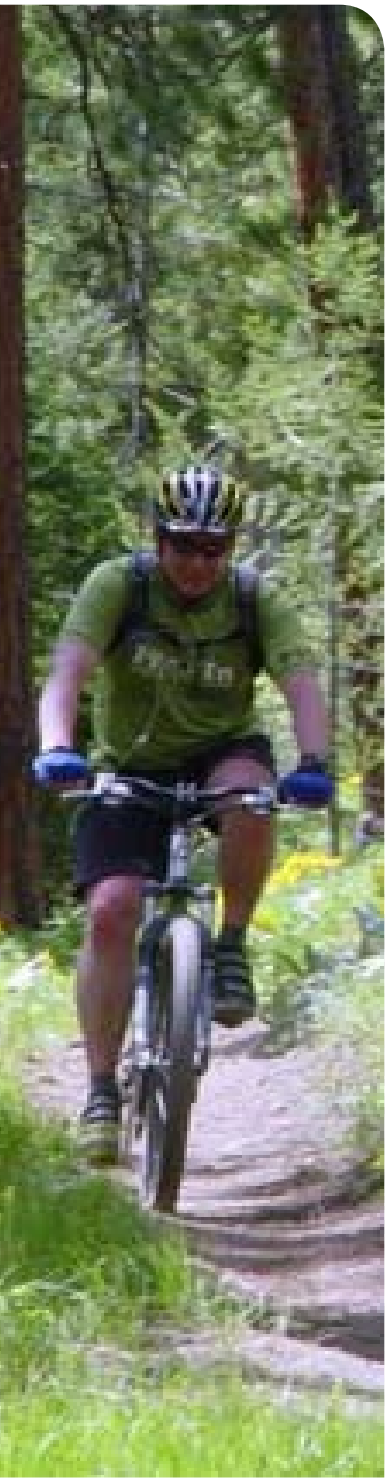
Clarence... a brighter place

Clarence City Council
Tracks & Trails Action Plan





Contents

Introduction	1
Strategic Objectives	3
Key Issues	3
Significant Trails	4
Secondary Link Trails	6
Opportunities for trail development through Subdivision and Planning	7
Map of Trails Register	9
Recommendations for implementing the Action Plan	10
Appendix	12
Appendix A - 5 Year Activity Plan 2008-2013	12



guide the development of tracks and trails within Clarence in accord with the objectives of the Tracks and Trails Strategy



Introduction

- The major objective of this Action Plan is to provide a framework for developing an integrated network of tracks and trails through bushland and coastal areas with links to urban locations around the municpality. The plan not only identifies future trail alignments to assist with land use planning but also recognises gaps in the existing trail network and provides a prioritised framework for completing missing links.

- The Action Plan recognises a significant number of existing tracks used by residents of Clarence are located on private property. It is intended the plan will identify locations where this occurs and where possible seek to establish a mechanism to enable public access to continue into the future.

- The Action Plan has been developed as a tool to guide the development of tracks and trails networks within Clarence in accord with the objectives of the Tracks and Trails Strategy

- Relevant strategies referenced in preparation of the Action Plan are outlined on the following page.

integrated network of tracks and trails through bushland areas and along the coast with links to urban areas



Relevant strategies for Action Plan

Tracks and Trails Strategy (2004)

The Strategy provides an overview for development of tracks and trails in Clarence. One of the recommendations was the creation of a Tracks and Trails Advisory Committee to advise Council on the expansion and promotion of tracks and trails.

Trails Tasmania Strategy (2007)

The Strategy, developed by Sport and Recreation Tasmania, along with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Tourism Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania and Hydro Tasmania in partnership with the community and key stakeholders, provides a framework to guide decision making, funding and resource allocation for the future development, management and promotion of recreational trails in Tasmania.

Tasmanian Walking Tracks Strategy and Marketing Plan (1997)

This document identified the Waverley Flora Park Interpretive Trail and Bedlam Walls as two walks having priority for marketing and promotion.

The Clarence Heritage Trail (1998)

This document outlines the concept for a heritage recreation trail network through urban, rural and natural areas within the Clarence municipality, primarily along coastal foreshore.

