



Clarence City Council

# NATURAL AREAS STRATEGY 2024-2033

25 June 2024

For Clarence City Council

CCC018



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North Barker Ecosystem Services  
25/6/2024 CCC018

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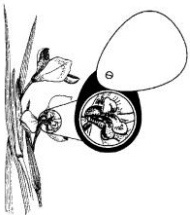
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# Contents

1	Introduction .....	8
1.1	City of Clarence - Our natural advantage.....	8
2	Natural Areas - Our Strategic Intent .....	10
	Our vision .....	10
2.1	10	
2.2	Strategic goals.....	10
2.2.1	Connect with natural areas.....	11
2.2.2	Conserve natural areas .....	11
2.2.3	Collaborate for natural areas.....	11
2.3	Guiding principles .....	12
3	Natural Areas in the City of Clarence.....	13
3.1	What are natural areas? .....	13
3.2	Where are our natural areas?.....	13
3.3	Important natural areas in the city of Clarence.....	15
3.4	How are our natural areas protected? .....	18
3.5	Issues and threatening processes for our natural areas.....	20
4	Strategic Framework.....	21
4.1	Alignment with international and national strategies.....	21
4.2	Clarence City Council Strategic Framework.....	21
5	Evolution of the Strategy .....	23
5.1	Review of previous strategy and progress.....	23
5.2	Understanding issues and opportunities relating to natural areas in Clarence .....	24
5.2.1	Stakeholder consultation .....	24
6	Strategy Objectives and Actions .....	25
6.1	Strategy objectives.....	25
6.2	Actions and implementation plan.....	27
7	Monitoring, reporting and review .....	50
8	References .....	51
9	Appendices.....	52

## Glossary

Term	Definition
Biodiversity	The variety of all living things; the different plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms, the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form.
Biodiversity Corridor	Vegetation and habitat that allows the movement of plants and animals and their genetics from one patch of the landscape to another.
CCC	Clarence City Council
Conservation Covenant	Entered into by the landowner to manage defined areas specifically for nature conservation. Conservation Covenants are legally binding under the <i>Nature Conservation Act (2002)</i> and are registered on the land title.
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) - an environmental not-for-profit organisation that manages volunteer programs that focus on restoring and safeguarding ecosystems on land and under water.
DEP	Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) - a partnership between state and local government, industry, researchers and the community to restore and promote the Derwent Estuary.
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 (EPBC Act 1999)</i>	The main commonwealth environmental law that provides for the protection and management of nationally and internationally important plants, animals, habitats and places. These include heritage sites, marine areas and some wetlands. The Act also protects listed threatened and migratory species.
Fauna	Animals and animal life.
Flora	Plants and plant life.
Habitat trees	Trees that provide breeding and nesting habitat and/or food and foraging habitat.
Landcare Tasmania	The peak body representing grassroots community landcare supporting communities to care for land and coasts, farms and waterways in Tasmania.
Landcare and Coastcare groups	Volunteer groups that work in natural areas of the city of Clarence on community education, weed control, conservation and restoration projects.
Natural Values Atlas	The state government managed database that provides authoritative and comprehensive information on Tasmania's natural values.
Natural Assets Code	In the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - provides consistency across the state regarding the protection of important natural values. It includes the layers for 'waterway and coastal protection areas'; 'future coastal refugia areas'; and 'priority vegetation areas'.
<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002 (NCA 2002)</i>	The Act makes provision with respect to the conservation and protection of the fauna, flora and geological diversity of the state, to provide for the declaration of national parks and other reserved land. Includes provisions for conservation covenants and schedule 3A lists threatened native vegetation communities.
NRE	Department for Natural Resources and Environment (Tasmania) - the state department responsible for natural resource and environmental management. Includes the Threatened Species Unit (TSU), Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP), Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS).

NRM South	Established in 2003 as one of three NRM bodies in Tasmania, NRM South is focused on southern Tasmania to improve the condition of our land and seascapes. NRM South acts as a regional hub to build partnerships, secure and direct investment, connect knowledge and expertise to action and increase the capacity of others to engage in natural resource management activities.
OzFish	A not-for-profit organisation with a mission to protect and restore fish habitat and waterways, and to support the community and recreational fishers in these actions.
Part 5 Agreements	A legal agreement between a council and a landholder that can be used to establish conservation zones to protect biodiversity or other environmental values on private land in perpetuity.
Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP)	Established in 2006 to provide a single point of management for all of the State Department's conservation programs that focus on private land. The program works with landowners to sustainably manage and conserve natural values (e.g. native flora and fauna, wetlands, geo-conservation areas) on private land.
RAMSAR site / wetland	Wetlands that are representative, rare or unique, or are important for conserving biological diversity. These sites are included on the List of Wetlands of International Importance developed under the Ramsar convention.
Swift Parrot Important Breeding Area (SPIBA)	Swift parrot important breeding areas that are known or suspected to have supported a large portion of the swift parrot breeding population in any given year.
TasTAFE	A not-for-profit government business that operates under the <i>TasTAFE (Skills and Training Business) Act 2021</i> .
Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC)	A not-for-profit, science and community-based organisation that raises funds from the public to protect rare and high conservation ecosystems by buying and managing private reserves in Tasmania. Also manages the Land for Wildlife and Gardens for Wildlife programs on behalf of NRE.
Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS) – Clarence	The TPS is comprised of the State Planning Provisions and the Local Provisions Schedule.
TASVEG	A comprehensive digital map of Tasmania's vegetation that depicts the extent of more than 150 vegetation communities. TASVEG is a vital tool for land use planning.
TASVEG Threatened Native Vegetation Communities	Schedule 3A of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> lists the native vegetation communities in Tasmania considered to be threatened.
TPT	Threatened Plants Tasmania Inc. (TPT) is a group of volunteers affiliated with the Wildcare Tasmania and Landcare Tasmania programs, actively involved in the conservation and monitoring of Tasmania's threatened plants.
Threatened species	A species of plant or animal that is formally considered to be at risk of extinction. Threatened species are protected under the <i>Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i>
<i>Threatened Species Protection Act, 1995 (TSPA 1995)</i>	A Tasmanian state Act to provide for the protection and management of threatened native flora and fauna.

UTAS	University of Tasmania
Vegetation Condition Assessments (VCA)	An assessment of vegetation condition in Tasmania as defined by the TasVeg Vegetation Condition Assessment (VCA) Manual.
Wildcare	Wildcare Inc is a community of members, volunteers and donors who care for Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage. Supports volunteer groups working in close partnership with governments agencies and private landowners.
Weed	A non-indigenous plant that has an adverse effect on the local environment, community and/or the economy by outcompeting other plants, reducing biodiversity, reducing productivity and impacting public amenity. Declared weeds are defined as pests or invasive pests under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2019</i> .

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## **Cultural Acknowledgement**

Clarence City Council pays respect to all First Peoples, including the Mumirimina (mu mee ree mee nah) People of the Oyster Bay Nation whose unceded lands, skies, and waterways we are privileged to conduct our business on. We pay respect to, and value the deep knowledge of Elders past and present, and we acknowledge the survival and deep spiritual connection of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to their Country, a connection which has endured since the beginning of time. Our work reflects our ongoing commitment to truth-telling and respectful understanding.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 City of Clarence - Our natural advantage

The city of Clarence is renowned for being a preferred place to live thanks largely to its diverse network of natural areas. Accessible areas of bushland and coastal environments provide a unique natural advantage which is highly valued by both residents and visitors alike. The high standard of liveability and enjoyment of outdoor places within the city of Clarence is intrinsically linked to its natural areas and this is reflected through council's Strategic Plan 2021-2031, which identifies an essential objective for Clarence City Council to be *environmentally responsible, valuing and protecting the natural environment for a sustainable and liveable future*.

The city of Clarence is situated on the eastern shore of the River Derwent and occupies an area of approximately 377 km<sup>2</sup>. It is the largest city in southern Tasmania and includes iconic features such as the Meehan Range with connected native bushlands, waterways and coastlines. The city of Clarence supports an array of native habitats from forests, woodlands and grassland to vast alluvial plains, sandy beaches, rocky shores, wetlands and saltmarshes. Many of these environments are readily accessible thanks to extensive track and trail networks and nearby coastal and estuarine frontage. Access to the natural environment is a highly valued aspect of living in the city of Clarence and we are pleased that 'access to the natural environment (e.g., beaches, green spaces)' is the highest performing liveability attribute, with 8 in 10 residents agreeing (83%) for their local area<sup>1</sup>.

Our natural areas provide important ecosystem services and resilience to climate change as well as providing habitats for a unique diversity of plants and animals including many key endemic species which depend upon our municipality for survival. Such values include significant dry eucalypt woodlands, wetlands and seabird rookeries along with numerous rare and threatened species including the Risdon peppermint, Morrisby's gum, Spotted handfish, Milford leek-orchid and the Live-bearing seastar.

Natural areas form an essential part of the city of Clarence, and we are committed to working together with our community and partners protecting and enhancing our unique natural area network. To achieve this, we have consulted widely with industry and key stakeholders to develop the Clarence Natural Area Strategy 2024-2033 (CNAS). The CNAS will enable us to respond to the demands of our growing population<sup>2</sup> and recognises our ongoing need to protect and manage natural areas for the long-term benefit of the community and the environment. It outlines our vision for our natural areas and identifies strategic actions for conserving, connecting and collaborating in a way which enables these natural assets to thrive whilst ensuring continued sustainable growth of the City over the next decade.

