WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel

AGENDA – 18 JULY 2023

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)	
Date & Time:	18 July 2023 – 5:00pm
Location:	Council Chambers, 21 Saunders Street Wynyard
Council Representatives:	Cr Celisa Edwards (Chair), Cr Andrea Courtney (Deputy Chair)
Members:	Brenton Hosking, Colin Hocking, Fiona Loughran, Hannah Sadler,
	Ian Ferris, Ian Newman, Peter Lawrence, Robin Krabbe, Sarah Smith,
	Wendy Bryant
Staff in Attendance:	Daniel Summers, Dana Hicks, Kassandra Steward, Bill Walker
Apologies	Cr Celisa Edwards (Chair), Colin Hocking, Brenton Hosking
Guest Presenter:	Jenny Donovan – Pause Places

1   WELCOME

- Ensure a quorum is achieved before opening up to official business
- Take note of opening time

2   CONFIRM MINUTES

- Motion to confirm minutes from previous meeting.

3   PAUSE PLACES – JENNY DONOVAN

Cradle Coast Authority, through Ms. Donovan's initiative, has gained funds to implement 'Pause Places' in a few key locations in WWC as it aligns with one of the recommendations of the WWC Liveable Settlement Strategy. Ms. Donovan will attend SEAP to present and seek recommendations from participants on locations and community groups that could potentially partner in the scheme.

4   FOOD SECURITY – R. KRABBE

The food strategy subgroup will present an outline of their works to date.

5   VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

I. Ferris & P. Lawrence will present an update on the workings of the subgroup.

6   SEAP ACTION PLAN

The revised SEAP Action Plan will be discussed at the July meeting with the aim of endorsing a final version for recommendation to Council. This is largely a reorganisation of the actions under new "focus area" headers. This action plan will be utilised to guide SEAP in their current term (expiring 30 May 2025) and reporting to Council on progress against the agreed outcomes within the Action Plan.

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7   UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- Recommendations list included in this agenda at page 5.
  - Cities of Power Partnership pledges

8   REVIEW OF ACTIONS LIST

- Actions list included in this agenda at page 3.
- Item for discussion – Action 1: Meeting frequency. This item was to be discussed at the May meeting, though with a full agenda, discussion was postponed to the July meeting.

9   UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 19 Sept 2023 at Council Chambers
- 21 Nov 2023 at Council Chambers
- 16 Jan 2023 at Council Chambers

10   GENERAL BUSINESS

- Call for members to raise other general business.
- SEAP Collaborative Artwork for Eco Village question – some suggestions might be:
  - Revisit the iCEP question – "using words and/or pictures, tell us your concerns or hopes for the future of WW in a changing climate"
  - What do you think Waratah-Wynyard should look like in 10 years?
  - What does 'sustainability' mean to you?

11   CLOSURE

- Take note of closing time

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Action List as at 16 May 2023

No.	Action	Meeting	Responsibility	Due	Status
1	Review meeting frequency at the third official meeting of the group (six months).	31 Jan 23	Group	16 May 23	Not Started
3	Consolidate the products of the brainstorming session, provide draft for consideration.	31 Jan 23	D. Hicks / D. Summers	Before March meeting.	CLOSED
4	Review state of agapanthus around the Sisters Beach. Look at education and transfer of strategy to weed reduction program.	31 Jan 23	F. Loughran & B Walker	Before March meeting	CLOSED
5.	Form a sub-group looking at a weed reduction program including education and transfer of knowledge into Council a strategy.	21 Mar 23	F. Loughran, B. Walker & C. Hocking	For July meeting	In Progress
6.	Provide details and/or a contact at Central Coast Council re: HEAT home energy tool and associated community outreach	21 Mar 23	P. Lawrence & K. Steward	Before May meeting	Complete
7.	Seek further information on possible funding for waste education through the state government.	21 Mar 23	Cr. A. Courtney & D. Summers	For July meeting	In Progress
8.	Adjust and reorganise the Action Plan produced as part of the January brainstorming session. Soft copy of native file to be provided.	21 Mar 23	C. Hocking, Cr C. Edwards, D. Summers & K. Steward	For July Meeting	In Progress
9.	Provide an outline of a food security proposal for the group to consider actions for.	21 Mar 23	R. Krabbe, H. Sadler & W. Bryant	For July meeting	In Progress
10.	Provide examples and case studies to assist progress for easily achievable Community adaptation and resilience projects. E.g., Camp Creek, Inglis River	21 Mar 23	B. Hosking & C. Hocking	For July meeting	In Progress

