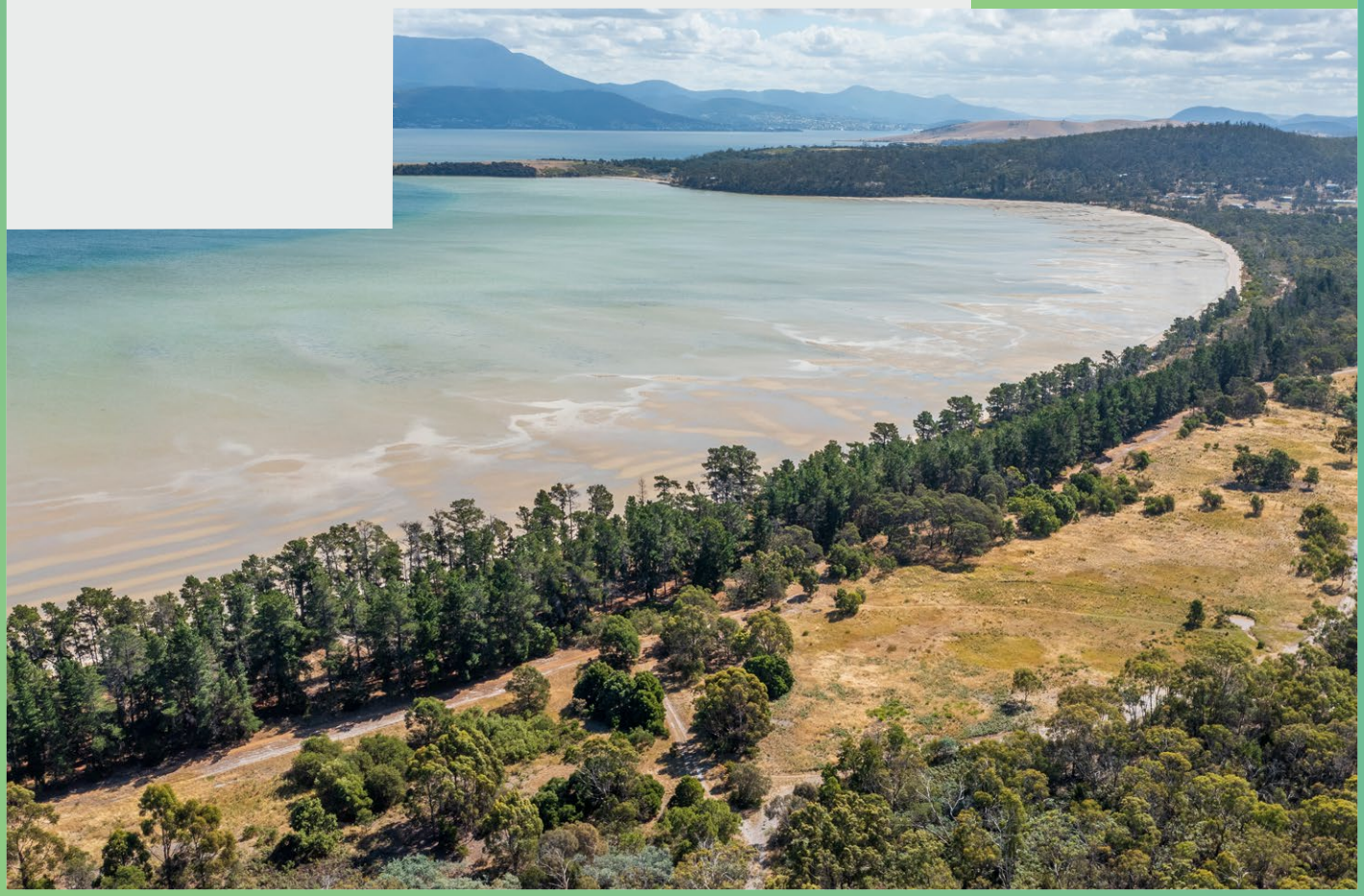
Clarence...
a brighter place

CLARENCE NATURAL AREAS STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2024-2034





Clarence City Council pays respect to all First Peoples, including the Mumirimina (mu mee ree mee nah) of the Oyster Bay Nation whose unceded lands, skies, and waterways we are privileged to conduct our business on. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and we acknowledge the survival and deep spiritual connection of the Tasmanian Aboriginal People to their Country, and culture; a connection that has endured since the beginning of time.