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<sup>1</sup> According to a recent community survey undertaken by CCC between April and June 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Over a 10-year period (2008-2018), the population of Clarence increased by 11.4% compared with a 5.9% increase in the Tasmanian population over the same period. (CCC Strategic Plan 2021-2031)

# OUR NATURAL ADVANTAGE

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

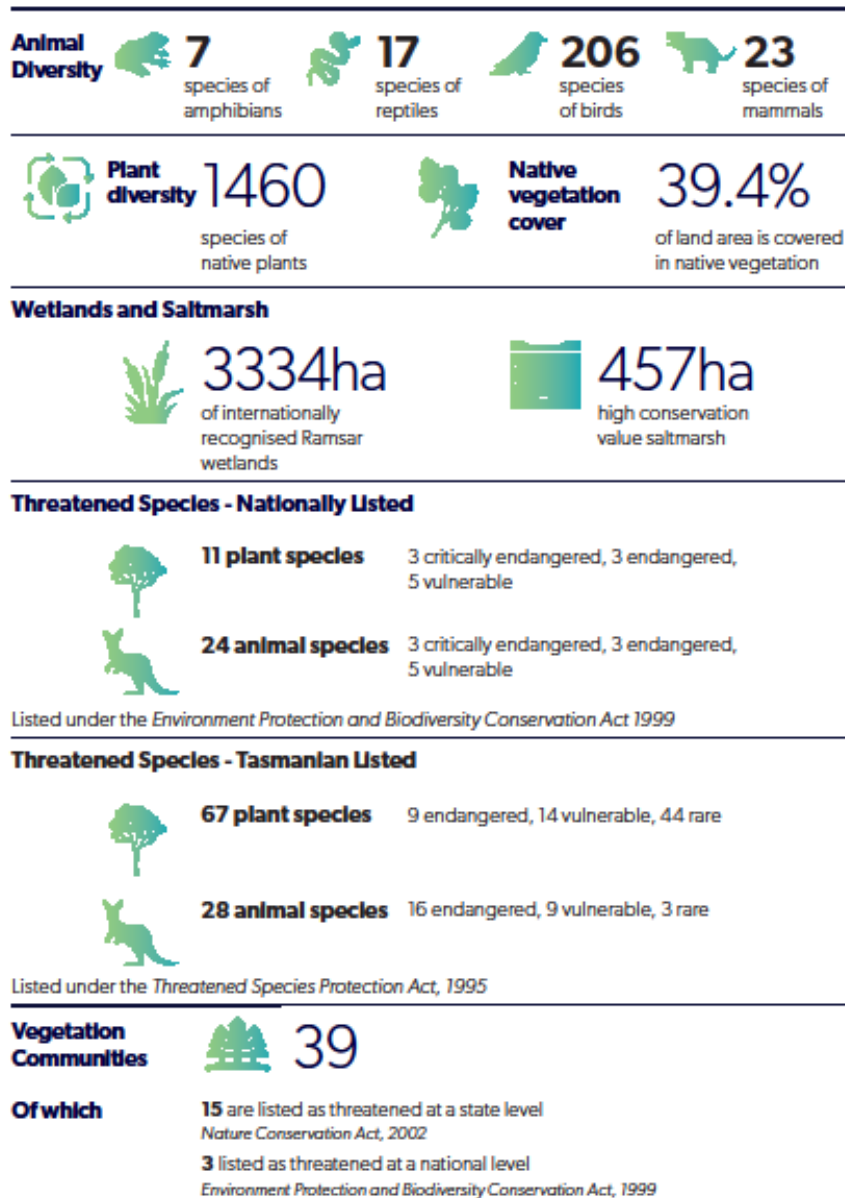


Figure 1: Our Natural Advantage – snapshot of significant natural area and biodiversity values within the city of Clarence

## 2 Natural Areas - Our Strategic Intent

### 2.1 Our vision

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

### 2.2 Strategic goals

Our vision for our natural areas will be achieved through working towards the following 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; and
- **Collaborate for natural areas** - Natural area protection and management both on public and private land is supported by strong partnerships across community, government, Traditional Custodians, businesses, and landowners that aim to protect, enhance, understand and link our natural areas.



### 2.2.1 Connect with natural areas

Maintaining and enhancing the connections between people and natural areas will be achieved through the following:

- Promote a strong appreciation of the biodiversity, recreational and cultural values that natural areas provide which support our wellbeing and lifestyles and underpins our cultural identity and sense of place in our city.
- Provide a range of accessible natural areas which are enjoyed for multiple purposes such as nature-based recreation, biodiversity appreciation, communing with nature and research and learning by both residents and visitors.
- Enhance the public benefit of natural areas through improving access, interpretation of the biodiversity and cultural values, amenity, and promoting opportunities for community education and engagement in natural areas..

### 2.2.2 Conserve natural areas

Protection and enhancement of natural areas to provide for natural habitats and resilient ecosystems where people can enjoy nature and be involved in its protection, and natural processes are valued and allowed to continue will be achieved through the following:

- Retain and enhance the health, biodiversity and condition of natural areas.
- Recognise the importance of natural areas across all land tenures as important to the maintenance of an overall resilient network of natural areas.
- Ensure that natural areas are recognised for their intrinsic value, place value and ecosystem services value with ongoing commitments to managing and maintaining these areas for future generations.

### 2.2.3 Collaborate for natural areas

Achieving long term protection and enhancement of natural areas through collaboration and partnerships between council and government, Traditional Custodians, business, non-government organisations, schools and Universities as well as with community groups and landowners. Collaborations and partnerships should focus on the following:

- Enhance the stewardship of natural areas by the community.
- Continue to share knowledge and resources to build capacity in the community to better understand and care for our natural areas.
- Work with researchers and subject matters experts to deliver best-practice educational communication tools for landowners and community groups.

## 2.3 Guiding principles

Clarence City Council will apply the following guiding principles in the planning for and management of natural areas, in how natural areas are protected under the land-use planning process and in how we engage with the community around natural areas and their values:

- The culture, values, knowledge, innovations and practices of Tasmanian Aboriginal people are valued and respected, and should inform, where appropriate, planning, management and conservation of natural areas.
- Remnant native vegetation is highly valued.
- Retain, protect and enhance remnant natural areas and create new connections where possible.
- Inform, educate, collaborate and partner.
- Nature and natural areas are to be celebrated.
- The intrinsic value and ecosystem services of natural areas are acknowledged.
- Management of natural areas is integrated and adaptive.
- A landscape-based approach is applied to natural areas management.

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# 3 Natural Areas in the City of Clarence

## 3.1 What are natural areas?

Natural areas can be defined as any geographical area (being land or water) that contains natural terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems which have intrinsic natural, social and/or cultural values. They are defined by the presence of native vegetation (forest, woodland, grassy woodland, grassland, riparian, saltmarsh), riparian corridors and coastlines, and are managed primarily for biodiversity conservation including for the protection and refuge of native flora, native fauna and wildlife habitat. Other benefits that natural areas provide include:

- 1) ecosystem services: 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, communing with nature, education, wellbeing, connection.

Natural areas are fundamental to maintaining a sense of place and enjoyment which is dependent upon the management of these areas for their intrinsic natural, social and cultural values.

## 3.2 Where are our natural areas?

Natural areas are a key feature of the city of Clarence and provide a significant attraction for living in and visiting the City. Natural areas include coastal reserves, bushland reserves, saltmarsh reserves, flora parks, track corridors (Tangara Trail, Clarence Foreshore Trail), 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 (Hobart Airport and Department of Defence), state (PWS Reserves and Property Services) and council managed land as well as privately managed land under regulatory conservation covenants and other voluntary conservation partnerships. A breakdown of land tenure across the city of Clarence is provided in Figure 2. It highlights the importance of engaging and collaborating with private landholders with regards to our natural asset network. Figure 3 illustrates the network of managed reserves (local, state and commonwealth) within the city of Clarence.