Derwent Estuary Tracks & Paths Project

The Derwent Estuary Program is working with stakeholders on a coordinated approach to link and enhance tracks and paths around the Derwent Estuary foreshore. This includes a strategy to upgrade existing tracks and paths, establish crucial links, install innovative interpretation products and promote regional walking opportunities. The long-term vision for this project is to provide a quality walking experience reflecting, imparting and conserving the unique values of the Derwent Estuary, which includes significant portions of the Clarence Foreshore Trail.

Clarence City Council Municipal Bicycle Plan (1995) and Bicycle Map & Action Plan (2007)

A component of the Bicycle Plan is a network of multi use paths for walking and cycling. The Clarence Foreshore Trail is identified as the main arterial trail and the Rokeby to Howrah Cycleway is identified as an important commuter route.

Clarence City Council Public Open Space Policy (2006)

The policy aims to provide a framework to assist Council in its decision making processes in the establishment of public open space in the City. The Tracks and Trails Action Plan aims to link public open space areas through the development of a tracks and trails network.

Disability Access Plan (2007)

The plan aims to address barriers to access and includes ensuring Council services, facilities, footpaths, parks and other assets are accessible to people with disabilities and mobility issues.

to enhance and increase the opportunities for all people in the community to participate in recreational activities



Strategic Objectives

In accord with the following Objectives from the Strategic Plan 2006-2011, the relevant strategies have been identified.

Objective: To enhance and increase the opportunities for all people in the community to participate in recreational activities

The relevant Strategies include:

- Implement key plans and strategies including Tracks and Trails Strategy.
- Work in partnership with government and community organisations to provide required infrastructure and facilities.

Objective: To maximise the economic benefits of tourism

The relevant strategies include:

- Work with community and industry groups to develop and promote the tourism product including:
  - Heritage Trail, and
  - Recreational Trails.
- Develop promotional material, signage and interpretation of tourism products.

Objective: To promote the use and appreciation of the natural environment

The relevant strategies include:

- Encourage the appropriate use of natural environments, including beaches and bushland for recreational activities, in ways that support and conserve those places.
- Maximise the accessibility of environmentally based recreation activities by:
  - o providing information to promote awareness and utilisation, and
  - o enhancing the physical accessibility of natural areas to promote use and choice.

Key Issues identified in the Tracks and Trails Strategy

The key issues raised by the community through the Tracks and Trails Advisory Committee for investigation includes:

- Identify and map significant trail alignments within Clarence, particularly those that follow ridgelines and the coast.
- Input existing and proposed future trails onto Council's GIS system.
- Implement internal systems that aim to avoid missed opportunities for creating links in the trail network through the planning process.
- As part of the Trails Communications Strategy, adopt consistent signage standards for tracks and trails within Clarence.
- Encourage greater use of tracks and trails in Clarence through publications, promotion and events.
- Where possible, create tracks in all parts of the municipality that meet Disability Discrimination Act requirements to maximise opportunities for participation.
- Liaise with surrounding municipalities to ensure connectivity of tracks between council boundaries.
- Program and budget for an annual works schedule for maintaining the trail network.

to promote the use and appreciation of the natural environment



Significant Trails

The following trails have been identified as significant projects that are desirable for providing opportunities for quality outdoor experiences within Clarence.

Clarence Foreshore Trail

- Otago to Risdon Cove
- Risdon Cove to Geilston Bay
- Geilston Bay to Tasman Bridge
- Tasman Bridge to Howrah Beach
- Howrah Beach to Droughty Point
- Droughty Point to Lauderdale
- Lauderdale to Dorans Road
- Seven Mile Beach to Lauderdale via Single Hill
- Lauderdale to Cremorne
- Clifton Beach to South Arm State Recreation Area
- South Arm State Recreation Area to Opossum Bay

Meehan Skyline Trail

- Grasstree Hill to Risdon Vale
- Dulcot link
- Risdon Vale to Cambridge
- Cambridge to Mt Rumney
- Mt Rumney to Lauderdale
- Roches Beach Link

