

12. Cultural heritage

12.1 Goals

To identify, protect, enhance and promote the evolution of different elements of cultural and heritage significance, encompassing Tasmanian contemporary communities, Aboriginal, historic and maritime values

To aspire to a high level of public awareness and understanding of the contribution that heritage makes to social and economic wellbeing

To recognise and appreciate the links between our cultural heritage and the natural environment

12.2 Aspirational Targets

These are long-term targets for the desired condition of natural resources over the next 50+ years.

Cultural and historical assets are protected and maintained

The community values, and has protected, landscape character

The broader community understands the Aboriginal relationship with the land and land management

12.3 Resource Condition Targets

This chapter outlines management actions that are needed to achieve progress towards the goals for Cultural Heritage. The Resource Condition Targets for Cultural Heritage are mainly aimed at protecting cultural heritage sites. The pressures of recreation and land use change on landscape heritage and Aboriginal sites are also discussed in chapter 7: Land, and chapter 9: Biodiversity.

The Resource Condition Targets and Management Action Targets are numbered to show how they relate to the Management Action Packages at the end of the chapter.

The Resource Condition Targets for Cultural Heritage are coded RCT CH1 to RCT CH2.

Resource condition	Target no.	Resource Condition Targets for Cultural Heritage (10–20 years)
Heritage site condition	RCT CH1	Recreation pressures and land use change managed in ways that reduce the risk to sites: by 2020.
Aboriginal site condition	RCT CH2	The condition of all known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites protected in partnership with the Aboriginal community: by 2020.

12.4 Management Action Targets

There are six Management Action Targets for Cultural Heritage. The sixth target is linked to the Community Capacity management actions for the wider community (see section 5.7: Community Capacity Package 2, which addresses lack of community awareness). The Strategy recognises the many linkages between the different natural resource assets, and the links between the asset targets are shown in Appendix 6.

The Management Action Targets for Cultural Heritage are coded CH1 to CH6.

Resource condition	Target no.	Management Action Targets for Cultural Heritage (1–5 years)
Heritage site	MAT CH1	Develop and implement conservation management plans for Regionally significant sites of cultural heritage: by 2010.
	MAT CH2	Develop and implement a strategy for promotion of appropriate historic sites and their values: by 2010.
	MAT CH3	Adequately address Aboriginal and other cultural landscape values in all NRM activities: by 2010.
Aboriginal site condition	MAT CH4	Develop and deliver accredited training schemes on Aboriginal cultural heritage for Local Government and compliance officers in all municipalities: by 2010.
	MAT CH5	Develop and deliver accredited Land Management Training schemes for the Aboriginal community: by 2010.
	MAT CH6	Develop and deliver a community education and awareness program on Aboriginal cultural heritage values: by 2010.

12.5 Asset description

Cultural heritage refers to Aboriginal, European and maritime historic heritage and cultural landscapes.

An extraordinary range of cultural heritage assets is found throughout the Region: from kilometre-long West Coast middens to weatherboard houses in Stanley; from old metal boilers deep in the Southwest National Park to the patchwork burning of buttongrass plains on the Central Plateau. Landscape and cultural heritage are also described in the Regional overview (chapter 2: section 2.4).

Aboriginal heritage

Aboriginal heritage places range from small collections of scattered artefacts left from skin preparation, hut building and spear making, to middens spanning thousands of years of food gathering and living on the coast. Aboriginal places also include rock shelters with painted walls, hut depressions and rock carvings, from the very distant to the recent past.

Contemporary places important to today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community are also found throughout the Region, reflecting the strength of present values and cultural practices, and many are listed on the Register of the National Estate. However, a focus on particular sites diminishes our appreciation of the entire island of Tasmania as one large Aboriginal heritage site.

Historic and maritime heritage

Historic places mark the many important events, activities and trends that shaped the more recent history of the State.