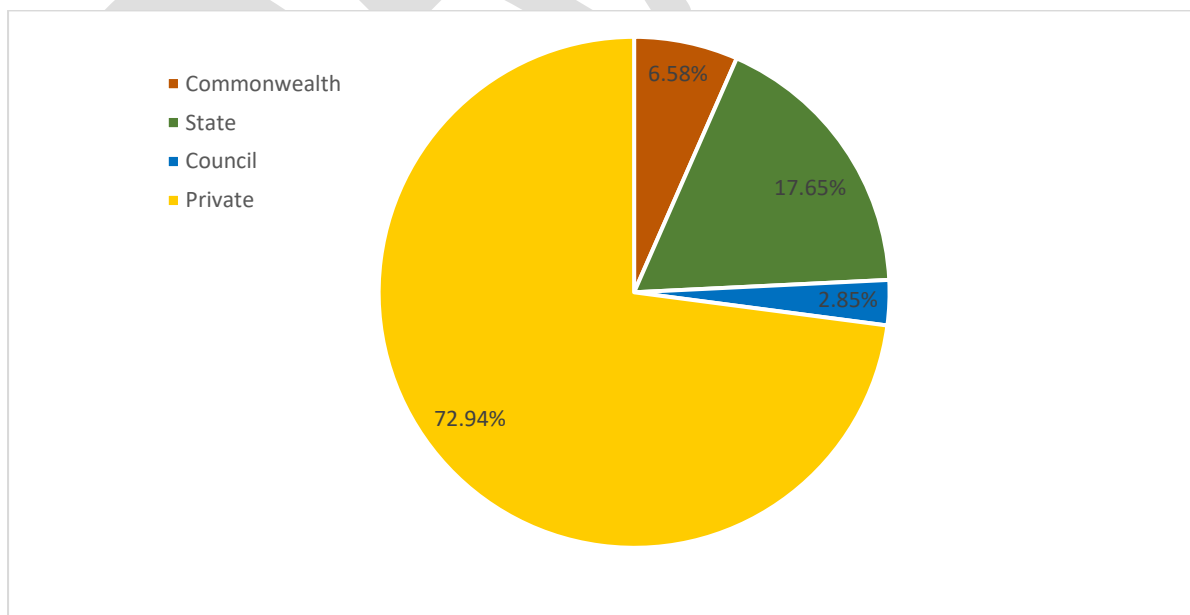


Figure 2: Land tenure breakdown across the city of Clarence



### 3.3 Important natural areas in the city of Clarence

One of the key natural features of the city of Clarence is the iconic Meehan Range, which features numerous ravines and escarpments within largely intact native forest and woodlands. It forms part of the South-East Tasmanian Important Bird Area, which is of international significance, as it is the breeding habitat of the swift parrot. The range transitions quickly down toward the River Derwent in the west where there is a narrow coastal plain which is largely urbanised. To the east, the range gives way to more extensive lowlands, including the Coal River Valley, which accommodates a range of agricultural activities, including food crops and viticulture, supported by irrigation schemes. The city of Clarence has more than 191 kilometres of coastal and estuarine frontage including direct connections to the Derwent Estuary, Storm Bay, Frederick Henry Bay and Pittwater. The city of Clarence supports the largest area of saltmarsh in southeast Tasmania as well as the internationally significant RAMSAR wetland site, Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon.

Figure 4 illustrates the natural asset network within the city of Clarence across all land tenures. It includes all natural areas covered by native vegetation (forest, woodland, saltmarshes, riparian zones, grasslands, coastal) as well as beaches, dunes, rocky shores, rivers, creeks and rivulets. Almost 40% of the city of Clarence is covered by native vegetation, including 15 state-listed and three nationally listed threatened ecological communities. A full list of Threatened native vegetation communities and threatened ecological communities are detailed in Appendix A. The city of Clarence also supports a diverse assemblage of flora and fauna including 95 species listed under state legislation and 35 species listed under commonwealth legislation. Figure 5 illustrates the important biodiversity corridors and connections which link our natural areas.

Some of the key important natural areas within the city of Clarence include:

- Saltmarshes – Lauderdale saltmarsh complex, South Arm Peninsula saltmarshes and Coal River – Pittwater-Orielton Lagoon saltmarshes.
- Meehan Range – major landscape and wildlife connectivity corridor. Also, 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 grassy woodland and grasslands.
- Rare and threatened flora at key forest, grassland and grassy woodland sites on public and private land including Waverley Flora Park, Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area, Glebe Hill Bushland Reserve and Milford Forest.
- Threatened fauna habitat – e.g. Swift Parrot habitat, Forty-spotted Pardalote habitat
- Pittwater-Orielton Lagoon – RAMSAR site.
- Calverts Hill Nature Reserve and surrounding area of Cremorne – *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* conservation and revegetation area.
- Migratory shorebird nesting habitat - Lauderdale, Mortimer Bay, South Arm Neck, Calvert's Lagoon as well as Barilla Bay and Five Mile Beach located within Pittwater-Orielton Lagoon.
- Aquatic habitats for endemic species including the Spotted handfish and Live-bearing seastar.

