collaboratively to improve NRM across Brighton.

How was the strategy developed?

We reviewed existing documents and information and began talking to community members, groups and stakeholders. We asked over 50 groups and individuals...

What is special about our natural environment?

What ways are people using the land and water?

How do we manage our landscapes, preserve our special areas and make our productive lands more sustainable?



Is there information or assistance that could help people look after the water, land, bush and wetland areas?

What would help us work better together?

What are we doing well and what could we do better?

kutalayna

The kutalayna levee in Brighton was a significant meeting place for the Mumirimina people, of the Oyster Bay tribe. In this area hundreds of generations of Aboriginal families hunted, gathered, corroboreed, camped and traded. We acknowledge the influence these traditional activities had on making the Brighton landscape what it is today.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

OUR NATURAL ASSETS...



10% OF BRIGHTON
IS RESERVED

1688 Ha Public and private reserves⁶
855 Ha Protected Land Areas¹⁵



40.3%

LAND IS USED
FOR AGRICULTURE¹³



1572

DIFFERENT FUNGI,
FLORA AND FAUNA
SPECIES

456 Animals

1027 Plants

83 Fungi

have been recorded in Brighton.
More still to be discovered.⁷



79

FUNGI, FLORA AND
FAUNA SPECIES OF
CONSERVATION
SIGNIFICANCE

17 Animals

57 Plants

5 Fungi⁷

Themes for taking action

The strategy describes natural resources under 5 themes for undertaking action.

1. Cultural landscapes
2. Water
3. Land
4. Biodiversity
5. People

Key threats

The biggest threats to our natural resources are outlined in the document. Threats include:

- Runoff, rubbish, erosion and over extraction affect water quality and water flows
- Weeds, pests and diseases impact biodiversity, farming and horticultural practices
- Water supply and security affect agricultural practices
- Encroachment - increased development puts pressure on our farms, natural areas and the the cultural landscape
- Climate change—temperature changes, rainfall and extreme weather events that result in flooding and bushfires affect us all
- Flood and wind erosion can result in loss of soil from agricultural areas as well as damage to natural areas and infrastructure
- Clearance of native vegetation, inappropriate fire and slashing, vehicle access and trampling impact our native vegetation and affects important habitat
- Feral and unmanaged domestic animals

Increases in the frequency and intensity of fire and flood events associated with climate change will increase the risk of erosion and land degradation, as well as facilitating the spread of weeds.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

What are our goals?

The NRM Strategy provides goals for what we are trying to achieve, management actions for how we will achieve the goals, and targets to help us measure and evaluate our progress.

We aim to...



1.1 Understand and maintain Brighton's cultural landscapes



2.1 Improve or maintain the condition of freshwater, estuarine and coastal ecosystems



3.1 Improve agricultural land condition and management outcomes to facilitate long-term sustainability



4.1 Maintain and/or improve the condition of native habitats for flora and fauna



4.2 Maintain and/ or improve the conservation status of threatened species and communities



4.3 Improve and maintain connectivity of habitat for flora and fauna species



4.4 Increase the condition of high value vegetation



5.1 Incorporate regional community wellbeing into agricultural and natural area management programs to improve resilience



5.2 Facilitate increased community participation in and awareness

How can you help?

- ☑ Provide feedback and get involved in the implementation of this plan—tell us about the issues that affect you
- ☑ Adopt practices that help sustain our natural resources
- ☑ Volunteer to be part of a community group
- ☑ Work with your neighbours to improve your neighbourhood
- ☑ Find out about weeds and how you can manage them on your property and/or prevent plants escaping from your back yard
- ☑ Apply for a grant to undertake works that enhance our natural assets
- ☑ Provide a letter of support for funding applications
- ☑ Join programs such as the Land for Wildlife or Gardens for Wildlife or join a Landcare group and contribute to the conservation of local plants and animals

The Derwent Catchment Project

The strategy was prepared for Brighton Council by [The Derwent Catchment Project](http://www.derwentcatchmentproject.org). We are a grass-roots community organisation working with community, landholders and key stakeholders to look after our natural and farming landscapes.