These historic places include:

- convict sites, e.g. Sarah Island
- places marking our timber, agricultural and mining industries, including the gold and tin fields of Balfour, Renodine, Black Bluff and Ferndene, the sheep and cattle fields of Woolnorth, and the Huon pine cutting fields now deep in the Southwest National Park



- Hydro Electricity projects in the twentieth century, e.g. Lake Margaret Power Station and Gowrie Park
- long-standing shack communities
- pioneer cemeteries
- community halls
- sites of former settlement, e.g. Halls Point, Penguin and Hampshire Hills
- many individual buildings of notable construction, architecture or historic use.

These historic sites are familiar to many people in the Region, even if the stories arising from particular places are often obscure.

Our terrestrial and sea-based maritime heritage is associated with numerous shipwrecks, some extraordinary Victorian light stations, and a range of old wharves, jetties and ports. Many landmarks on the West Coast are named after shipwrecks such as the Rebecca and the Alert (see Map: Abalone Catch and Other Maritime Resources, in chapter 10).

Landscape heritage

The dramatic landscape changes, from coast to inland mountains, form the backdrop of our lives and are prized by residents of the Cradle Coast Region. The magnificent landscape is a result of millions of years of environmental processes, modified by humans only in the relatively recent past. The patterns of grassed plains and forests are often the result of fire-stick farming by Aborigines over many thousands of years.

More recent landscapes include convict and Georgian landscapes, agricultural landscapes, mining areas on the West Coast, and the recreational landscapes formed around shack settlements. Many of us enjoy visiting the Region's extensive wilderness areas.

Geoheritage sites (geological features that are of value in their own right or as part of a natural process) are covered in chapter 7: Land (see Map: Geoheritage Threat Status in the Cradle Coast NRM Region, in chapter 7).

Aboriginal aspirations – Natural Resource Management in Tasmania

Aboriginal people have lived on the islands that make up Tasmania for many thousands of years (upwards of 40 000 years), living interdependently with the land throughout that time.

Many of the values Aboriginal people hold as important exist within and across the wider landscape, and respect, management and protection of those values is seen as a broad Tasmanian community responsibility.

The whole landscape is part of the story. All Aboriginal sites are important in that each one is an integral part of the country.

In recent times the Tasmanian Aboriginal community has progressed from being dispossessed of land a little over 200 years ago to having a small amount of that land returned (in 1995 and 2005). Other areas of land have been purchased by the Aboriginal community. With the return of land, a number of land management problems, resulting from historical European land management practices, have been inherited by the Aboriginal community.

Aboriginal land management knowledge and practices have been increasingly acknowledged by sections of the wider community. Aboriginal people have strong physical and spiritual links with country. Land management expertise of the old people has survived. Today's Aboriginal community is also developing knowledge and skills of contemporary land management practices.

The aim of this Statement is to promote the views, needs and aspirations of Tasmanian Aborigines in relation to sustainable natural resource and land management practices that ensure protection and enhancement of Aboriginal culture and heritage values throughout Tasmania.

12.6 Values and services provided

Places of cultural significance and heritage enrich people's lives and can provide a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community, to landscape and to the past. Managing this heritage depends on individuals and communities attaining a sense of place and identity through the heritage around them – while at the same time being willing to respect the heritage that other people appreciate.

Places of cultural significance reflect the diversity of our communities, telling us about who we are and the past that has formed our landscape and us. These places, irreplaceable and precious, must be conserved for present and future generations.

The landscape character also adds to a sense of place and context within the natural environment. In natural environments, the impact of human activity on the landscape reveals the story of habitation, whether from pre-European times, more recent history or in the modern era.

Our striking and beautiful landscapes provide recreational opportunities and attract visitors to the Region. There is significant cultural value attached to traditional access of public land for cattle grazing, the use of four-wheel drive vehicles, camping, bushwalking, horse riding, hunting and fishing. For instance, nearly 12% of adult males in the Region go hunting (ABS statistics, 2000).