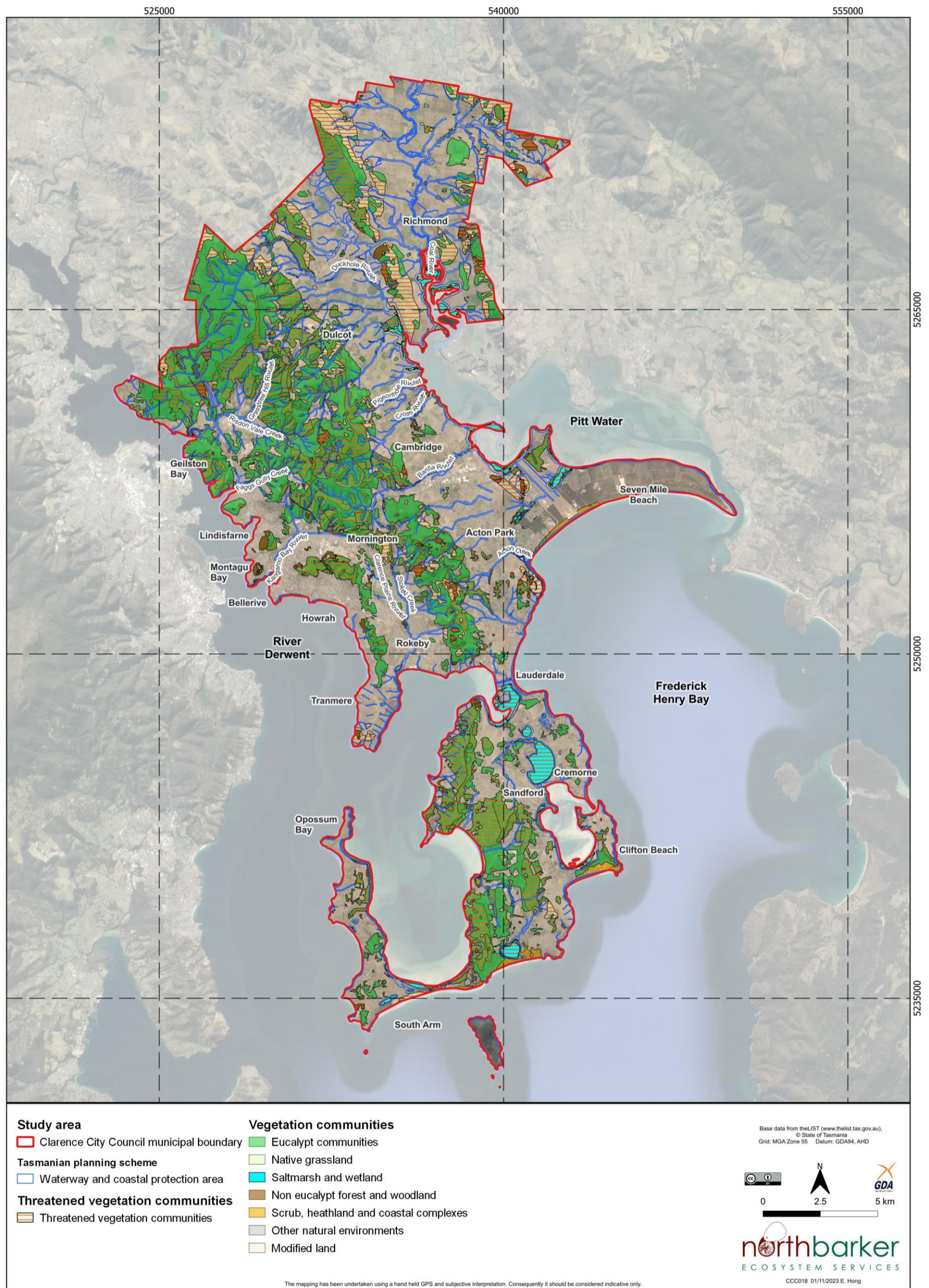


Figure 4: Natural area networks within the city of Clarence

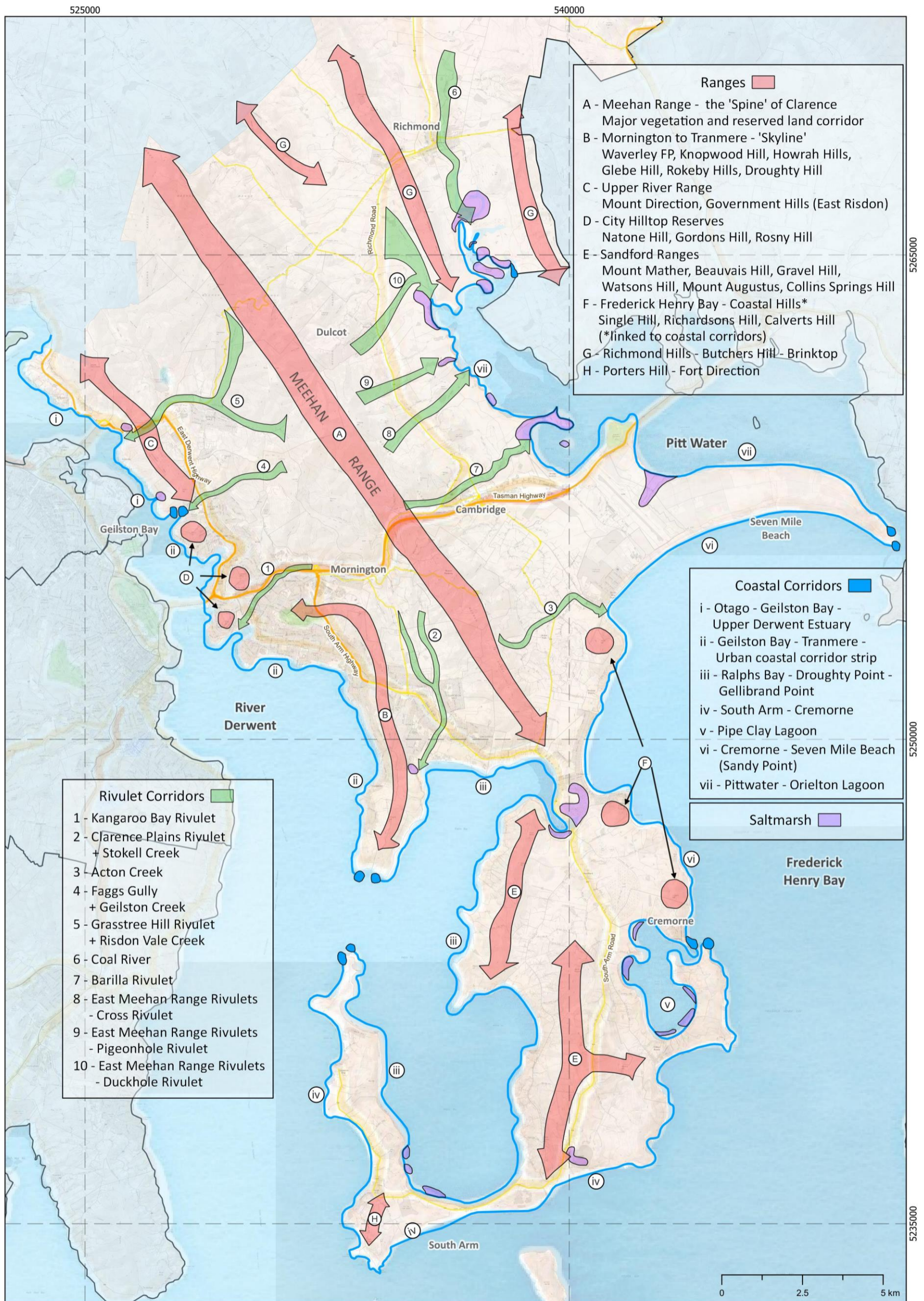


Figure 5: Natural area corridors – ranges, rivulets and coastline within the city of Clarence

### 3.4 How are our natural areas protected?

Natural areas containing habitat for threatened species and communities are protected under state and commonwealth legislation including the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. There is a growing need to protect rare and near-threatened species/communities not listed under these Acts and incorporate them into the planning assessment process.

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme contains several overlays under the Natural Assets Code which aim to protect important natural values including waterways and coastal areas, future coastal refugia areas and priority vegetation areas (refer to **Figure 6**). Council's may also utilise Part 5 Agreements as part of a development use permit to establish and protect conservation zones on private land which is then attached to the property title.

Clarence City Council manages its natural area network primarily through Reserve Management Plans (RMP), which guides and informs appropriate use and management of council-managed natural areas and includes extensive community and industry consultation.

The Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2024-2033 also informs how natural areas in bushfire prone areas of the city of Clarence are managed, particularly in regard to planned burning, vegetation monitoring, natural values assessments, hazard management areas and fire trail development and maintenance.

Overarching all of this is council's responsibility under the legislation to protect threatened species, habitats and threatened communities; as well as the Natural Assets Code within the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Clarence. State Government parks, reserves and crown land are managed by Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) under their respective legislations e.g., *Crown Lands Act 1976*, the *National Parks and Reserve Management Act 2002* and the *Fire Services Act 1979*.

Private landholders with important natural values may enter into voluntary conservation agreements under the state government's Private Land Conservation Program such as the Land for Wildlife scheme or Conservation Covenants, the latter being legally binding and registered on the land title.

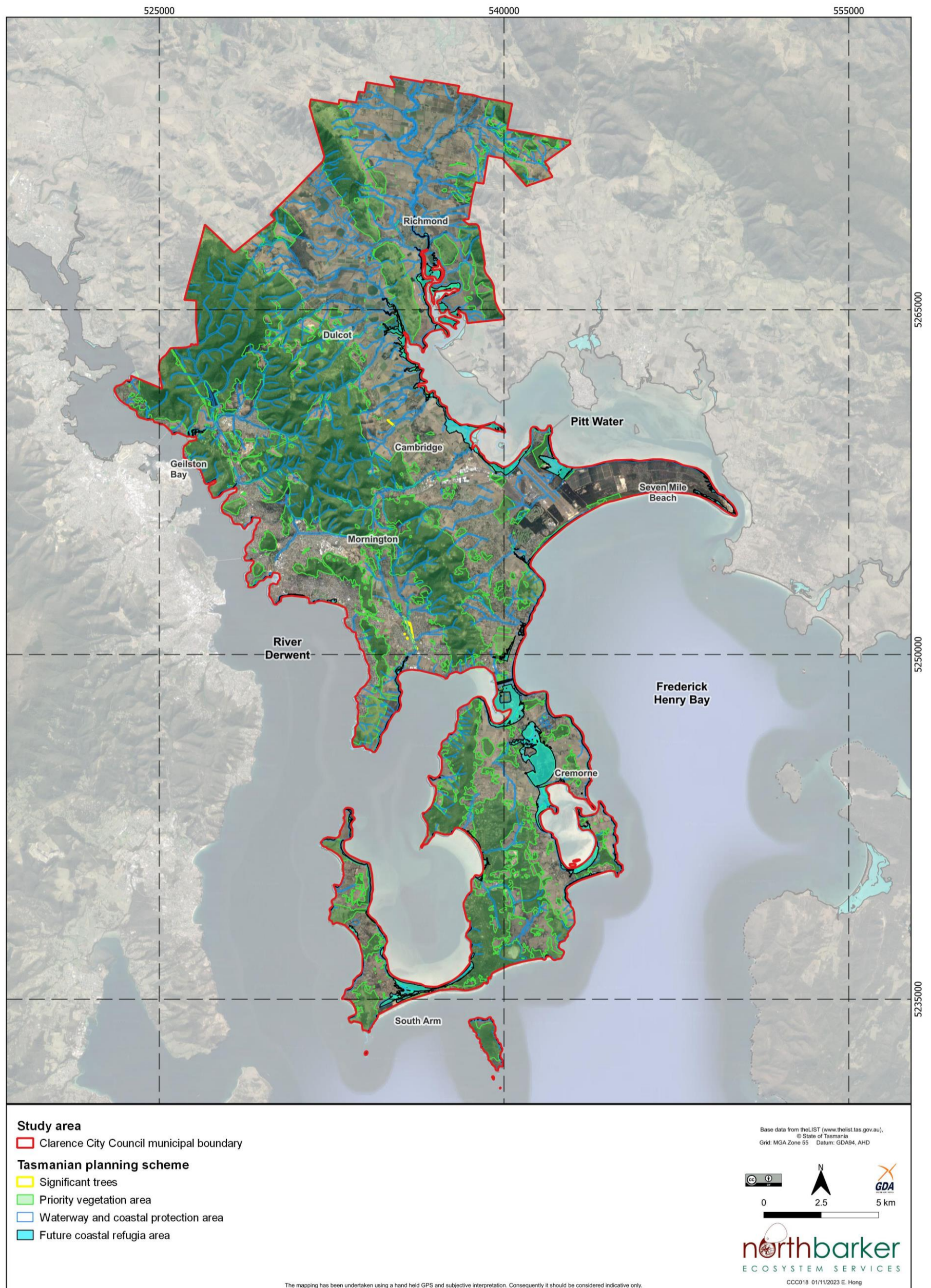


Figure 6: Natural area protection under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Clarence

### 3.5 Issues and threatening processes for our natural areas

Natural areas across all land tenures in the city of Clarence are subject to issues and threatening processes that undermine their long-term viability and capacity to sustain biodiversity, healthy habitat and deliver the social benefit and ecosystem services they provide.

The review of the previous *Clarence Bushland & Coastal Strategy (2011)* and current Reserve Management Plans for council reserves as well as key stakeholder consultation has identified the key issues and threatening processes to our natural areas which are listed below. These are consistent with the threatening processes identified at the national and regional level in *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030 - Australia's national biodiversity strategy and action plan (2019)* and *NRM South's NRM Strategy 2030 for Southern Tasmania*:

- Habitat fragmentation at various scales – subdivisions, private development, roads, fire trails, infrastructure developments and unauthorised track construction.
- Invasive species (flora) and pathogens that alter species composition, reduce biodiversity and increase fire risk.
- Invasive species (fauna) such as feral cats and rabbits that impact native flora and fauna.
- Inappropriate fire management and fire regimes.
- The lack of protection for native vegetation on private land or land to be developed not covered under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Clarence.
- Recreational impacts with increasing pressure on remnant urban bushland and coastal reserves with a growing population and demand for natural areas for recreation.
- Domestic animal e.g. roaming cats and off-lead dogs impacts on native flora and fauna.
- Loss of remnant native vegetation at various scales, both permitted through urban and rural subdivision development and at individual property development level; and unauthorised vegetation clearance, such as track construction, encroachment onto natural areas and tree vandalism.
- Loss of saltmarsh and saltmarsh refugia through sea level rise, urban and rural development and unauthorised development and filling
- Potential climate change response in habitats in terms of altered species composition/distribution and vegetation structure.
- Potential for increased incidence and severity of bushfires as a result of global warming.
- Rising sea levels as a result of global warming and increases in storm surges and changes to tidal and estuarine processes may lead to changes in coastal landforms through erosion and inundation.

Each of these issues and threatening processes is serious in its own right, however their effects are amplified when they interact, particularly with regard to global warming and the need for species to be able to migrate with changing environmental conditions.

Whilst some of these impacts may seem small on their own, the incremental loss of habitat and incremental shift in species composition results in cumulative effects which will result in species loss, reduced biodiversity and a loss of natural values in our natural areas.

## 4 Strategic Framework

### 4.1 Alignment with international and national strategies

There is global recognition of the need to protect the planet and increasing pressure from the community to tackle environmental challenges in innovative ways. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals recognise environmental, economic and social aspects to sustainability and that action in one area will contribute to the outcomes in other areas.

