

# The 2005 Northern Tasmania Natural Resource Management Strategy:

# Your roadmap



**managing our region's assets,  
preserving our future.**



## Who is NRM North?

Put simply, the Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association (NRM North) is a regional organisation that draws together our collective aspirations and actions for the natural assets of this area.

It was officially incorporated on March 26, 2003 with its 81 membership seats filled by a diverse group of people from industry, local government, conservation groups, public and private land managers and others who have an interest or expertise in managing the region's natural resources.

The make-up of the association was decided after a series of public forums initiated by local government, and there is a 15-member management committee which is endorsed by the State government.

There is a team of professionals who support this committee and work with the community of Northern Tasmania to support them in the management of the region's natural resources.

## Why do we need a strategy?

Over the years many groups have carried out work which has improved or protected natural resources within our region. Significant gains have been made and, in an effort to further build on these gains and continually improve our efforts, we need to become more strategic in our efforts and find ways of sharing resources and working together more effectively.

In short, something had to be done to bring the “big picture” together.

This Strategy aims to show us what needs to be done to sustainably manage the region's natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

## What region does it cover?

This natural resource management strategy covers all eight northern Tasmanian municipalities: Break O'Day, Dorset, George Town, Launceston, West Tamar, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, and Flinders (covering the Eastern Bass Strait islands). Or more simply, the boundary of the region matches the “03 63” telephone directory boundary for Tasmania.

## How was the Strategy created?

Almost two years were spent getting the community involved so that the ideas and priorities set in this strategy genuinely reflect the importance of these resources to the whole community.

The strategy development was facilitated by NRM North building upon the priorities identified in the extensive engagement and consultation process, existing plans and sub-regional strategies and expert scientific advice.



## What will the Strategy do?

As a region we have limited financial and physical resources to undertake all that needs to be done. On the basis of our current knowledge and management techniques, it will not be economically or technically possible to rehabilitate all degraded areas within the region. There is also much important preventive work to be done. The community has played its part by helping to set priorities that enable us to focus our efforts on making strategic improvements and ensuring that we really do make a difference.

This Strategy aims to assess the present condition of the region's natural assets, review the values and services provided by these natural assets, and identify the major threats or risks to these, including management issues which are restricting sustainable management.

And instead of just talking about what needs to be done, the Strategy outlines how to achieve the goals set within it and who is responsible for meeting these goals.

We live in one of the most unique places in the world. How can we keep it that way?

## A focus on the triple bottom line ...

You might not know this but the Northern Tasmania Natural Resource Management Strategy has been designed to deliver on three broad values – developing society, enhancing the environment, and supporting the economic prosperity of the region.

This is called a triple bottom line approach where instead of an organisation focusing on just environmental or economic factors, it must balance economic viability against environmental and social factors which affect its community.

There is no point having strong success in any of these areas if the other values are ignored.

Rather than setting one set of values against another, the benefits of all three together leads to sustainable communities into the future.

## What are the principles behind the Strategy?

The strategy was developed using the principles set out in the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework, which states that:

*“Tasmania’s future will depend on how we balance the use, development and conservation of the State’s natural resources”*

The Framework defines seven core principles to achieve this:

Plan around **Ecosystems** and **Integrated Management** across regions and sectors, make **Balanced** and **Priority Based Decisions**, manage in **Partnership**, and recognise that **Prevention is Better than Cure** and **We are all Responsible**.

## What are the region’s natural assets?

The Strategy recognises that our natural resources are actually the “natural assets” of the region.

Most are obvious, such as **biodiversity; water; land; estuaries, coasts and marine areas;** and the **atmosphere**. Two more groupings were added to the list to cover the social, or community factors – **cultural heritage** and **sustainable communities**.

## How did we decide what was a priority?

Identifying where to focus our efforts has been done by working out which of our most valuable natural resources (priority assets) are also under the significant threat OR offer the best opportunity for improvement.

This Strategy identifies the condition we want to aim for (20-year condition targets), the management we need to have in place to get there (10-year management targets) and what we can start doing now (management actions). These immediate actions were graded on how readily they could be delivered and the difference they would make, and were then grouped into 13 delivery packages.

## What has the Strategy got to do with me?

How natural resources are used and managed affects the whole community, because we all share in the benefits derived from their proper use, and the costs associated with their degradation.

Landholders and the community have already invested heavily in Northern Tasmania’s natural resources and are significant stakeholders.

With the strategy now in place, the hard work of implementing the ideas begins and this will require community support.

If you think NRM North can help you, you need to understand what the strategy is all about.

“**T**he Northern Tasmanian NRM Strategy recognises that the present and future health and sustainability of the region’s natural environment is highly dependent on one of its key resources, its people.”

Geoff McLennan, chairman of NRM North, OAM