12.7 Asset condition

Despite a growing recognition of the value of Aboriginal and historic heritage assets, lack of care and information is wearing away the rich legacy of over 40 000 years of occupation of Tasmania. Everyone can point to places where open space, forests, tracks, river banks, hedges, houses, shops and huts have disappeared.

Aboriginal heritage

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Sites Index provides the main listing of identified Aboriginal heritage assets. Over 9000 Aboriginal heritage sites are listed on the Index, which is maintained by the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts.

All Aboriginal heritage places are protected under the Aboriginal Relics Act. Identifying places of significance to the Aboriginal community rests with Tasmanian Aboriginal community organisations.

Most Aboriginal and historic heritage resources are not permanent, and the Region's reserves, set up for protecting the environment, contain slowly disintegrating huts, mines and middens. The Government has committed to reviewing the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* to ensure that it

adequately reflects the needs of the people of Tasmania, particularly the Aboriginal community.

Historic and maritime heritage

The Tasmanian Heritage Register is the main listing of historic heritage assets, and is maintained by the Tasmanian Heritage Council. Over 5000 historic heritage sites are presently identified on the Register. The Heritage Council considers it a major priority to complete this register over the next few years.

Supplementary lists of historic heritage assets of Regional or local significance may be contained in Local Government planning schemes, in Management Plans under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*, or in other forms of Government listings (such as the Tasmanian Historic Places Index held by the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts).

The Tasmanian Heritage Register mainly contains sites of National, State and possibly Regional significance. Because the Heritage Register and local planning schemes rarely list sites of significance to local communities, these sites may be lost or damaged by inappropriate development.

Historic shipwrecks are identified in the Shipwrecks Database held by the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts.

Landscape heritage

Many of the more outstanding landscape areas are protected as National Parks and Reserves. The Cradle Coast Region contains parts of a number of Australia's iconic wilderness areas, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, which covers Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park, the Franklin–Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and the Southwest National Park.

Some natural areas are not fully protected. These include the Tarkine wilderness, one of the most significant wilderness areas in Australia, containing Australia's largest contiguous areas of temperate rainforest. Of the 350 000 ha listed by the National Estate as the Tarkine Wilderness Area, about 70% is protected in State Reserves, including the Savage River National Park.

Some areas heavily modified by humans have a distinctive and valued landscape character. These include the jutting headlands with vistas over Bass Strait and the patchworks of different crops and colours in the largely uncluttered rural landscapes. King Island has attractive tree-lined watercourses and fence lines as well as areas of isolation and natural vegetation. The West Coast has notable landscapes influenced by mining and forestry activities.

There is no formal recognition or registration of these valued modified landscapes.



12.8 Causes of degradation

Causes of degradation identified for Cultural Heritage are:

- natural degradation over time
- current management practices, such as allowing off-road vehicle and grazing access
- insufficient care or provision for protecting and preserving places valued for heritage-based tourism, despite an increased focus on tourism.

These problems are compounded by:

- changing community expectations and priorities
- lack of knowledge and appreciation of heritage sites
- lack of cross-cultural understanding.

The result has been reduced resources, with greater competition for limited funds and resources both within the community and within Government. There is increasing pressure to privatise the management of cultural heritage sites. A key factor in achieving heritage conservation in the State is the attainment of a high level of public awareness and understanding of the contribution that heritage makes to our social and economic wellbeing.

Often the most important factor in securing the protection of a heritage place is finding an appropriate use for that place. However, the use of any heritage asset must be tied to the social aspirations and empowerment of the local community. For Aboriginal heritage assets, this applies to the Aboriginal community.

Landscape

Landscape assets are not held or managed by single owners, but are affected by the actions of many landowners, managers and users. As a result, most areas have changed significantly over the last 20–30 years. In some cases undesirable changes occurred because the desired direction of change was not identified or agreed by the wider community, and was not recognised or managed by relevant planning processes.