Contact us to get involved

mel.fazackerley@derwentcatchment.org



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GOALS, ACTIONS & TARGETS BY THEMES

Photo- Murray Kelman

Managing our cultural landscapes

1. CULTURAL LANDSCAPES		
Goal	Action	Target
1.1 Understand and maintain Brighton's cultural landscape	1.1.1 Work with the Aboriginal community and kotalayna Collective to implement the NRM strategy	1.1.1.1 Aboriginal community members are participating in delivery of the NRM strategy by 2024
	1.1.2 Improve understanding of the cultural landscape in Brighton	1.1.2.1 Priorities for local Aboriginal community are documented and incorporated in existing plans and strategies
	1.1.3 Incorporate Aboriginal names for significant places/ areas as part of Brighton Council's draft Reconciliation Action Plan	1.1.3.1 Aboriginal names in place at a minimum of two locations by 2025
	1.1.4 Promote Aboriginal history through cultural activities, storytelling and interpretive signage as appropriate	1.1.4.1 Cultural activities incorporated into two (2) community NRM events
	1.1.5 Promote Aboriginal participation in land management	1.1.5.1 At least one (1) Aboriginal identified trainee position on land management teams by 2025
	1.1.6 Advocate for an Aboriginal Ranger program	1.1.6.1 Potential funding sources have been identified and the community have been supported to access funding
	1.1.7 Investigate training and pathways for Aboriginal participation in land management and conservation with potential to work in with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's Land Management Program	1.1.7.1 Discussions with employment agencies and training providers - two (2) Aboriginal people have gained work experience with the DCP crew or similar organisation by 2024

1. CULTURAL LANDSCAPES (Continued)

Goal	Action	Target
	1.1.8 Facilitate Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Awareness training for council staff and community volunteers	1.1.8.1 At least 80% of relevant council and DCP staff have undertaken training by 2025
	1.1.9 Seek funding to undertake Aboriginal Heritage assessments in priority areas such as the Derwent Foreshore and Jordan River. Initially undertake assessments in areas identified in the foreshore management plan and prior to undertaking any on-ground works that would require surface disturbance	1.1.9.1 Aboriginal Heritage assessments completed for priority areas identified in the foreshore management plan by 2026
	1.1.10 Investigate the concept of a sensitivity zoning system for Aboriginal Heritage to provide a practical guide the management of Aboriginal Heritage – capturing know sites, unknown and likely, and unknown and possible, as opposed to presence and absence.	1.1.10.1 Discussions with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, Aboriginal Heritage Officer/s, Archaeologist/s initiated by end of 2024
	1.1.11 Work with TAC Land Management Program to undertake cultural burning programs to manage natural values and the cultural landscape	1.1.11.1 Support the development of a cultural burning plan for the Municipality – undertake at least two (2) cultural burns by 2025
	1.1.12 Work with TAC Land Management Program to build local Aboriginal capacity to participate in cultural fire management programs to manage natural values	1.1.12.1 Support the involvement of at least five (5) people in cultural burning practices