Charles Darwin Trail

- Kangaroo Bay to Howrah Beach via Waverley Flora Park

Droughty Trail

- Knopwood Hill to Glebe Hill
- Kunyah Bushland Reserve to Sunray St, Rokeby
- Sunray St, Rokeby to Trywork Point

Tangara Trail

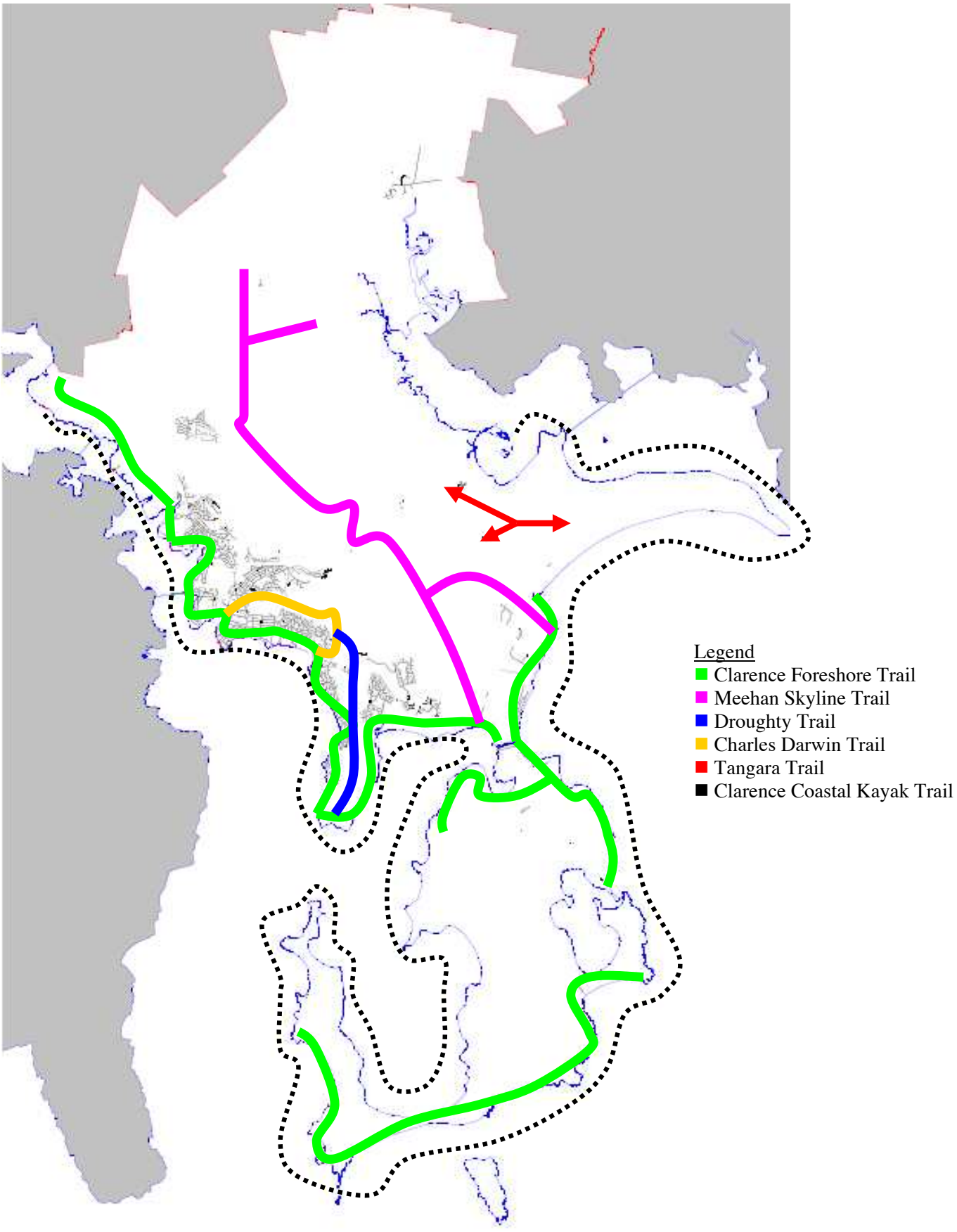
- connection to Risdon Vale and Richmond

Clarence Coastal Kayak Trail

- Risdon Cove to Sorrell Causeway

An Activity Plan has been developed (see Appendix A) which identifies projects required to complete the Significant Trails. These have been prioritised into high, medium and low categories. The Tracks and Trails Committee will use the Activity Plan to make recommendations to the budget each year for specific project works.

