

**NRM SOUTH**

**NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
FOR  
SOUTHERN TASMANIA**

**May 2005**



## **Disclaimer**

The content of this strategy has been based on existing information which will be subject to change as new information becomes available. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this strategy is accurate. Further information is available from the references listed in the Supplementary Information. This is located on the NRM Tasmania website ([www.nrmtas.com.au](http://www.nrmtas.com.au) and click on the Southern Region).

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### **Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania**

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# Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania

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## Foreword

The Southern Region of Tasmania has a wealth of natural resources. They form the basis of many of our industries and communities. Our economic and social growth and our quality of life depend upon the maintenance and improvement of our natural resources.

The sustainable development and use of our natural resources are an ongoing challenge for the region. Many people have invested time and money in rehabilitating and protecting our natural resources, both individually and collectively, with and without government support. Much valuable progress has been made. However, some of the past activity has been limited in scope or localised in focus or 'wasted' because it was not supported by neighbours. While a credit to the commitment of those involved, some work has not necessarily had a really effective or long-term impact in protecting our natural resource values. There is a widely held view that a more strategic approach to natural resource management is needed to improve the effectiveness of the on-ground work. This particularly relates to coordination and integration between sectors, across geographical boundaries and across boundaries of responsibility.

The process of developing a collective strategic vision for natural resource management in the Southern Region in an integrated way has been the task of the Southern Regional Committee for Natural Resource Management (NRM South). NRM South, with the support of many interested individuals, organisations and government agencies, has collected current regional information from a wide range of sources to develop this Strategy.

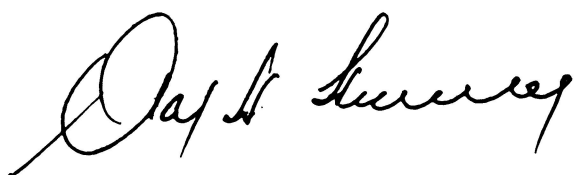
The Strategy will give strategic direction to the efforts of individuals, groups, organisations, businesses and industry and Local, State and Australian governments. This will maximise the future positive impact on our natural resources and help sustain our desired environmental, economic and social values.

It is important to understand that this Strategy is intended to provide a strategic framework. The detail of individual programs and activities will be developed by those accepting responsibility for implementation. This Strategy is not intended to be prescriptive, but is designed to signpost areas requiring attention, identify what needs to be done, and facilitate an integrated approach to natural resource management to maximise long-term outcomes.

The next step is the implementation of the Strategy. This will be done primarily through Investment Proposals. The first Regional Investment Proposal that will accompany the Strategy is based on the priorities and actions detailed in the Strategy. Through rolling three-year Regional Investment Proposals prepared annually, and negotiation of partnerships with key organisations able to assist in implementing the Strategy, resources will be secured to tackle the issues in an integrated and strategic way.

The success of this Strategy is dependent upon the support of people and organisations within Southern Tasmania. I encourage you to work with us to ensure that the implementation and further refinement of the Strategy reflects the needs and aspirations of the community and provides a sound basis for us to sustain our natural resources in a healthy state for future generations.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the committee and staff in developing the Strategy.



Ollie Hedberg,  
Chairperson, NRM South

## Acknowledgements

Many individuals and organisations have contributed to development of this Strategy. The initial consultation process involved well over 700 people, including Southern Association members, technical specialists, stakeholders, the academic and scientific community, staff and elected representatives from State and Local governments, public land managers, farmers, the fishing, forestry, tourism, processing and manufacturing industries, the conservation sector, the 'care' community, other community groups ranging from local Apex and Rotary Clubs to pony clubs, and general ratepayers. Sixty-four submissions were received in the early development phase (July 2003 – March 2004). A further 127 submissions were received in response to the Draft Strategy (June 2004 – August 2004).

NRM South members and staff wish to thank everyone involved for their input, their insights and their interest.

Photos used in this Strategy and accompanying publicity are supplied by Hobart Water, Peter Whyte and Tourism Tasmania.

NRM South is very grateful for the support the Australian and Tasmanian governments have provided through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) and the Natural Heritage Trust Extension (NHT2).

## Executive Summary

The Southern Regional NRM Strategy has been developed to set directions for natural resource management in Southern Tasmania. The Strategy is based on current knowledge and previous and existing work, and has been developed with extensive community consultation. It is intended to provide a focus for natural resource management in the Region, and to improve integration and coordination of planning and activities, particularly between sectors and across geographical boundaries.

The Strategy was developed by the Southern Regional Committee for Natural Resource Management (NRM South), which is made up of representatives from a wide range of stakeholder groups including: key natural resource-based industries in the Region; public land managers; Tasmanian Government, Local Government; the Aboriginal community; conservation groups and the broader community (See Appendix 14 for a list of committee members).