Managing our water

2. WATER		
Goal	Action	Target
2.1 Improve or maintain the condition of freshwater, estuarine and coastal ecosystems	2.1.1 Advocate for a reliable and equitable water supply for all - drinking water, irrigation, recreation and environmental flows	2.1.1.1 A written advocacy position piece has been prepared and is submitted to relevant government initiatives
	2.1.2 Advocate for environmental flows that sustain healthy ecosystems in all waterways	2.1.2.1 Maintain partnership with DEP.
	2.1.3 Identify, assess and prioritise waterways	2.1.3.1 Prioritisation plan within 2 years
	2.1.4 Maintain and form partnerships with relevant bodies, including the Derwent Estuary Program	2.1.4.1 Existing partnership agreements that support the implementation of the NRM Strategy are reviewed and renewed as required
		2.1.4.2 New partnership agreements in place to support the NRM strategy by end of 2024
	2.1.5 Develop a Jordan River Management Plan	2.1.5.1 Develop a scope for a Jordan River Plan including a values and opportunity report by 2024
		2.1.5.2 Develop a plan by 2025
	2.1.6 Monitor and maintain water quality and aquatic health.	2.1.6.1 Monitoring program in place 2024 (developed as a collaborative initiative with NRE and DEP)
		2.1.6.2 Monitoring program is implemented
		2.1.6.3 Long-term grade for Recreational Water Quality at Old Beach Jetty remains 'Good'.
		2.1.6.4 Water quality is tested annually at Cove Creek (2 sites) Green Point WWTP and Compton Fields. Sites show positive improvement.
	2.1.7 Encourage practices that reduce erosion and pollution of watercourses	2.1.7.1 Active participation in the DEP Stormwater Taskforce
		2.1.7.2 Erosion and sediment control compliance is maintained
		2.1.7.3 Outfall assessment to prioritise litter reduction from stormwater

2. WATER (Continued)		
Goal	Action	Target
	2.1.8 Undertake condition assessments of riparian and wetland habitats within Brighton	2.1.8.1 Baseline data is collected and collated
	2.1.9 Manage the spread of riparian and wetland weeds by implementing strategic cooperative weed removal	2.1.9.1 Brighton weed management program in wetland and foreshore areas is implemented
		2.1.9.2 Priority weeds managed at Green Point and Gagebrook as per Saltmarsh report
		2.1.9.3 Ongoing support for a weed management officer is maintained
		2.1.9.4 Ongoing participation in the estuary-wide weed collaboration
		2.1.9.5 Annual training of works staff and contractors in weed and disease hygiene is undertaken
	2.1.10 Facilitate community participation in work bees to tackle priority weeds along watercourses and wetland areas	2.1.10.1 Community action supports priority weed program implementation
		2.1.10.2 Encourage and support community groups and non-government organisations to participate in weed management
	2.1.11 Remove rubbish from riparian and wetland areas	2.1.11.1 60% reduction in rubbish observed at foreshore Clean up Australia Day activities (measured against the amount collected as part of the clean-up)
		2.1.11.2 Four (4) community clean-ups a year
		2.1.11.3 As per recommendations in the Brighton Stormwater Management plan 2020 litter traps on remaining Jordan River outfalls are installed and a WSUD treatment train option for 85 Andrew St investigated by 2027
		2.1.11.4 Two (2) demountable litter traps installed each year
		2.1.11.5 Existing and new litter traps are maintained regularly
	2.1.12 Identify and prioritise riparian and wetland areas for restoration	2.1.12.1 Foreshore Management Plan identifies priority sites for restoration
		2.1.12.2 Jordan River Management Plan identifies priority sites
	2.1.13 Restore and improve priority riparian and wetland areas.	2.1.13.1 Local actions from Derwent Estuary Saltmarsh Report are implemented
		2.1.13.2 Restoration works at priority areas as identified in the foreshore management plan are initiated in the first year
		2.1.13.3 Funding is secured to implement the Cheswick Crescent Creek Water Sensitive Urban Design plan 2025