CITY OF CLARENCE - OUR NATURAL ADVANTAGE

The city of Clarence, situated on the eastern shore of the River Derwent in south-eastern Tasmania is defined by iconic natural features such as the Meehan Range, remnant bushland hilltop reserves, rivulet corridors as well as an extensive network of estuary foreshore and coastline.

These natural areas support an array of native habitats from forests, woodlands and grasslands to sandy beaches, rocky shores, wetlands and saltmarshes. Many of these natural areas are readily accessible thanks to their proximity to urban areas, extensive track and trail networks and coastal and estuarine frontage. Access to the natural environment such as beaches, coastal reserves, bushland and trail corridors is a highly valued aspect of living in the city of Clarence[1].

Our natural areas also provide important ecosystem services and resilience to the impacts of a changing climate as well as providing habitats for a unique diversity of plants and animals including many key endemic and rare or threatened species and vegetation communities.



1 access to the natural environment' was the highest performing liveability attribute with 8 in 10 residents agreeing (83%) for their local area according to a recent community survey undertaken by Clarence City Council between April and June 2023.

OUR NATURAL ADVANTAGE

Snapshot of significant natural area and biodiversity values within the city of Clarence

Animal Diversity

7 species of amphibians

17 species of reptiles

206 species of birds

23 species of mammals

Plant diversity 1460 species of native plants

Native vegetation cover 39.4% of land area is covered in native vegetation

Wetlands and Saltmarsh

3334ha of internationally recognised Ramsar wetlands

457ha high conservation value saltmarsh

Threatened Species - Nationally Listed

11 plant species 3 critically endangered, 3 endangered, 5 vulnerable

24 animal species 3 critically endangered, 3 endangered, 5 vulnerable

Listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Threatened Species - Tasmanian Listed

67 plant species 9 endangered, 14 vulnerable, 44 rare

28 animal species 16 endangered, 9 vulnerable, 3 rare

Listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act, 1995*

Vegetation Communities 39

Of which

15 are listed as threatened at a state level
Nature Conservation Act, 2002

3 listed as threatened at a national level
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999









DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

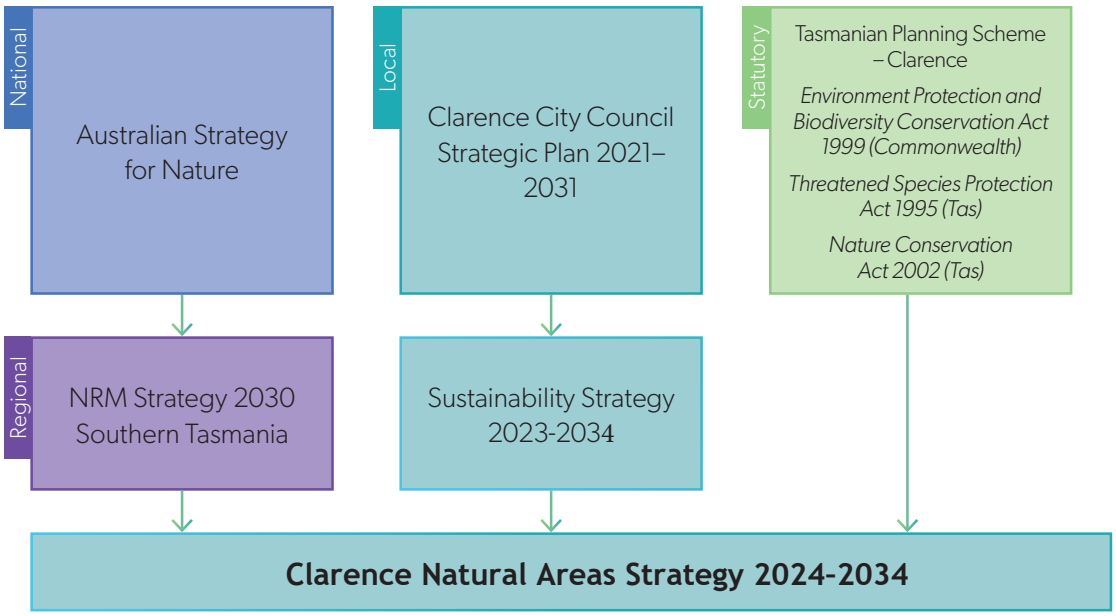
The draft *Clarence Natural Area Strategy* ***2024-2034*** replaces the previous *Clarence Bushland and Coastal Strategy 2011* and has been developed to provide contemporary strategic framework for the management, protection of, planning for and promotion of natural areas across the city of Clarence.