The Vision, Goals and Targets of the Strategy were developed through consultation with the community of the Region. They set the direction for future activity in the management and protection of our natural resources.

### **Regional Vision**

*The Southern Region's natural resources will be protected, sustainably managed and improved for the shared environmental, social and economic benefit of our region by a well-informed, well-resourced and actively committed community.*

### **Regional Goals**

Through efficient structures, strategies and activities, the Goals of the Southern NRM Strategy are to:

- 1. facilitate participation, communication, networks and partnerships with all sectors of the community to develop and implement the Southern NRM Strategy*
- 2. maintain and improve the condition of the Southern Region's natural resources*
- 3. contribute to the development of sustainable human communities to provide employment and a quality lifestyle*
- 4. assist in the development of a sustainable and balanced approach to economic development*
- 5. build the capacity of all sectors of the community to work together and share responsibility for sustainable natural resource management, to monitor resource condition, and to ensure well-informed decisions*

The Strategy identifies a number of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets to help the Region achieve the Vision and Goals.

### **Focus of the Strategy**

The focus of the Southern NRM Strategy is:

- Ensuring a balance between environmental, economic and social outcomes
- Maintaining and/or improving water quality in freshwater and marine, coastal and estuarine systems
- Securely and sustainably allocating surface and groundwater resources for domestic, agricultural, industrial and environmental purposes

- Ensuring a minimum level of **native vegetation** in good condition is retained in each of the bioregions to maintain landscape character and integrity and protect the Region's biodiversity
- Protecting key terrestrial, freshwater and marine, coastal and estuarine **ecosystems, species** and their **habitats**
- Preventing further spread of **weeds, pests** and **diseases**
- Maintaining and/or improving **soil condition**
- Preventing further spread of **salinity**
- Protecting key landforms (**geodiversity**) and **Cultural Landscapes**

These issues are all the subject of targets, and are addressed by:

- Ensuring availability of adequate **information and data**
- Promoting natural resource management principles in **policy, planning or decision-making**
- Supporting **on-ground actions** that can be confidently related to achieving Resource Condition Targets
- Supporting the community to participate more effectively in NRM by building community **responsibility, awareness and capacity**
- Ensuring **baseline** information is available and establishing a **monitoring and evaluation** framework to assist achievement of the Strategy's targets

The success of the Strategy is dependent upon ongoing community support. The Strategy should be viewed as a continually evolving document which is driven and owned by the community. It has the broad support of all stakeholder groups and individuals with an interest in natural resource management within Tasmania's Southern Region. The Strategy will be formally reviewed at least every five years to ensure that new information and changing priorities can be incorporated into its programs for action.

## **Aboriginal aspirations for natural resource management – statement from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community**

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). 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 and contemporary 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 that ensure protection and enhancement of Aboriginal culture and heritage values throughout Tasmania.

*(This statement was prepared and endorsed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania at Risdon Cove, 25 June 2004.)*

## KEY DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

**'Natural Resources'**: the air, water, land (including soils), plants, animals and micro-organisms; and the systems they form.

**'Natural Resource Management' (NRM)**: the management of any activity that uses, develops or conserves our 'natural resources'.

**'Integrated NRM'**: NRM is complex, spanning multiple issues. An 'integrated' approach to NRM addresses NRM issues holistically, with coordination across different agencies and organisations, and across different land tenures and geographical areas. Integrated NRM should deliver more coordinated, efficient and effective outcomes.

**'The Southern NRM Region'**: the area of Tasmania covered by the twelve Southern Tasmanian Councils: Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan-Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman. The boundary of the Region approximates to the "62" telephone directory boundary for Tasmania. The Region also includes the adjacent State waters.

**'Community'**: the term 'community' is used as an inclusive short-hand term to include everyone in the Southern NRM Region, in both their public and their private capacity. 'Community' will therefore include State and Local governments, industries and public land managers, as well as individuals and groups sharing an interest in NRM.

**'Capacity'**: the knowledge, skills, attitudes and resources needed to address NRM challenges. Community capacity building is about putting in place the necessary support mechanisms to achieve effective NRM.

**'Stakeholders'**: agencies, organisations and individuals responsible for managing the Southern NRM Region's natural resources.

## HIERARCHY OF PLANNING TERMS USED IN THE STRATEGY

**'Aspirational Targets' (ATs)**: the desired condition of the Region's natural resources in the long term (50 years).

**'Resource Condition Targets' (RCTs)**: the desired condition of the natural resources in the medium term (10-20 years). Must be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound) (eg % improvement in water quality in the Derwent River by 2015).

**'Management Action Targets' (MATs)**: the desired short-term outcomes and outputs of Management Actions over one to five years. They should contribute to achievement of one or more Resource Condition Targets.

**'Management Actions' (MAs)**: activities to be undertaken to improve the condition of the Region's natural resources.

For more definitions, see the Glossary at the end of the document.