Processes changing the Region's character and appearance include tree clearance, rural-residential sub-division, wide-scale plantation forestry, wildfires and farming, and forestry and mining activities next to protected areas. Other processes are wind-farming, indiscriminate vehicle access, erosion damage from cattle grazing, off-road vehicle access and urban growth.

In some rural areas, traditional farming has given way to forest plantations, involving the amalgamation of properties and the relocation of residents. As areas lose population, community services are lost and the landscape character changes dramatically, as at Preolenna, Meunna, Hampshire and West Ridgley.

Other impacts are evident along the coast as more people seek a 'sea-change'. These impacts include vegetation removal and intensive coastal rural-residential development.

Issues identified for landscape character are:

- a need to identify and register sites, particularly in coastal areas
- current management practices that allow landscapes and values to degrade
- the need for changes to National and State Government legislation
- development pressures from commercial interests and an emphasis on economic benefits
- the need for methods to regulate activities that impact on landscape values but are currently exempt.

Gaps in existing knowledge or management systems

The four main actions needed to help secure the health of the Cultural Heritage assets are to:

- develop educational, interpretive and promotional programs for Cultural Heritage assets
- complete the Tasmanian Heritage Register
- establish new Aboriginal heritage legislation
- create accredited training schemes within the Aboriginal heritage sector, particularly for Aboriginal community members.

Additional actions required are to:

- include areas of local significance on the Tasmanian Heritage Register
- protect areas of World Heritage value
- produce an inventory of sites and areas of landscape significance
- complete the registers for Aboriginal heritage assets, as appropriate
- provide committed funds for Aboriginal, natural and cultural resource management.

12.9 Priority issues

The priority issues for Cultural Heritage were developed from the community consultation process as outlined in chapters 4 and 13 (see the list in Table 13.4). The detailed process for determining these priorities (*Methodology for prioritising management actions*) is available as a Supplementary Document from Cradle Coast NRM and is on our website www.nrmtas.com.au (click on Cradle Coast Region).

Note that because many natural resources belong to more than one asset group, some of the priorities affecting Cultural Heritage are discussed mainly in other chapters. For instance, geoheritage is in chapter 7: Land.

The priority issues identified for Cultural Heritage assets are:

- impacts on cultural heritage values from site visitation
- inappropriate development for cultural heritage values.

These priorities were used to develop the packages of management actions described in the following section.

12.10 Management Action Packages

A suite of management actions has been designed to achieve the Management Action Targets and to contribute to achieving the longer-term Resource Condition Targets for the priority issues. These management actions are grouped in packages as set out in the following tables. The action packages are designed to address causes rather than symptoms.

Our Goals for the Region provided the direction for setting all the targets and Management Action Packages. Many of the actions have been drawn from the various action plans and strategies that support the Strategy.

The text at the top of each table shows how each Management Action Package for Cultural Heritage is linked to the Resource Condition Targets and Management Action Targets.

The Management Action Packages have been numbered for ease of referring to them in developing the first Regional Investment Proposal. This will involve further stakeholder consultation to identify the funding requirements for implementing the highest priority management actions, as discussed in the following section, Part E.

Cultural Heritage Package 1: Impacts on cultural heritage values from site visitation. These packages address Resource Condition Targets CH1, CH2 and Management Action Targets CH1, CH2, CH4, CH5, CH6.

Cause	No.	Action	Possible Lead Org. ⁷
Inadequate site protection	CH1	Maintain comprehensive site register for Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.	TALC/ DTPHA
	CH2	Build on existing registers of cultural heritage sites that exist in the Region (e.g. Devonport Cultural Heritage Assessment).	THC
	CH3	Provide accredited training schemes in Aboriginal heritage management, specifically designed for Aboriginal community members, Local Government members and compliance officers.	TALC
	CH4	Identify sites that are fragile, remote and potential targets for vandalism, and revise management to ensure their conservation (e.g. prepare guidelines).	TALC/ THC
	CH5	Revise management regimes, including visitor access, with park managers and private enterprise operators, to encourage low impact use of places of cultural heritage significance (especially those places with high visitor use).	PWS
	CH6	Provide accredited training schemes for historic cultural heritage management, specifically designed for Local Government members and officers.	THC/ DPIWE

⁷ Possible lead organisations have been identified. Negotiation with these organisations is part of the next phase, developing the first Regional Investment Proposal. Acronyms are explained on the last page of this Strategy.