Several key changes from the previous strategy include:

- A shift from focusing solely on council-managed land to including a broader cross tenure approach to natural area management.
- A greater integration of the values, knowledge and practices of Traditional Custodians into the management and conservation of our natural areas.
- A greater recognition of the need to facilitate the connection between people and natural areas.

The *Clarence Natural Areas Strategy* ***2024-2034*** has been developed following extensive consultation with industry and key stakeholders to identify trends, issues and opportunities, and has informed development of the objectives and the implementation plan.

Strategic Framework



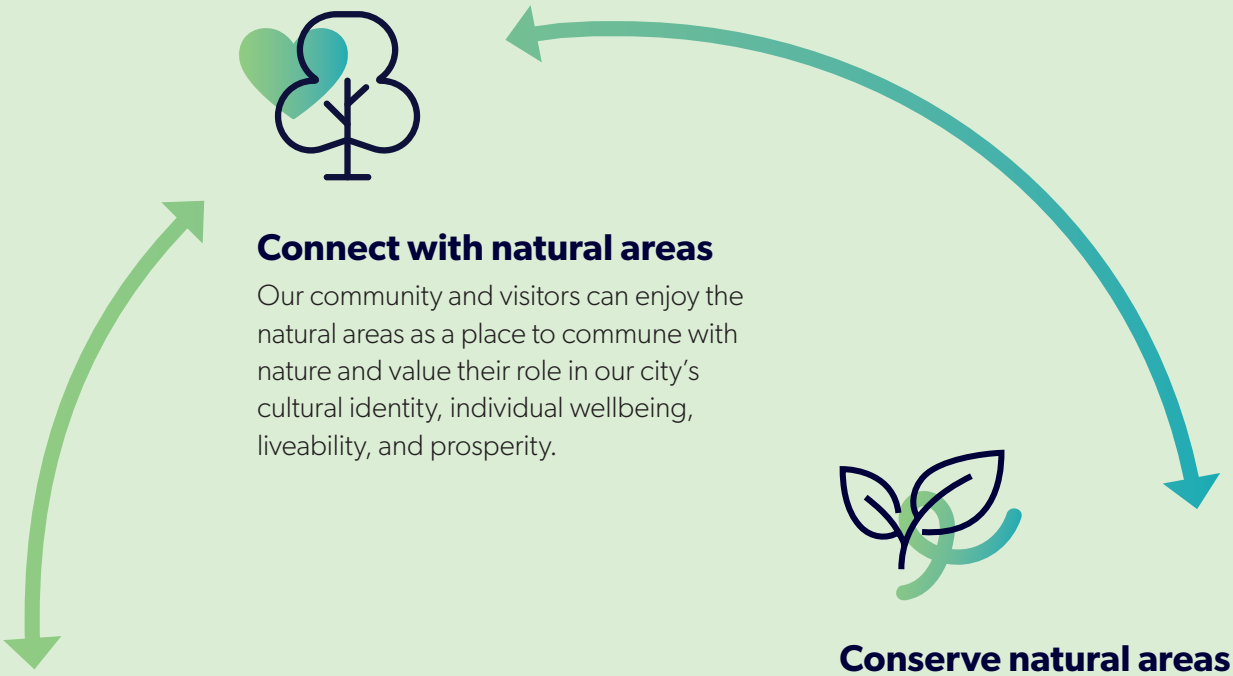


CLARENCE NATURAL AREAS STRATEGY 2024-2034

Our vision

Our natural areas are biodiverse, resilient, connected and valued by the community and will be a lasting legacy for future generations.

THREE STRATEGIC GOALS



Connect with natural areas

Our community and visitors can enjoy the natural areas as a place to commune with nature and value their role in our city's cultural identity, individual wellbeing, liveability, and prosperity.

Conserve natural areas

Our natural areas will be conserved to support diverse, resilient, connected and healthy habitats that support our unique biodiversity including threatened species and threatened vegetation communities.