Map of Significant Trails



Secondary Link Trails

The following trails have been identified as secondary link trails that provide an important connection between the Clarence Foreshore Trail and Significant Trails or create linear reserves that link public open space.

- Risdon Brook/Grasstree Hill Rivulet Track/Risdon Vale Creek
- Geilston Bay Rivulet
- Kangaroo Bay Rivulet
- Clarence Plains Rivulet
- Coal River

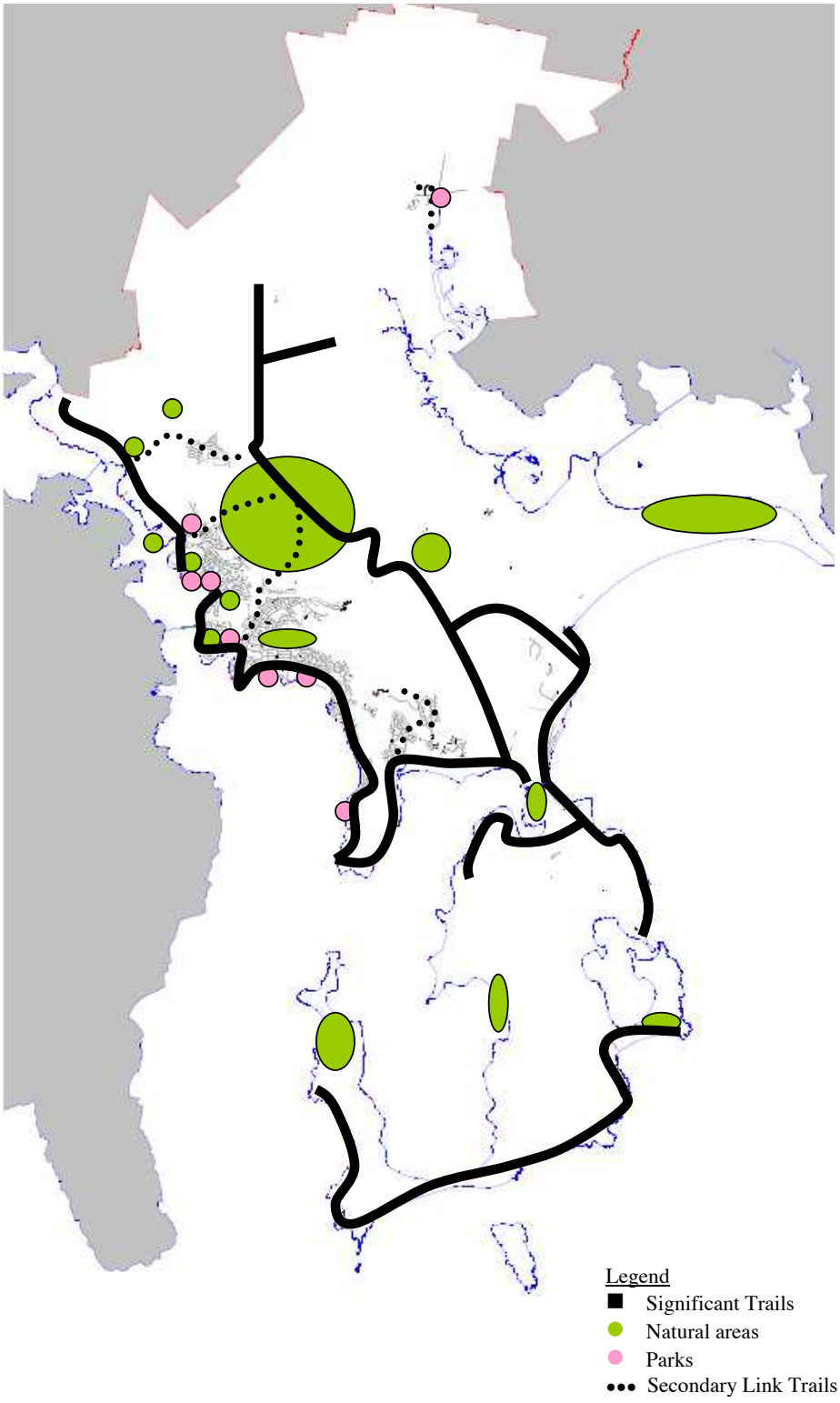
The purpose of a tracks and trails network is the provide links to public open space areas such as parks, reserves and natural areas.