Managing our land

3. LAND		
Goal	Action	Target
3.1 Improve agricultural land condition and management outcomes to facilitate long-term sustainability	3.1.1 Secure funding for on-ground NRM and sustainable agriculture activities	3.1.1.1 Additional funding is secured and agri-best practice projects are underway
	3.1.2 Understand level of awareness amongst private landholders and farmers of sustainable land management practices	3.1.2.1 Baseline understanding of awareness established
		3.1.2.2 20 % Increase in awareness of sustainable land practices is achieved by 2025
	3.1.3 Encourage land uses and practices that reduce soil erosion	3.1.3.1 Two (2) sustainable land use workshops to different target audiences -small farms and large farm enterprises
	3.1.4 Increase awareness of weed, pests and diseases	3.1.4.1 10% increase in area of weeds controlled across land tenure
	3.1.5 Review the Draft Derwent Catchment Biosecurity Action Plan to incorporate Brighton	3.1.5.1 Brighton is included in the Derwent Catchment Biosecurity Action Plan and Network
	3.1.6 Implement Brighton Weed Management Plan	3.1.6.1 80% implementation of weed management plan actions for each year
	3.1.7 Support involvement in priority weed control programs such as the Serrated tussock and Chilean needlegrass control programs	3.1.7.1 Priority weed control programs implement annual works in the Brighton Municipality
	3.1.8 Build understanding of appropriate land use for soil types and local conditions	3.1.8.1 Information is made more accessible to producers and land managers
	3.1.9 Continue to advocate for adequate separation between productive areas, residential development, industry and environmental uses to prevent land use conflict.	3.1.9.1 Council continues to consider land use conflict in its strategic planning and development control
	3.1.10 Encourage activities at quarry and extraction sites that use good hygiene practices	3.1.10.1 Audit of local quarries for weed risk is undertaken
		3.1.10.2 Good hygiene guidelines distributed to contractors

Managing our biodiversity

4. BIODIVERSITY		
Goal	Action	Target
4.1 Maintain and/or improve the condition of native habitats for flora and fauna	4.1.1 Develop closer cooperation and collaboration between key land managers such as Brighton Council and Properties Services and Tasmania Parks & Wildlife	4.1.1.1 Management agreements in place to enable community participation on public land
	4.1.2 Continue to improve our knowledge of Brighton's biodiversity	4.1.2.1 Increase in records on the Natural Values Atlas (NREs database for flora and fauna)
		4.1.2.2 Vegetation mapping is verified and updated by 2025
		4.1.2.3 Increase in community participation in natural values apps such as RedMap (marine species database), inaturalist etc
	4.1.3 Reduce fire risk on unoccupied/abandoned/rental blocks/crown land	4.1.3.1 List of properties compiled by 2023
		4.1.3.2 Property owners notified and provided information on how to manage vegetation control weeds and improve natural values by 2024
		4.1.3.3 Notices served for non-compliance
		4.1.3.4 Reduction in areas of high fire risk by 2025
	4.1.4 Control weeds on unoccupied/abandoned/rental blocks	4.1.4.1 List of properties compiled by 2023
		4.1.4.2 Property owners notified and provided information on how to control and dispose of weeds, what to replant by 2024
		4.1.4.3 Notices served for non-compliance
		4.1.4.4 Increase in control of weeds on unoccupied/abandoned/rental blocks by 2025
	4.1.5 Support carbon and biodiversity outcomes	4.1.5.1 At least two (2) carbon and biodiversity projects initiated by 2025
	4.1.6 Support biodiversity conservation programs	4.1.6.1 A program with the primary focus of improving biodiversity conservation is initiated
	4.1.7 Explore options for wetland bird watching and interpretation in the estuary within the Bridgewater area	4.1.7.1 Business case developed as part of bridge development to highlight the natural values of the wetland area and opportunities to attract resident and visitors to spend time in the area watching wildlife.