Collaborate for natural areas

Natural area protection and management both on public and private land is supported by strong partnerships across community, Traditional Custodians, government, businesses, and landowners that aim to protect, enhance, understand and link our natural areas.



NATURAL AREAS IN THE CITY OF CLARENCE



What are natural areas?

Natural areas can be defined by the presence of native vegetation (forest, woodland, grassy woodland, grassland, riparian, saltmarsh), riparian corridors and coastlines and which have intrinsic natural, social and cultural values.

Natural areas provide

1. Ecosystem services: biodiversity, habitat, water flow management (riparian corridors), mitigating impacts against a warming climate, mitigating impacts of coastal erosion, inundation and sea level rise.
2. Social benefits: recreation, education, communing with nature, health and wellbeing, source of inspiration and the borrowed landscape.

Where are our natural areas?

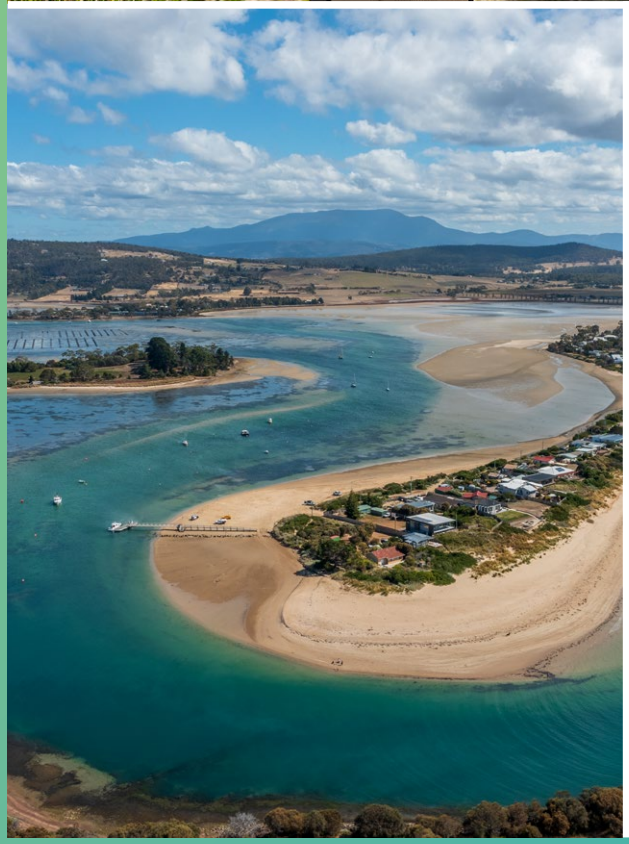
Natural areas include coastal reserves, bushland reserves, saltmarsh reserves, flora parks, track corridors (Tangara Trail, Clarence Foreshore Trail), greenway links, private reserves and riparian reserves of major rivulets.