Natural areas

- Bowen Park Scenic Reserve
- Risdon Brook Dam
- Bedlam Walls
- Natone Hill
- Gordons Hill
- Rosny Hill
- Meehan Range State Recreation Area
- Mt Rumney
- Waverly Flora Park
- Knopwood Hill State Recreation Area
- Racecourse Flats
- Gorringes Beach
- Clifton Beach Coastal Reserve
- South Arm Reserve

Parks

- Geilston Bay
- Lindisfarne Point Park, Lindisfarne
- Anzac Park, Lindisfarne
- Charles Hand Park, Rosny
- Bellerive Foreshore Park
- Wentworth Park, Bellerive
- Pindos Park, Tranmere



provide rich outdoor experiences for residents and visitors



Opportunities for trail development through Subdivision and Planning

In addition to the Significant Trails identified in this document, further opportunities exist for enhancing and expanding the trail network.

1. Incorporate Trails Register into planning requirements for new subdivisions and roads

Amendments to the Planning Scheme Planning Policy Framework should incorporate the Trails Register, which gives an indicative guide to where there is community interest in gaining access or providing a missing link to other existing trails. The lines on the Trails Register do not necessarily reflect the specific alignment of future trails, but rather a corridor of intent for public access. Further investigation of the site when the need arises will need to be carried out to identify a specific route which incorporates the following criteria:

- Preservation of sensitive and remnant vegetation,
- Choosing routes with the gentlest grades by taking into account the topography, which in turn minimises future erosion issues, and
- Preservation of existing formed tracks where their alignment provides an appropriate level of service to trail users.

What is a trails register?

There are many areas in Clarence that could provide rich experiences for residents and visitors, such as the coastline, Mt Mather, Butchers Hills, Mt Lord, Pontos Hills and local linking tracks. These and other locations of interest have been recorded on a Trails Register. Information for the Trails Register has been provided by walking and horseriding groups, seniors groups, members of the Tracks and Trails Advisory Committee, local residents and council officers. These areas are generally inaccessible to the public as they are located on private land, although in some cases there is a history of landowners providing permission for access to organised walking groups.

Identifying opportunities

Opportunities may arise in the future to obtain a right of way or public easement over areas identified in the Trails Register through the planning and subdivision process. Larger subdivisions have a requirement to provide a percentage of public open space and in many instances this could be allocated to a trail easement, especially if a desire line has been identified in the Trails Register.

2. Preferred development options for roads and paths

The Council engineering standards for roads should give consideration to the following with reference to clause 15 in the bylaws for highway standards:

a. Wider paths built to shared path standards along collector roads in urban areas

Where proposed subdivisions will contain collector type roads, a permit condition for the development should be the provision of a path along one side of the road, unless it can

preservation of sensitive and remnant vegetation...



be demonstrated that a nearby alternative path exists for walking and cycling. The path should be constructed to shared path standard as defined in Austroads Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 14. In some cases a 2.5m wide concrete path with centreline on one side of the road would be preferable to two 1.3m concrete paths on either side of the road.

