

# Regional Assets and Actions

This section contains a chapter for each Regional natural resource asset: Land; Water; Biodiversity; Coastal, Estuarine and Marine; Atmosphere; and Cultural Heritage. The introductory chapter discusses the links between the natural resource assets. Each following chapter gives an overview of the asset, its values and the services it provides. It describes the asset's current condition and discusses the causes of degradation.

In every chapter there is a set of Goals and Targets for each asset, with time-frames ranging from the long-term to the short-term – Aspirational Targets (50+ years), Resource Condition Targets (10–20 years) and Management Action Targets (1–5 years). These targets were developed by the community, Cradle Coast NRM Committee, key stakeholders and technical specialists (as described in Part B). The consultation process also identified the priority issues for each asset.

Resource Condition and Management Action Targets have been developed for most Aspirational Targets. In a small number of cases, actions were not identified for targets in the short to medium term. These actions will be considered at a later stage.

The community and technical input was used to develop 'packages' of management actions to achieve the targets for the priority NRM issues. The management actions are grouped in packages, because NRM issues are generally too complex to be effectively addressed by single actions. The Management Action Packages are listed at the end of each asset chapter. Some of the management actions are already being undertaken by stakeholders within the Region. These include a number of Priority Projects funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Landcare Program.

Not all management actions can be funded in the short term, so further community feedback on the Draft Strategy's Goals, Targets, Priorities and Management Action Packages was sought and used to develop the priorities for each asset. To achieve a greater improvement in resource condition, it will in many cases be more efficient to deliver the management actions for the different assets as an integrated package. This integration will take place during the development of the Investment Proposals.

The Resource Condition Targets and Management Action Targets are numbered to show how they are linked to the Management Action Packages, which are also numbered so they can be referred to easily.



Management actions have been prioritised within a cause. For instance, in the Land Asset, L2 is of a higher priority than L4, but L1 is not of a higher priority than L2 or L5. In most cases, the prioritisation at this level is related to the logical sequence in which actions need to occur, for instance, in many cases baseline information may need to be collected before further planning or on-ground works can be undertaken. Also note that the packages are not in any order of priority within the asset chapters.

For many targets and actions, priorities have not yet been identified for where water management plans, Rivercare plans, revegetation, or weed initiatives may occur, or which specific threatened species recovery plans will be undertaken. The methods for identifying these may differ, depending on the specific action to be undertaken, but will include establishing community priorities and scientific and technical priorities. These priorities will change over time, depending on the time of undertaking. Scientific and technical priorities may be based on Australian and State Government policies and strategies and will use the most up-to-date research and modelling information, such as the State-based Conservation of Ecosystem Values (CFEV) system.

Possible 'lead organisations' have been tentatively identified to take on the role of initiating and ensuring the implementation of each Management Action Package. Consultation with these organisations is part of the next phase of implementing the Strategy, which is developing the first Regional Investment Proposal. This will also involve identifying organisations that can deliver each package and consulting with them to detail the actions and costs involved.



## 6. Integrating the management of Regional assets

### 6.1 Links between the natural assets

Although the Strategy has 'divided' the Region's natural resource assets into several broad groups, each discussed in a separate chapter, this is simply to make it easier to organise the information about the numerous natural resource management issues. Dividing the NRM assets into six broad groups is, of course, quite artificial.

The six asset groups are:

- Land
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Coastal, Estuarine and Marine
- Atmosphere
- Cultural Heritage.

These assets are inextricably inter-linked, and this is recognised in the Strategy, as part of the Australia-wide move towards integrated natural resource management. There are obvious links, for instance, between land, water, coasts, estuaries and the sea. These links include the connections within catchments, where activities on the land affect the aquatic environments not just locally, but also downstream. For instance, vegetation and soil management in riparian zones affects the health of waterways and wetlands.

The health of our estuarine, coastal and marine environments at the end of the catchment depends on careful management of land uses in the upper catchment. For instance, if land-based activities in the catchment degrade water quality and quantity, this harms marine and estuarine fish farming, which require clean water.

These obvious connections between land and water motivated the numerous integrated catchment management initiatives that have already been developed within the Cradle Coast Region. These catchment management strategies, and similar integrated strategies such as landowner property management plans, are vital parts of the broader-scale Regional NRM Strategy.

### 6.2 An integrated NRM Strategy

An integrated system of managing natural resources is complex, but necessary if we are to tackle the causes of problems, not just the symptoms. And integrated management, with collaboration between all involved, has many advantages. It enables people and organisations with an interest in an issue to share information and to work together effectively, reducing duplication of effort and avoiding gaps. Developing partnerships around shared goals helps to get the best value from the allocation of funds and effort, and to make the best use of opportunities for the sustainable use of natural resources.

It is vital to the success of the NRM Strategy to increase community participation and ownership of NRM by raising community awareness and knowledge of why NRM is important. Incentives and support are also required to enable active community involvement in NRM. Farmers play a particularly important role in sustainable NRM because agriculture occupies over half the private land (about 14% of total land).

Building community capacity will help to develop partnerships and increase integration across the natural resource assets (Land, Water, Biodiversity, etc.) by bringing together people with common interests in these assets (e.g. managing inland fisheries involves Land, Water and Biodiversity).

Integrated catchment management planning, property management planning, vegetation management agreements and threatened species recovery plans are among the means of achieving integration and moving to a more sustainable future. Monitoring and evaluation will also play an important role in integrated management.



### 6.3 Integration across Regional boundaries

Natural resource assets, such as water catchments, Public Reserves and threatened species, are not always confined within the boundaries of one Region. Problems such as fire, weeds, pests and diseases can also cross boundaries. The Cradle Coast NRM Strategy recognises the need to manage such issues across the State's three NRM Regions. Many of these issues are already managed through broader-scale strategies and plans, some at the State-wide level. These include threatened species recovery plans, weed plans, integrated catchment management plans, and management plans for public land, such as the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Not all 'cross-regional' NRM issues involve dealing with problems. Maintaining and enhancing our natural assets are aspects of NRM, as illustrated by the development of a State-wide 'Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative' reserve system for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

The Cradle Coast NRM Committee is working with all levels of Government and with the Northern and Southern NRM Regions to integrate NRM management across Tasmania (as described in sections 3.5 and 3.6).

### 6.4 Showing the links between assets and actions

The Cradle Coast NRM Strategy recognises the many linkages between the different natural resource assets. The connections between assets are discussed within each of the following chapters in this section. The most closely linked targets and management actions appear in more than one chapter. The system used for coding and numbering the targets and action packages also reflects the links between assets.

The major links between assets are also clearly shown in each asset chapter. First, we note the links between targets for different assets in the tables setting out the Resource Condition Targets and Management Action Targets. Second, the links between proposed management actions are shown in the tables setting out the Management Action Packages. These packages attempt to protect, maintain and enhance our natural resources in an integrated way. The links between the targets and actions for each asset are also shown in Appendix 6.

To achieve a greater improvement in resource condition, it will in many cases be more efficient to deliver the management actions for different assets (e.g. Land and Water) as an integrated package. This integration will take place during the development of the Investment Proposals.

Note that where targets relate to the 'condition' of a resource, this is based on the terminology used for the indicators for the ten National Matters for Targets. References to the 'condition' of an asset mean that the health or integrity of the asset is to be measured according to the set of indicators and methods of measurement developed for each Matter For Target, as part of the Bilateral Agreement between the Tasmanian and Australian Governments to work together to invest in NRM activities (as described in section 3.4). The indicators are currently being trialled.