4. BIODIVERSITY (Continued)

Goal	Action	Target
4.1 Maintain and/or improve the condition of native habitats for flora and fauna	4.1.8 Encourage community participation in citizen science and awareness raising activities	4.1.8.1 Two (2) citizen science events held such as a water bug blitz event
		4.1.8.1 Increase awareness of the opportunities for participation in citizen science
4.2 Maintain and/or improve the conservation status of threatened species and communities	4.2.1 Work collaboratively to implement actions to conserve local threatened species and communities	4.2.1.1 Develop management plan(s) to include conservation actions for the full extent of threatened communities within the municipality
		4.2.1.2 60% of actions are implemented in the management plans by 2026
	4.2.2 Work with the Aboriginal community and firesticks initiative to implement cultural burning activities that contribute to the management of threatened communities such as the lowland native grasslands	4.2.2.1 Include threatened species/communities targeted burns in the cultural burning plan for the municipality (see Cultural section 1.1.11)
	4.2.3 Advocate for threatened species, biodiversity and climate change resilience i.e. for iconic species such as the Australasian bittern	4.2.3.1 Increased funding and associated resources in the municipality for threatened species/communities programs
	4.2.4 Increase knowledge of threatened species distributions within the municipality	4.2.4.1 At least 2 targeted surveys for threatened species at municipal wide level by 2025
	4.2.5 Promote the upper estuary as the important bird sanctuary it is	4.2.5.1 A communications plan developed to support increased awareness of the significance of the wetlands as bird sanctuary
	4.2.6 Promote responsible pet ownership	4.2.6.1 Increase in number of desexed and microchipped cats and dogs.
		4.2.6.2 Decrease in reports of stray dogs and feral cats.
	4.2.7 Facilitate the implementation of the Tasmanian Cat Management Plan to manage stray and feral cats	4.2.7.1 Support dissemination of Tassie Cat information in Brighton
	4.2.8 Promote the importance of dogs on leads in sensitive areas such as the foreshore saltmarshes, and dog exclusion areas as needed to protect sensitive wildlife areas	4.2.8.1 Produce and disseminate education and media materials around the potential impacts of dogs on sensitive areas.

4. BIODIVERSITY (Continued)

Goal	Action	Target
4.2 Maintain and/or improve the conservation status of threatened species and communities	4.2.9 Control feral animals such as rabbits where they impact on significant vegetation such as saltmarsh communities	4.2.9.1 No increase in impacts on saltmarsh communities at key sites where monitoring for baseline data exists
	4.2.10 Continue to exclude vehicles from sensitive foreshore areas and monitor compliance	4.2.10.1 Decrease in reports of vehicles illegally accessing foreshore areas
		4.2.10.2 Establish a baseline assessment of illegal access and develop strategies to reduce illegal activity
		4.2.10.3 A reduction in illegal activities is observed in response to strategies implemented
4.3 Improve and maintain connectivity of habitat for flora and fauna species	4.3.1 Support the development of wildlife corridors	4.3.1.1 At least 3 media items are produced to communicate with the community on important areas for wildlife corridors in the Municipality
	4.3.2 Work with landholders and land managers to retain high-value bushland areas and to maintain and/or restore connectivity between remnant vegetation communities through replanting	4.3.2.1 10 % Increase in native vegetation cover connectivity by 2027
		4.3.2.2 Support the adoption of the land for wildlife program
	4.3.3 Extend and connect native riparian and wetland habitat through removal of weeds and revegetation and stabilisation	4.3.3.1 10 % improvement in the condition of riparian and wetland habitat at priority sites by 2027
		4.3.3.2 10% decrease in weed coverage on waterways by 2027
	4.3.4 Work with landholders to promote an understanding of threatened communities and best practice management for native vegetation	4.3.4.1 One (1) annual community awareness activity promoting natural values including
		4.3.4.2 One (1) activity in the Ethan Court area promoting values of Jordan River Nature Reserve and surrounding areas by 2024
4.4 Increase the condition of high value vegetation	4.4.1 Work with private landholders and the community to build understanding around the values of healthy vegetation and biodiversity	4.4.1.1 At least three (3) media items are produced annually to communicate with the community and landholders about the values of healthy vegetation and biodiversity
	4.4.2 Develop a baseline understanding of vegetation condition	4.4.2.1 A baseline developed for the municipality using existing and new data by 2025