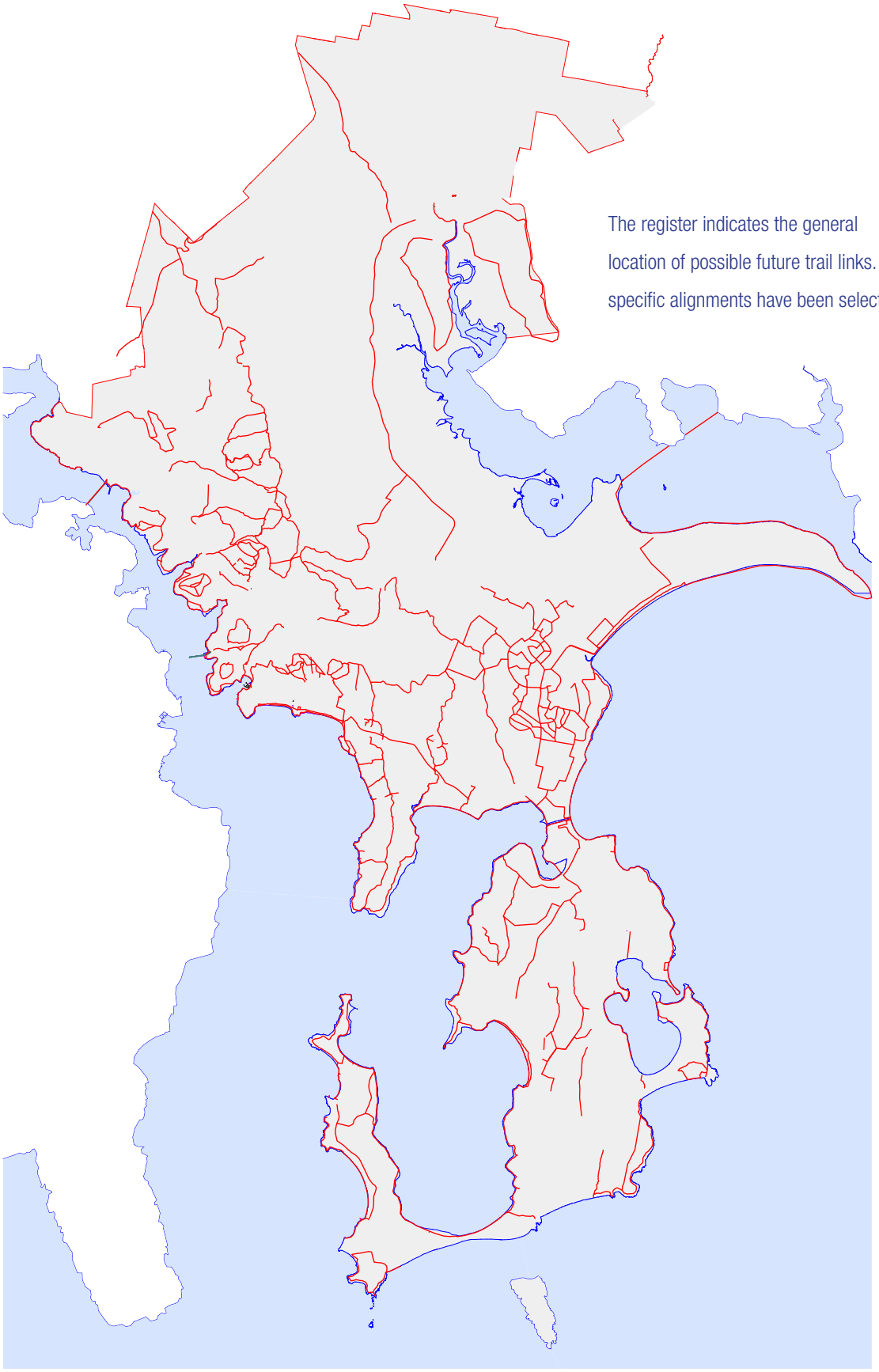
b. Wider verges along collector-type rural roads to accommodate trails

On future rural residential roads, where space is limited, it would be preferable to have the road off-centre of the road reserve to provide a wider space in the verge on one side to accommodate space for horses or walkers. Provision should also be made for the construction of a low cost, narrow granular path where there is likelihood of pedestrian movements along particular rural roads to eliminate the risks associated with walking along the road shoulder.

c. Setback from road edge

Where possible, taking into account the terrain, shared paths and footpaths should be set back from the road edge and closer to the property boundary to provide a degree of separation and improved safety for path users.