The CNAS has been developed to align with this global framework and the following subset of goals:

- Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 13: Climate action
- Goal 14: Life below water
- Goal 15: Life on land
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

*Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030* sets a national framework for government, non-government and community action to strengthen Australia's response to biodiversity decline and care for nature in our many environments. It focuses on overarching goals that support healthy and functioning biological systems by promoting a stronger connection between people and nature, improving the way we care for nature, and building and sharing knowledge. The CNAS has been developed to encapsulate these priority focus areas at a local level.

### 4.2 Clarence City Council Strategic Framework

In alignment with global and national best practices, Clarence City Council have made a commitment in its *Strategic Plan 2021-2031* to work towards an environmentally responsible city, which values and protects the natural environment for a sustainable and liveable future. In order to support achievement of the Strategic Plan objectives, council have adopted a *Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033* which outlines how council will work towards achieving sustainability through balancing social, environmental and economic factors. Through the Sustainability Strategy council have committed under Priority 4 Life on Land to sustainably manage our natural areas and minimise biodiversity loss. Key objectives council will work towards relating to the natural environment include:

- In consultation with the First Nations community, reflect, respect and celebrate the Aboriginal community, their heritage and contemporary cultural practices within our city. Continue to identify and protect important natural values within our city.
- Protect natural assets such as reserves, bushland, coasts and saltmarshes within council-managed land.
- Support methods that minimise the loss of native vegetation.
- Continue to provide opportunities for community involvement in the care of the environment.

Clarence City Council recognise the need for a strategic approach which seeks to develop deliverable actions that deliver measurable improvement, and which have been developed in consultation with key stakeholder groups. Figure 7 outlines the strategic framework for the protection and management of natural areas within the city of Clarence. The CNAS will sit under the Sustainability Strategy and provides the framework for the objectives listed above to be achieved.

## Strategic Framework

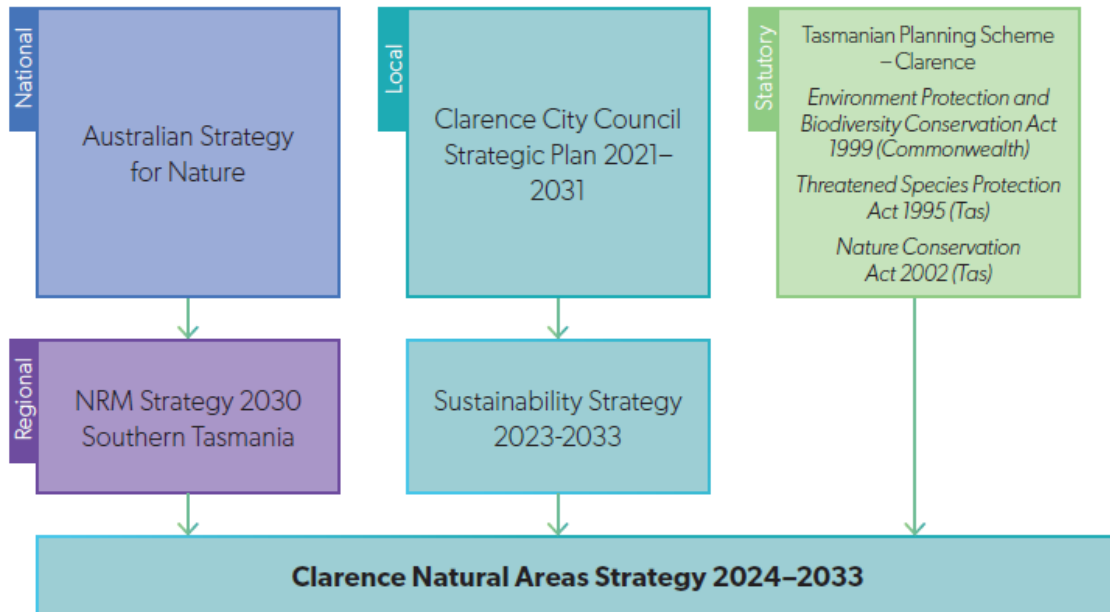


Figure 7: City of Clarence Strategic Framework for Natural Area Management

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# 5 Evolution of the Strategy

## 5.1 Review of previous strategy and progress

The Clarence Bushland and Coastal Strategy (CBCS) was developed in 2011. The CBCS identified numerous priority actions in relation to thirteen key management topics and prioritised these under the following broad objectives:

- protect natural assets through regulation, planning and council natural area management
- improved knowledge of our natural assets and their management
- develop effective bushland and coastal management plans
- enjoying natural areas
- work with Landcare, Coastcare and other volunteer groups to enhance resources and capacity to implement plans and initiatives
- inform, promote and partner

The Clarence Natural Areas Strategy 2024-2033 has been developed to provide a contemporary strategic framework for the management, protection of, planning for and promotion of natural areas across the city of Clarence. As part of this revision, a review of the management strategies/objectives outlined in the CBCS was undertaken. Several key changes include:

- shift from focusing on council-managed land to a broader cross tenure approach
- inclusion of a cultural acknowledgement and greater integration of the values, knowledge and practices of Traditional Custodians into the management and conservation of our natural areas
- greater recognition of the need to facilitate the connection between people and nature. The CNAS is strongly focussed on enhancing this connection to increase knowledge and understanding and foster stewardship over our natural areas. We all have a responsibility to care for Country.
- greater inclusion of migratory species as well as marine species/habitats
- inclusion of spatial data to illustrate our natural areas, key corridors, reserved land as well as planning overlays relevant to natural areas.

Key Strategy and Policy developments which have been achieved since 2011 include:

- development of comprehensive Reserve Activity Plans (RAPs) for the majority of the larger council-managed reserves
- development of the Clarence Weed Strategy 2016-2030 (and review in 2022)
- development of the Coastal Hazards Policy 2019
- development of the Clarence Tracks and Trails Action Plan 2015-2020
- development of the Clarence Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033
- development of the Clarence Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2024-2033

## 5.2 Understanding issues and opportunities relating to natural areas in Clarence

### 5.2.1 Stakeholder consultation

Clarence City Council recognise the need to engage and seek input from the natural resource management industry and key stakeholders to ensure the CNAS accurately captures the wealth of available knowledge to identify the trends, issues and opportunities facing our natural areas today.. These stakeholders included professional and knowledgeable people/organisations working across diverse natural area management fields. The comprehensive consultative process included detailed interviews with partner sectors, community groups and council stakeholders. .

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# 6 Strategy Objectives and Actions

## 6.1 Strategy objectives

The findings of the key stakeholder consultation have been used to establish a prioritised set of Strategy objectives to guide future management decisions. The thirteen themes from the CBCS have been consolidated into ten themes for the purposes of the CNAS. Fire management has been removed due to the recent development of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2024-2033 which is the key reference document for all fire management issues. Fire management in relation to biodiversity has been incorporated into the biodiversity theme. Coastal management has also been removed and incorporated into council strategies addressing climate adaptation and coastal management in vulnerable areas. Lastly, soil health has been consolidated into biodiversity.



The Strategy objectives are listed in **Figure 8**. These objectives describe the future aspirations for our natural areas, which when successfully delivered over the next decade will contribute to the CNAS Vision.