The network of natural areas in the city of Clarence occurs across both private and public land and includes federal, state and council managed land as well as privately managed land under regulatory conservation covenants and other voluntary conservation partnerships.

Important natural areas in the city of Clarence

- The largest area of saltmarsh in southeast Tasmania including the Lauderdale saltmarsh complex, South Arm Peninsula saltmarshes and Coal River – Pittwater-Orielton Lagoon saltmarsh complex.
- The Meehan Range as a major landscape and wildlife corridor, as well as being a swift parrot important breeding area (SPIBA) and habitat for the state listed rare *Eucalyptus risdonii*.
- Threatened vegetation communities – e.g. Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania, Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (*Eucalyptus ovata / E. brookeriana*), *Eucalyptus risdonii* forest and woodland and Eucalyptus morrisbyi forest and woodland.
- Culturally significant sites such as Bedlam Walls.
- Rare and threatened flora at key grassland and grassy woodland sites including Waverley Flora Park, Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area and Glebe Hill Bushland Reserve.
- Calverts Hill Nature Reserve and surrounding area of Cremorne – *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* conservation area.
- Migratory shorebird nesting habitat at Ralph's Bay and the RAMSAR listed Pittwater-Orielton Lagoon




Welcome to
takara limuna
Mumirimina taypani lumi krakani; ninqina miri, taralangkana, mulaka muta + tina; kanapila; ninqina liyni pumili mira, narapa; + ninqina nimina nukara.
Mumirimina came here to rest, gather mussels and oysters; hunt birds and animals; to hold ceremony and repair or make stone tools for sharpening spears or to strike fire; scraping and skinning; and to collect grasses to make baskets.
takara limuna is gaiawa kani for Sheoak Walk. It is named for the limuna (sheoak trees) which have been part of this landscape for as long as her people.
takara limu



THE TEN STRATEGY THEMES OF THE *DRAFT CLARENCE NATURAL AREAS STRATEGY* **2024-2034**

The industry and key stakeholder consultation and the review of the previous *Clarence Bushland and Coastal Strategy 2011* has identified ten themes and informed the development of the objectives.



Biodiversity



Recreation



Council Land Management



Partnerships



Community Education



Climate Change



Water Management



Cultural Values



Invasive Species



Landuse Planning

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A detailed implementation plan has been developed as part of the Strategy which details specific actions that will address each of the ten themes and strategic objectives. This implementation plan will inform annual work plans and will be reviewed and updated after 5-years.









KEY ACTIONS FROM THE CLARENCE NATURAL AREAS STRATEGY 2024-2034 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

- Develop a Biodiversity Prioritisation Plan (BPP) for natural areas in the city of Clarence.
- Progress the regular review and implementation of Reserve Management Plans with prioritisation of management activities to be informed by the BPP.
- Improve communication and facilitate the exchange of information between volunteer groups.
- Build upon partnerships and identify new partnership opportunities with NRM South, Birdlife Tasmania, Derwent Estuary Program, UTAS, TasTafe, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Wildcare and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.
- Develop a Natural Areas Promotion and Marketing Plan.
- Prioritise vulnerable coastal sites for the ongoing development of Coastal Management Plans (CMPs).
- Collaborate with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to implement appropriate cultural practices relating to natural area management including cultural burning in native grasslands and open woodlands.
- Increase awareness of the impacts of cats and dogs in natural areas and facilitate responsible pet ownership.
- Increase capacity of the existing Weeds Planning Officer to transition role to invasive species role.
- Develop a process that captures the natural values and remnant native vegetation outside of the Natural Assets Code in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Clarence.
- Employ an Environmental Planner to facilitate and assess natural values assessments for DAs; and review the standard conditions issued under planning permits.

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