Map of Trails Register



The register indicates the general location of possible future trail links. No specific alignments have been selected.

each significant trail to be branded and given an identity to assist with public recognition



Recommendations for implementing the Action Plan

1. Implement projects on the Activity Plan (See Appendix A)

The Tracks and Trails Committee has identified 5 significant trails for acquiring missing links and on-ground construction. These trails will make a major contribution to providing recreational opportunities within Clarence. The Tracks and Trails Committee will review key projects annually and make recommendations for specific projects to be considered for inclusion in the Council budget.

In addition to the significant trails, the Tracks and Trails committee intends to monitor opportunities for additional linking trails and expansion of the Tangara Trail through planning applications for subdivisions or sale of property. The Clarence Council Integrated Assessment Group will be integral to this process.

2. Adopt policies to assist the development of the Tracks and Trails network.

- The Planning Scheme 2007 should be amended to include a Trails Register overlay
- The Council engineering standards for roads contain a number of options. The tracks and trails committee recommends the following:
  - Requirement for wider paths along collector roads,
  - Provision of wider verges on rural roads possibly through locating the road off-centre in the road reserve
  - Requirement for footpaths set back from the road edge and closer to property boundaries where possible.

3. Track condition assessment and maintenance

Carry out safety and condition audits based on the Australian Standard AS2156.1-2001 Walking Tracks Part 1 – Classification and Signage to review track condition and develop a maintenance schedule to prioritise work and maintain track standards.

4. Funding

It is recommended that council allocates funds for the following:

- Annual audit and associated maintenance trail budget to remove safety hazards and keep tracks to a specified condition according to their track class
- Capital works allocation for construction of new trails.
- Recurrent signage budget to install and maintain directional and interpretive signage
- Recurrent promotion budget to encourage track usage, utilising methods identified in the Trails Communications Strategy.

In addition, funding opportunities should be pursued under state and federal grants program. The Tasmanian Trails Strategy may also offer opportunities for obtaining state government funding for high priority or significant trails.

5. Trail identification

Each significant trail to be branded and given an identity to assist with public recognition and implementing signage.

Naming of trails will be based on the following criteria:

- Geographic (natural features ie stream, mountain)



- Historical (Aboriginal, colonial, significant event)
- Flora or fauna habitat (eg: wildflowers)

It is suggested inviting the community to participate in the selection of suitable names where required, as is the current practice for naming parkland and reserves.

6. Signage

It is recommended that a Tracks and Trails Signage Strategy be developed by the Tracks Planning Officer, in consultation with the Tracks and Trails Committee. The strategy would provide a consistent framework for providing information to trail users. The Signage Strategy will be sympathetic with others in the region including signage plans developed by the Derwent Estuary Program and Kingborough Council.

Signage information will include:

- Track name
- Track length and estimated time required to complete walk/ride
- Users permitted to use trail (eg: mountain bikes, horses, dogs)
- Track description (eg: grade, level of fitness required, loop or return the same way)
- Safety issues and warnings (eg: carry water, wear appropriate footwear)
- Interpretation (eg: historic event that occurred at the site)

Installation of signage on existing trails will be given priority.

7. Marketing and promotion

A Trails Communication Strategy is to be developed by the Tracks Planning Officer, in consultation with the Tracks and Trails Committee to encourage trail use.
In addition, it is recommended that a Tracks and Trails menu is added to the Clarence City Council website.

The categories to be created are:

- Multi-use paths and cycleways
- Short Walks
- Long Walks
- Mountain bike tracks
- Tangara horseriding trail
- Kayak trails

The website should reflect an up to date listing of available tracks and trails in Clarence and can be referenced whenever a publication is being prepared or updated. This includes any reprints of the Popular Walks in Clarence booklet. It would be desirable to produce publications with information on mountain biking and kayaking in Clarence.

8. Monitor and Review

The implementation of the Tracks and Trails Action Plan is to be monitored annually by the Tracks and Trails committee to acknowledge progress in developing a network of trails.