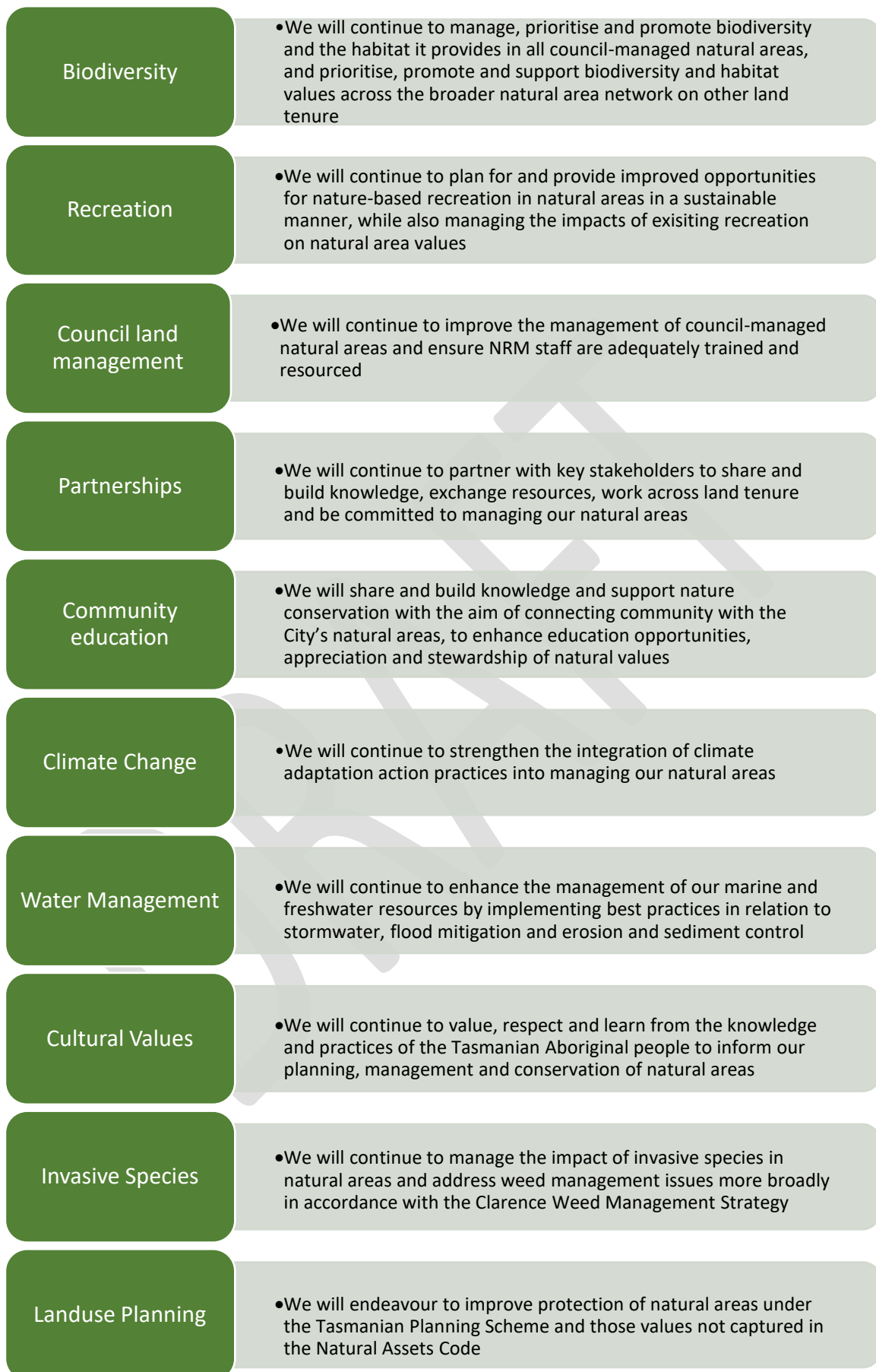


Figure 8: Management Objectives

## 6.2 Actions and implementation plan

This Strategy will achieve its goals and objectives through the implementation of strategic actions. The actions are the roadmap of the Strategy and will guide council in relation to the planning, prioritisation and management of natural areas over the next decade and beyond. A detailed implementation plan, which outlines specific actions, has been developed for each of the ten objectives. Actions are presented in a framework that shows the connection with the strategic goals. Specific priorities and responsibilities have been identified to guide the implementation of each action.

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Biodiversity

We will continue to manage, prioritise and promote biodiversity and the habitat it provides in all council-managed natural areas, and prioritise, promote and support biodiversity and habitat values across the broader natural area network on other land tenure

ACTIONS	Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED			
			Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas	
<b>1.1 Develop a Biodiversity Prioritisation Plan (BPP) for the city of Clarence</b>						
1.1a	Undertake natural asset mapping across the city of Clarence, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>threatened species and threatened native vegetation communities</li> <li>near threatened and rare natural values</li> <li>connected habitat corridors including remnants</li> </ul>	High	CCC		✓	
1.1b	Identify natural areas of greatest biodiversity value and develop a framework of actions in relation to management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>undertake a risk assessment of key natural areas in terms of planning protection and trends in condition.</li> <li>prioritise resources and identify gaps/options for improvement/enhancement.</li> </ul>	High	CCC		✓	
1.1c	Engage with private landowners, industry, philanthropists, not-for-profits in securing, protecting and managing priority natural areas based on outcomes of the BPP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop and implement a consultation plan to engage with these stakeholders.</li> </ul>	High	CCC and key stakeholders		✓	✓

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>1.2 Protect habitat trees</b>						
1.2a	Incorporate protection of habitat trees in the Clarence Urban Forest Strategy (in development).	High	CCC		✓	
1.2b	Develop procedure/s for enforcing and implementing Council's Tree Policy (2021) including a procedure for enforcing incidents of tree vandalism.	High	CCC		✓	
1.2c	Incorporate fauna habitat management techniques within best management practices for prescribed, ecological and cultural burning activities.	Ongoing	CCC		✓	
1.2d	Establish a significant tree register, informed by internal and external data sources, and develop an accompanying monitoring procedure.	Medium	CCC	✓	✓	✓
<b>1.3 Reduce threats to sensitive flora and fauna</b>						
1.3a	Consider the impact of off-lead dogs in sensitive natural areas, when developing Reserve Management Plans (RMP)	Ongoing	CCC and consultants		✓	
1.3b	Establish camera trap monitoring in known areas of concern for roaming cats and dogs to understand the impacts on native fauna populations.	Ongoing	CCC and Landcare / Coastcare groups		✓	
1.3c	Facilitate the mapping of sensitive orchid populations and undertake specific management measures to ensure their protection, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure staff/contractors are aware of locations</li> <li>install signage to educate the public (ensure specific locations are not disclosed)</li> <li>facilitate monitoring/management opportunities through partnerships with NRE Threatened Species Unit, Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT), UTAS, TAFE, Landcare Tas</li> </ul>	Ongoing	CCC with NRE/UTAS/ TAFE/TPT/Landcare Tas		✓	✓

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>1.4 Enhance landscape connectivity</b>						
1.4a	Identify landscape connectivity opportunities utilising information from the BPP and RMPs.	Ongoing	CCC		✓	
1.4b	Assess likelihood of landscape connectivity opportunities being subject to future development. Plan management regimes in partnership with private landholders and organisations to protect and enhance these biodiversity corridors.	Medium	CCC and private landholders		✓	✓
<b>1.5 Reduce 'net loss' of biodiversity values</b>						
1.5a	Review feasibility of establishing an environmental fund under a Biodiversity Offset Policy with developer contributions to fund biodiversity enhancement works..	Medium	CCC		✓	
<b>1.6 Promote the city of Clarence's unique biodiversity</b>						
1.6a	Undertake a program to promote the endemic Risdon and Morrisbys gums as iconic species and enshrine them as floral emblems for the city of Clarence.	Low	CCC with NRE	✓	✓	✓
1.6b	Continue to strengthen partnerships with NRM South on their identified strategy priorities in the NRM Strategy 2030 (NRM South) which relate to unique species in the city of Clarence (e.g. Morrisbys gum, Spotted handfish, Milford leek orchid)	Ongoing	CCC and NRM South	✓	✓	✓
<b>1.7 Increase our knowledge and understanding of high priority biodiversity values</b>						
1.7	Engage with education and research institutions in the monitoring and collection of data through post-graduate research projects.	Ongoing	CCC with TAFE / schools/ UTAS	✓	✓	✓
<b>1.8 Monitor biodiversity</b>						
1.8a	Complete vegetation condition assessments (VCA) as part of the RMP process. RMP's should provide specific actions to	Ongoing	CCC and consultants		✓	

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
	work towards improving the VCA score and this should be reassessed every five years.					
1.8b	In consultation with NRE Threatened Species Unit, develop a monitoring process for threatened species identified through the BPP and VCA process	Ongoing	CCC and NRE		✓	✓

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Recreation

We will continue to plan for and provide improved opportunities for nature-based recreation in natural areas in a sustainable manner while also managing the impacts of existing recreation on natural area values

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility/ Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>2.1 Continue to review and improve recreational infrastructure</b>						
2.1a	Identify opportunities to improve recreational infrastructure in reserves identified as priorities through the RMP process.	Ongoing	CCC	✓		
2.1b	RMP management actions relating to recreational infrastructure should continue to be implemented and assessed for future planning as part of the RMP process.	Ongoing	CCC	✓		
<b>2.2 Review and mitigate threats to natural values from recreation activities e.g. mountain biking, orchid spotting, off-track walking</b>						
2.2a	Undertake Natural Values Assessments when constructing new or upgrading mountain bike tracks, walking tracks, fire trails and any other form of recreational infrastructure in natural areas.	Ongoing	CCC		✓	
2.2b	Review mountain bike and other recreational access within or near areas identified in the BPP as containing high conservation values that are sensitive to impacts from recreation	High	CCC		✓	
2.2c	s. Develop washdown station options for improved hygiene (soil pathogens and weeds) at Clarence Mountain Bike Park and Meehan Range. Collaborate with NRM South on information/signage already developed for this purpose.	Medium	CCC and NRM South	✓	✓	✓
2.2d	Assess the need to install educational signage at locations where recreational activities (e.g. mountain biking, off-track walking, photography etc) can potentially impact on high natural values	High	CCC and NRM South	✓	✓	✓

ACTIONS	Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility/ Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
			Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
(locations derived from BPP). Collaborate with NRM South on information/signage already developed for this purpose.					
<b>2.3 Continue to provide updated information in relation to recreational opportunities/ infrastructure on council websites</b>					
2.3a Update council website in relation to council reserves and their respective restrictions.	Ongoing	CCC	✓	✓	
2.3b Continue to promote the LIVE Clarence website and Greater Hobart Trails website in relation to recreational opportunities/activities in city of Clarence's natural areas.	Ongoing	CCC	✓		
2.3c Continue to promote the Cambridge Ride Park for trail bike enthusiasts on council's website and associated media pages. Investigate opportunities for collaboration including promotion of responsible trail bike riding.	Ongoing	CCC	✓		✓
2.3d Develop a marketing strategy to promote 'Responsible Recreation'. It is the responsibility of everyone participating in outdoor recreation to follow a minimal impact code of practice. Promote the awareness of responsible recreation through marketing via council's website, social media, etc.	Medium	CCC	✓	✓	✓

Council land management

We will continue to improve the management of council-managed natural areas and ensure NRM staff are adequately trained and resourced