Cause	No.	Action	Possible Lead Org.
	CH7	Provide adequate training for on-ground practitioners (farmers, forestry industry etc.) to recognise places of cultural heritage significance, to liaise with stakeholders and to appropriately manage places of cultural significance. (Training to include targeted courses for land managers.)	CCNRM
Lack of consultation	CH8	Undertake heritage investigations and continue community consultation to identify and appropriately manage sites of cultural heritage significance (including precincts, landscapes, buildings and objects).	THC/ LGAT
	CH9	Develop framework agreements and partnerships for the preservation, protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage, and continuously improve consultation mechanisms.	Various groups
	CH10	Employ an Aboriginal liaison officer.	CCNRM
	CH11	Ensure that conservation management plans are developed for Regionally significant sites (Burra Charter standards).	DTPHA
Lack of awareness	CH12	Provide appropriate interpretation and education materials (via appropriate and varied communication techniques) to promote understanding of significance of cultural heritage values.	Various
	CH13	Develop a strategy for promotion of heritage sites and their values.	Cradle Coast Tourism
	CH14	Undertake a socio-cultural assessment and appreciation of Aboriginal heritage values within the Region.	TALC
	CH15	Publish oral narrations and works of local historical societies and museums to encourage increasing awareness of heritage value and management.	THC

Cultural Heritage Package 2: Inappropriate development for cultural heritage values. These packages address Resource Condition Targets CH1, CH2 and Management Action Targets CH1, CH3, CH6.

Cause	No.	Action	Possible Lead Org.
Planning deficiencies	CH16	Government at all levels to work with Tasmanian Heritage Council, Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council and the Aboriginal community to develop heritage protection/conservation provisions for inclusion in Local Government planning schemes.	LGAT/ State Govt
	CH17	Establish a framework agreement between LGAT (on behalf of all Local Governments) and the Aboriginal community, for the preservation, protection and management of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage, that includes cultural heritage assessments as part of planning processes.	TALC
	CH18	Map and register the location of sites of historic cultural heritage significance (including precincts, landscapes, buildings and objects).	THC
	CH19	Implement strategies, as set out in <i>Successful Tourism at Heritage Places</i> , to enhance historic heritage values.	DTPHA
	CH20	Establish and implement the Aboriginal Tourism Strategy.	DPTHA/OAA
	CH21	Provide (and disseminate) guidelines to assist land managers to include cultural heritage places within property management plans.	DPIWE
Lack of awareness	CH22	Promote services and expertise available to the community from the Tasmanian Heritage Office and local historical societies.	THC
	CH23	Provide expert advice to local Councils, Parks and Wildlife Service and other Government agencies on the management and conservation of heritage.	THC

Monitoring and Evaluation Package

Monitoring and evaluation will allow the Region to learn about the effectiveness of actions taken, to make changes where necessary and to report on progress in achieving Regional targets. The following table contains the monitoring and evaluation actions for Cultural Heritage. For more information and the full set of monitoring and evaluation actions see chapter 14: Monitoring and Evaluation.

Monitoring and Evaluation Package for Cultural Heritage: These packages address Resource Condition Targets CH1, CH2.

Asset	No.	Action	Possible Lead Org.
Cultural heritage	M24	Establish a monitoring program to monitor changes in condition of heritage places.	State Govt
	M25	Develop indicators to measure the status and condition of cultural heritage. Collate and regularly update information about these indicators in a database.	State Govt