An annual review also provides opportunities for:

- Scanning for externalities and new opportunities
- New trail recognition
- Re-evaluation of priorities

Appendix A - 5 Year Activity Plan 2008-2013

Trail Name	Section	Land status	Comments	Priority
High Priority				
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Geilston Bay car park to Granville	Public & private	Trail construction required along foreshore and steps for access to beach at Granville St.	High
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Simmons Park to Ronnie St Lindisfarne	Public	Construction of sealed path required.	High
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Victoria Esplanade from King St to Bellerive Beach	Public	Construction of sealed path required	High
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Arlunya St to existing path near Pindos Park	Public	Track needs to be constructed.	High
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Rokeby to Lauderdale	Public & private	Discussion and negotiation with landowners required.	High
Clarence Foreshore Trail - coastal	Seven Mile Beach to Lauderdale	Public	Access needs to be improved behind boat shed on Seven Mile Beach, low level bridge over gully required, signage	High
Clarence Foreshore Trail - coastal	Mays Beach to Cremorne	Public & private	Discussion and negotiation with landowner required	High
Meehan Skyline Trail	Risdon Vale from Downhams Rd to ridgeline at Rocky Tom and boundary with Parks & Wildlife land	Public & Private	Discussion and negotiation with three landowners to allow public access on existing fire trails.	High
Meehan Skyline Trail	Rocky Tom to Belbins Rd	Public & private	Discussion and negotiation with single landowner in order to realign track to provide better grade and reduce likelihood of erosion.	High
Meehan Skyline Trail	Belbins Rd to Mt Rumney	Public	Signage and track construction required. Track legibility is poor in this section and includes crossing of Cambridge Rd..	High
Meehan Skyline Trail	Link Trail - Tangara Trail Acton to Seven Mile Beach	Public	Signage required on sections of Tangara Trail to identify the Meehan Skyline link route	High
Charles Darwin Trail	Kangaroo Bay to Waverly Flora Park loop	Public	Directional and interpretation signage and navigation aids.	High
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Droughty Point	Private	Subdivision process needs to preserve foreshore reserve for future track construction	High/medium
Tangara Trail			Continue to expand and create new links through subdivision process	Ongoing
Medium Priority				
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Granville St Geilston Bay to laneway at 81 Derwent Ave	Public & private	Negotiation required with 3 landowners who have titles to water. Steps required to provide access from beach to embankment..	Medium
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Howrah Point	Private	Foreshore is rocky and discussion and negotiation with landowners is required.	Medium
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Tranmere foreshore between Cleve Crt and Dunalla St	Public	Track needs to be constructed	Medium
Clarence Foreshore Trail - coastal	Lauderdale to Mays Beach	Public	A legible route needs to be developed utilising foreshore and footpaths	Medium
Clarence Foreshore Trail - coastal	Opossum Bay to South Arm	Public & Private		Medium
Meehan Skyline Trail	Link Trail - Mt Rumney to Tangara Trail, Acton	Public	A public right of way exists but signage is required to improve legibility. The alignment is steep and the possibility of using an old fire trail to realign the track should be investigated.	Medium
Clarence Coastal Kayak Trail	Otago to Sorrell Causeway	Public waterways	Investigation of sections, points of interest, distance between landing sites	Medium

Appendix

Trail Name	Section	Land status	Comments	Priority
Low Priority				
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Otago to Risdon Cove	Public & Private		Low
Clarence Foreshore Trail - River	Risdon Cove to Geilston Bay	Public & Private		Low
Clarence Foreshore Trail - coastal	Cape Deslacs to Calverts Beach	Public & Private		Low
Clarence Foreshore Trail - coastal	Calverts Beach to Johns Point	Public & Private		Low
Clarence Foreshore Trail – coastal	Johns Point to Opossum Bay	Public & Private		Low
Meehan Skyline Trail	Link Trail - Dulcot to Meehan	Public & Private		Low
Meehan Skyline Trail	Mt Rumney to Lauderdale via Stanfields Hill	Private	Long term project requiring discussion and negotiation with multiple landowners.	Low
Droughty Trail	Trywork Point to Sunray St, Rokeby	Public & Private		Low
Droughty Trail	Sunray St to Kunyah Bushland Reserve	Public & Private		Low
Droughty Trail	Kunyah Bushland Reserve to Glebe Hill	Public & Private		Low