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>3.1 Continue to review and implement the RMP program</b>						
3.1a	Review the Reserve Management Plan (RMP) process with the aim to consolidate the number of RMPs and to develop achievable actions which reflect contemporary best practice and prioritise biodiversity outcomes.	High	CCC	✓	✓	✓
3.1b	Utilise information from the BPP and Open Space Strategy to determine the Reserve Management Plans to be developed / reviewed.	High	CCC	✓	✓	
3.1c	Develop a uniform template for RMPs including baseline monitoring for natural values.	High	CCC		✓	
3.1d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure consultation is undertaken with all appropriate council staff community and committees during the development of new RMPs and RMP reviews.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	CCC / key stakeholders	✓	✓	✓
3.1e	Ensure RMP objectives and actions align with strategic plans including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Biodiversity Prioritisation Plan (BPP) Sustainability Strategy 2023-2033</li> <li>Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2024-2033</li> </ul>	Ongoing	CCC and consultants	✓	✓	✓

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active Living Strategy 2022-2023</li> <li>Coastal Management Plans</li> </ul>					
<b>3.2 Build internal capacity in natural area management</b>						
3.2a	Establish a RMP Implementation Working Group with members of the Environment and Biodiversity team. The role of the working group would be to coordinate the implementation of all RMPs in a strategic manner.	High	CCC		✓	✓
3.2b	Seek a proportionate increase in funding in accordance with the extra management demands associated with additional Reserves that require RMP implementation.	Ongoing	CCC		✓	✓
3.2c	Support on-ground staff to undertake training and gain accreditation in Conservation and Ecosystem Management (CEM) training package from certificate II to certificate IV level.	Ongoing	CCC		✓	
3.2d	Consider the advantages and resourcing for transition to less reliance on contractors for vegetation management with a trained and skilled in-house vegetation management team.	Medium	CCC		✓	
<b>3.3 Encroachment on natural areas by adjoining landowners</b>						
3.3a	Develop an Encroachment Policy and associated Guidelines to address the issue of 'creeping backyards' and unauthorised use of council land. Include a process for auditing encroachment into council reserves, as well as a review of current natural areas that are formally used by adjoining landowners.	High5	CCC		✓	
<b>3.4 Ensure that revegetation activities prioritise indigenous vegetation and support native wildlife</b>						
3.4a	Prioritise natural regeneration through activities such as targeted weed control and ecological burning in council-managed natural areas where possible over revegetation.	Ongoing	CCC and Landcare / Coastcare volunteers	✓	✓	✓

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
3.4b	Where revegetation in council-managed natural areas is identified as necessary and appropriate, utilise the most up-to-date vegetation community planting lists (NRE and Understorey Network/NRM South) with consideration for climate resilient species.	Ongoing	CCC and Landcare / Coastcare volunteers	✓	✓	✓
3.4c	Plan any necessary and appropriate revegetation works to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>natural grasslands and grassy woodlands remain as open understories.</li> <li>no planting on fire breaks, hazard management areas or near fire trails that will impact access, increase fuel loads or make maintenance of those areas more challenging.</li> <li>maintenance regimes can be achieved.</li> </ul>	ongoing	CCC and Landcare / Coastcare volunteers	✓	✓	✓

## Partnerships

We will continue to partner with key stakeholders to share and build knowledge, exchange resources, work across land tenure and be committed to managing our natural areas

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>4.1 Increase information exchange and sharing of knowledge /resources between volunteer groups</b>						
4.1a	Develop a website page to allow information exchange between Landcare and Coastcare groups and to celebrate stories from important projects .	Low	CCC	✓	✓	✓
4.1b	Ensure Landcare and Coastcare volunteers are included in council's volunteer recognition events.	High	CCC	✓	✓	✓
<b>4.2 Continue to support existing partnerships and identify new opportunities for collaboration in relation to natural areas and their protection</b>						
4.2a	Develop and support existing partnerships with organisations and institutions who share similar values and strategic priorities relating to natural area and biodiversity, research and management. Examples include: - NRM South - Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) - UTAS - Birdlife Tasmania	Ongoing	CCC, DEP, UTAS and NRM South	✓	✓	✓

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
4.2b	Establish a formal partnership between with Birdlife Tasmania, NRM South and Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) to protect and enhance the habitats for resident and migratory shorebird habitat under future climate change sea level rise scenarios..	High	CCC and Birdlife, NRM South, DEP		✓	✓
4.2c	Review value on investment for CCC from programs and associations including the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) and Australian Coastal Councils Association (ACCA).	Medium	CCC		✓	✓
4.2d	Review value of investment for CCC from the Prisoner Day Release Program (PDRP)	Low	CCC		✓	✓
4.2e	Convene meeting with appropriate UTAS and TasTAFE staff to plan research projects and education opportunities for post-graduate students / Conservation and Ecosystem Management students.	ongoing	CCC and UTAS / TasTAFE		✓	✓
4.2f	Collaborate with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) in relation to projects around the Derwent Estuary in particular saltmarsh conservation.	Ongoing	CCC with DEP and CVA		✓	✓
4.2g	Strengthen the relationship with Wildcare to share knowledge and learnings between the organisations – include working in collaboration with more Wildcare groups such as Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT).	Ongoing	CCC with Wildcare		✓	✓
4.2h	Align existing Landcare groups and school activities with the objectives of the CNAS and relevant RMP, and prepare works plans which prioritise and details actions for groups to focus on.	Ongoing	CCC and schools, Landcare Tas	✓	✓	✓

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>4.3 Encourage conservation of natural values on private land</b>						
4.3a	Utilise the BPP to identify private landholders with important natural values. Work in partnership with landowners and collaborate with NRE and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) to incorporate into existing private land programs e.g. Private Land Conservation Program conservation covenants, and Land for Wildlife.	High	CCC with private landholders, NRE and the TLC		✓	✓
4.3b	Develop a trial incentive scheme (e.g. 'Environmental Enhancement Rates Rebate' or similar) to encourage and facilitate shared-responsibility private land conservation in targeted areas identified in the BPP. The trial scheme will use best-practice derived from the review.	Medium	CCC		✓	✓
4.3c	Promote the Environment and Biodiversity Grants Program to enable conservation of high priority biodiversity values on private and public land.	High	CCC		✓	✓
<b>4.4 Improve local community participation in natural area management</b>						
4.4a	Incorporate project-based activities into volunteer activities calendar as an alternative to traditional monthly Landcare events to assist in attracting a different cohort of community volunteers.	Ongoing	CCC and Landcare Tas	✓	✓	✓
4.4b	Support the Landcare / Coastcare volunteer groups with planning of works and related risk assessments and provide adequate training in accordance with councils Volunteer Management Framework.	High	CCC and Landcare Tas	✓	✓	✓

Community  
education

We will share and build knowledge and support nature conservation with the aim of connecting community with the city's natural areas to enhance education opportunities, appreciation and stewardship of natural values

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>5.1 Facilitate nature-based education</b>						
5.1a	Consider nature-based education and interpretation as a key element of new RMP development and existing RMP reviews e.g. Lauderdale Tip passive recreation precinct including a raised wetland walk and education trail.	Ongoing	CCC and consultants	✓	✓	✓
<b>5.2 Develop a Natural Area Promotion and Marketing Plan</b>						
5.2a	Develop a Promotion and Marketing Plan to increase awareness of the values of biodiversity and participation in the care of natural areas in the city of Clarence with a focus on the three strategic goals of the strategy to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect with natural areas</li> <li>• Conserve natural areas</li> <li>• Collaborate for natural areas</li> </ul>	High	CCC	✓	✓	✓

Climate  
change

We will continue to strengthen the integration of climate adaptation practices into managing our natural areas

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>6.1 Ensure council is aligned with best practice protocols in relation to the warming climate</b>						
6.1a	Continue to implement Clarence City Council’s Sustainability Strategy, particularly under the objectives of Climate Action, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Life on Land.	Ongoing	CCC	✓	✓	✓
<b>6.2 Develop partnerships with community groups that have a climate focus</b>						
6.2a	Collaborate with community groups and volunteer programs with a climate focus. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarence Climate Action</li> <li>• Coal River Valley Sustainable Living Group</li> </ul>	Ongoing	CCC and community groups	✓	✓	✓
6.2b	Continue to work with Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) on transition pathways and refuges for vulnerable coastal habitats	Ongoing	CCC and DEP		✓	✓
<b>6.3 Ensure impacts of climate change are understood and accounted for when addressing issues in natural areas.</b>						
6.3a	Address climate hazards such as fire, water, sea-level rise and species vulnerability when undertaking strategic planning in natural areas.	Ongoing	CCC		✓	
6.3b	Review provisions for assisting plants and animals in adapting to the warming climate (climate refuges and transition	Low	CCC		✓	

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
	pathways) within Council’s policies and planning scheme/overlays.					
<b>6.4 Promote and implement actions to improve climate resilience of coastal ecosystems</b>						
6.4a	Prioritise vulnerable coastal sites for the ongoing development of Coastal Management Plans (CMPs) as per Coastal Hazards Policy	High	CCC		✓	✓
6.4b	Continue shoreline monitoring program to inform appropriate planning and management of coastal areas	Ongoing	CCC		✓	✓
6.4c	Collaborate with relevant partner agencies to develop and implement opportunities to protect and enhance saltmarsh and seagrass habitats given their importance as carbon sinks (blue carbon).	Ongoing	CCC, DEP, NRE, UTAS, OzFish		✓	✓

Water  
management

We will continue to enhance the management of our marine and freshwater resources by implementing best practices in relation to stormwater, flood mitigation and erosion and sediment control