Working together to manage our natural resources

5. PEOPLE		
Goal	Action	Target
5.1 Incorporate regional community wellbeing into agricultural and natural area management programs to improve resilience	5.1.1 Implement the actions of the NRM strategy in collaboration with other key stakeholders	5.1.1.1 Continue to resource NRM activities in Brighton
	5.1.2 Work with key stakeholders to secure funding to implement the NRM strategy	5.1.2.1 Increase in funding available for NRM activities and supporting key stakeholders to achieve NRM objectives. This includes leveraging funds outside of Council to deliver NRM activities and exploring programs that directly link nature and wellbeing.
	5.1.3 Utilise existing and new NRM data to develop priorities for climate adaptation	5.1.3.1 Water, land and biodiversity information informs climate adaptation actions
	5.1.4 Integrate NRM activities across council	5.1.4.1 Ensure regular communication between NRM staff, works crews and relevant council staff
	5.1.5 Develop a foreshore management plan with priority areas that can be implemented with the assistance of community and school groups	5.1.5.1 Foreshore plan priority actions implemented
	5.1.6 Investigate training and pathways for participation in land management and conservation	5.1.6.1 A program in place that links employment agencies and training providers to onground NRM action
		5.1.6.2 At least 2 people have gained work experience with the DCP/ or similar organisation by 2025
	5.1.7 Support initiatives that create and/or support jobs in the NRM sector in Brighton	5.1.7.1 Job creation initiatives secure funding for jobs to support NRM in Brighton
	5.1.8 Continue to connect natural areas with paths and walkways that facilitate community participation and engagement with the natural environment	5.1.8.1 Review of Brighton's Open Space Strategy reflects natural values and community connections
	5.1.9 Work with community and stakeholders to develop interpretive and wayfinding signage to promote NRM themes such as biodiversity.	5.1.9.1 Key sites and themes identified
	5.1.10 Work with community and stakeholders to develop a map of Brighton's tracks and trails	5.1.10.1 Draft tracks and trails map developed

5. PEOPLE (Continued)		
Goal	Action	Target
5.2 Facilitate increased community participation in and awareness of NRM	5.2.1 Continue to support the community engagement plan for NRM to ensure community ownership of the NRM strategy	5.2.1.1 Actions in the community engagement plan implemented
	5.2.2 Facilitate schools to adopt a patch of foreshore (of other) area as an outdoor classroom where students can learn and care for the natural environment	5.2.2.1 Two schools have adopted a patch
	5.2.3 Facilitate educational and awareness raising activities for schools	5.2.3.1 Two (2) activities each year
	5.2.4 Work with key organisations such as Landcare Tasmania, NRM South, Derwent Estuary Program, Derwent Catchment Project, BirdLife Tasmania and Clean Up Australia to support community groups undertaking NRM activities	5.2.4.1 An annual collaborative event with key organisations
	5.2.5 Facilitate community involvement in NRM (land, bush, coast and water, care) activities.	5.2.5.1 Increase in community interest and participation
	5.1.6 Raise awareness of the link between Aboriginal Heritage and Brighton's natural resources	5.2.6.1 Activities run at kutalayna Collective's Summer and Winter Fest
	5.2.7 Work with Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary and Zoodoo to promote awareness of biodiversity and our native wildlife	5.2.7.1 Community aware of native wildlife and where to go to see them
	5.2.8 Work with Mona and the 24 Carrot program to foster an interest in growing fruit and vegetables and healthy eating. Linking the importance of food production systems to lifestyles	5.2.8.1 Increased participation in programs
	5.2.9 Work with different stakeholders groups to promote outdoor activities that connect the community with each other and the natural environment, and promote health and well being	5.2.9.1 Increase in number of different groups utilising natural areas for activities and events



Care for Country

*"what it truly means to
krakani, which means to
sit with, to nurture, to
be caretakers of country
and all that abounds
and surrounds each and
every one of us...(and)
be a gentle collective of
caretakers of our fragile
environment."*

Alison Overeem,
proud Palawa woman from
South- East Tasmania