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>7.1 Retain natural drainage systems and protect ecosystem health.</b>						
7.1a	As per the council's endorsed Stormwater System Management Plan (2019) develop a plan to progressively improve waterway environment and water quality in the natural systems, including a list of priority locations for improvement works and requirements for developments impacting natural waterways.	Medium	CCC	✓	✓	✓
7.1b	Where appropriate, incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design when planning for stormwater management works which may impact natural areas.	Ongoing	CCC, developers and consultants		✓	
<b>7.2 Protect and enhance riparian corridors to improve water quality, connectivity and natural values</b>						
7.2a	Consistent with the BPP, enhance riparian corridors to improve landscape and biodiversity connectivity, water quality, flood mitigation and recreational value, such as the Clarence Plains Rivulet riparian corridor from Glebe Hill to Rokeby Beach and the Kangaroo Bay Rivulet riparian corridor from Warrane to Kangaroo Bay.	Medium	CCC	✓	✓	

Cultural values

We will continue to value, respect and learn from the knowledge and practices of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to inform our planning, management and conservation of natural areas

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>8.1 Collaborate with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to implement appropriate cultural practices</b>						
8.1a	Establish partnerships with Traditional Custodians to undertake caring for Country projects on council-managed natural areas.	Medium	CCC and Tasmanian Aboriginal community	✓	✓	✓
8.1b	Under the Clarence Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2024-2033, incorporate cultural burning practices within council's bushfire mitigation practices. Include consultation and engagement with the Traditional Custodians to facilitate cultural burns and delivery of training workshops for council staff. Develop an assessment process to prioritise grassy woodlands or grasslands suitable for cultural burning.	High	CCC and Tasmanian Aboriginal community	✓	✓	✓
8.1c	Facilitate cultural awareness training for local Landcare and Coastcare groups and promote opportunities for involvement in cultural events relating to caring for Country and cultural burning.	Medium	CCC and Tasmanian Aboriginal community / Landcare Tas	✓	✓	✓
8.1d	Undertake cultural awareness training for council staff including on-ground field staff and project officers planning projects.	High	CCC and Tasmanian	✓	✓	✓

ACTIONS		Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
			Aboriginal community			
8.1e	Incorporate Tasmanian Aboriginal words and place names for reserves, tracks, trails and natural features in consultation with Traditional Custodians. Interpretation signage to support multiple naming	Ongoing	CCC and Tasmanian Aboriginal community	✓		✓
8.1f	Incorporate Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage information into RMPs with the aim of incorporating diverse interpretation opportunities, increasing visitor awareness/education.	Ongoing	CCC and Tasmanian Aboriginal community / consultants	✓		✓

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Invasive species

We will continue to manage the impact of invasive species in natural areas and address weed management issues more broadly in accordance with the Clarence Weed Management Strategy

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>9.1 Continue to improve weed management across the city of Clarence</b>						
9.1a	Implement the priority actions outlined in the Clarence Weed Strategy 2016-2030 (reviewed and updated 2022).	Ongoing	CCC and relevant agencies		✓	✓
9.1b	Engage with the community in the use of citizen science apps such as iNaturalist and WeedScan to capture priority weed data which will improve our understanding of priority weed distribution and abundance.	High	CCC and community	✓	✓	✓
<b>9.2 Increase awareness of the impacts of invasive species in natural areas, and collaborate with partner agencies</b>						
9.2a	Increase capacity of the Weeds Planning Officer to transition role to a broader invasive species role.	High	CCC		✓	✓
9.2b	Collaborate with NRE and partner agencies on priority invasive species programs within the city of Clarence including deer, rabbits and feral cats that are impacting on biodiversity in our natural areas.	High	CCC and NRE		✓	✓
9.2c	As part of a Cat Management Awareness Program, develop a cat management brochure, targeting properties adjoining council reserves, shorebird nesting sites and private properties with significant natural values.	Medium	CCC	✓	✓	✓
9.2d	Implement Cat Prohibited Areas as required informed by the Biodiversity Prioritisation Plan and current data on sensitive fauna and nesting shorebirds	Medium	CCC	✓	✓	✓

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
9.2e	Improve signage and community education in reserves around impacts of off-lead dogs on wildlife and sensitive flora in alignment with regulations around level of dog access in natural areas.	Medium	CCC	✓	✓	✓
9.2f	Engage with the community in the use of citizen science apps such as iNaturalist and FeralScan (including DeerScan and RabbitScan) to capture invasive species data which will improve our understanding of invasive species distribution and abundance and will assist and inform partnership projects with NRE.	High	CCC, NRE and community	✓	✓	✓

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Landuse  
planning

We will endeavour to improve the protection of natural areas under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and those values not captured in the Natural Assets Code

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>10.1 Ensure significant natural values outside of the Natural Assets Code overlays are captured</b>						
10.1a	Undertake review of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Clarence Natural Assets Code overlay to improve planning protections for natural values Include justification for the inclusion of near threatened species/communities or regionally important vegetation communities and species in the planning assessment process	Medium	CCC		✓	
10.1b	Advocate to the State Government to improve protection of natural areas under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS) and to capture significant values identified in 10.1.a during future reviews of the TPS.	Medium – at time of TPS review	CCC		✓	✓
10.c	Improve the pre-lodgement process with developments to take into account additional natural values such as near threatened species/communities and regionally important vegetation communities and species that are not currently captured in the Natural Assets Code.	Medium	CCC		✓	✓
<b>10.2 Identify how the CNAS relates to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and associated policies</b>						
10.2a	Establish a formal relationship or framework to allow the CNAS to be used to inform decisions or directions in land use planning.	Medium	CCC		✓	✓

ACTIONS		– Priority -Timing High = 1 to 3 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Low = 5 to 10 years Ongoing	Responsibility / Stakeholder	GOALS ACHIEVED		
				Connect with natural areas	Conserve natural areas	Collaborate for natural areas
<b>10.3 Improve assessment of natural values through the planning process and review current planning permit conditions in relation to natural assets</b>						
10.3a	Employ an Environmental Planner to facilitate and assess natural values assessments for development applications.	High	CCC		✓	✓
10.3b	Review the 'standard conditions' for permits to ensure that remnant native vegetation and other natural values are adequately protected during developments and construction activities.	Medium	CCC		✓	

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# 7 Monitoring, reporting and review

The effectiveness of the CNAS will be reviewed after 5 years to ensure the priorities are relevant to the changing needs of the city of Clarence, the community and the environment. This review will inform the development of any required updates to the CNAS objectives, actions and the implementation plan. The review will assess the extent to which the CNAS has achieved its goals through an analysis of the implementation plans and identification of which actions have been achieved. Established reporting processes will document the review and the implementation plans will be updated accordingly. The following aspects will be considered as part of the Strategy review:

- 1. Strategic intent**
  - a. Are the strategy objectives still relevant?
  - b. Are the actions and priorities identified in the implementation tables still appropriate, or should they be modified?
- 2. Progress and effect**
  - a. What proportion of actions identified have been addressed and to what extent have they been implemented?
  - b. Has sufficient funding been secured?
  - c. Have funded projects contributed to the strategic goals?
- 3. Revision**
  - a. Have alternate priorities become apparent since the strategy was endorsed?
  - b. Has new research or opportunities emerged which should be incorporated into the strategy review?
  - c. What limitations or learnings have been identified over the past 5 years?
- 4. Collaboration**
  - a. Have all relevant stakeholders been engaged and heard?
  - b. Is the Tasmanian Aboriginal community being adequately represented and consulted?
  - c. Opportunities for further collaboration.

The Sustainability Committee will be responsible for governing and supporting implementation as well as reporting on primary outcomes through established processes. The review of RMPs and their implementation will continue and support the management of council reserves.

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# 9 Appendices

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## Appendix A

### Threatened Native Vegetation and Ecological Communities mapped in the city of Clarence

Twelve native vegetation communities listed as threatened under schedule 3A of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* are mapped as occurring within the city of Clarence based upon the most recent Threatened Native Vegetation Community mapping (TNVC2020<sup>[1]</sup>). In addition a further three ecological communities are listed under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). These threatened native vegetation and ecological communities are listed in Table 1 below.

Threatened Native Vegetation and Ecological Community	Nature Conservation Act 2002 (TAS) Status	EPBC Act 1999 (Comm.) Status	Extent in the city of Clarence (ha)
<i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i> forest and woodland on sandstone (DAS)	Threatened	-	515
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> – <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> coastal forest and woodland (DVC)	Threatened	-	210
<i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i> inland forest and woodland on cainozoic deposits (DAZ)	Threatened	-	27.5
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> dry forest and woodland (DGL)	Threatened	-	2701.7
<i>Eucalyptus morrisbyi</i> forest and woodland (DMO)	Threatened	-	5.1
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i> forest and woodland (DOV)	Threatened	Critically endangered (CR)	64.8
<i>Eucalyptus risdonii</i> forest and woodland (DRI)	Threatened	-	781.1
<i>Eucalyptus tenuiramis</i> forest and woodland on sediments (DTO)	Threatened	-	1530.4
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> - <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> coastal forest and woodland (DVC)	Threatened	-	210.1
Lowland native grasslands of Tasmania (including TasVeg community types GCL/GPL/GTL/NBA)	-	Critically endangered (CR)	2040
Riparian scrub (SRE)	Threatened		1.5
Seabird rookery complex (GHC/SCH/SRH if seabird rookery complex)	Threatened		122.7
Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh (Including TasVeg community types AHS/ARS/AUS/ASS)	-	Vulnerable (VU)	499.7
Wetlands (Including TasVeg community types AHF/ASF/AWU)	Threatened		201.9
<b>Total Area (ha) of threatened native vegetation and ecological communities</b>			<b>8912.1</b>

Source: Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. Threatened Native Vegetation Communities 2020, Released February 2021. Tasmanian Vegetation Monitoring and Mapping Program, Natural and Cultural Heritage Division.

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