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No.	Action	Meeting	Responsibility	Due	Status
11.	Send NRM link to SEAP group	21 Mar 23	H. Sadler	Before May meeting	CLOSED
12.	Approach Spring Loaded organisers re: Eco Fest contacts.	21 Mar 23	D. Summers & Cr A. Courtney	Before May meeting	CLOSED
13.	Review, research and make recommendations for a revised/new Tree Policy for the consideration of the group. • Refer Action 19 – next steps	21 Mar 23	C. Hocking & I. Ferris	For July meeting	Complete
14.	Wildlife corridor concepts and management including threatened species (urban greening links/corridors) – Research and provide case studies for the group's consideration.	21 Mar 23	W. Bryant.	For Sept meeting	In Progress
15.	Share the FOGO feasibility study from 2020 with SEAP ahead of recommendations to April Council meeting.	21 Mar 23	D. Summers	Before May meeting	CLOSED
16.	Provide information on the shared environmental officer discussion with Cradle Coast Authority. • Assess the needs of/for an environmental officer, both strategic and day to day.	21 Mar 23 16 May 23	P. Lawrence D. Hicks / D. Summers	Before May meeting For review at September meeting	Complete In Progress
17.	Send a link to the City of Power Partnership site for member's review - Cities Power Partnership: local councils leading the charge to net zero.	21 Mar 23	K. Steward	Before May meeting	CLOSED
18.	D. Hicks to circulate current waste education documentation to group for reference and review ahead of any formal recommendation Council.	16 May 23	D. Hicks	Before July meeting	Complete
19.	C. Hocking, P. Lawrence and I. Ferris to collate and summarise best practice tree and other vegetation policy framework and send to D. Hicks and D. Summers to review and consider. Resulting documents to be tabled at the following SEAP meeting for consideration before making recommendations to Council.	16 May 23	C. Hocking P. Lawrence I. Ferris D. Hicks D. Summers	For July meeting	In Progress

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No.	Action	Meeting	Responsibility	Due	Status
20.	D. Hicks to provide to SEAP members information including natural values found on site at Ballad Avenue to help inform members ideas on land use.	16 May 23	D. Hicks	Before July meeting	Not Started
21.	SEAP members to review Ballad Avenue information and provide in return ideas for possible land use at Ballad Avenue.	16 May 23	Group	For July meeting	Not Started
22.	D. Hicks / D. Summers to look into bringing a wildlife corridor strategy into the planning process.	16 May 23	D. Hicks & D. Summers	TBC	In Progress

Recommendations Update as at 16 May 2023

No.	Recommendation	Meeting	Update	Outcome
1	SEAP recommends Council to amend its Sponsorship Signage Policy to exclude fossil fuels in recognition of their health and climate impacts as Council has already done in regard to gambling, alcohol and tobacco.	21 Mar 2023	16/05: Council have agreed and implemented changes to the Sponsorship Signage Policy as recommended.	Complete
2	SEAP recommends Council to introduce an annual EcoFair event in conjunction with Spring Loaded to raise awareness in the community and promote sustainable living and a healthy relationship with the environment.	21 Mar 2023	16/05: Council have agreed to introduce an "Eco Village" area to the Tulip Festival with the intention that the first year be small an impactful, leveraging off of the festival. The aim will be to use a small well received first year as a foundation to build on in future years.	Complete
3	SEAP recommends Council to participate in the Cities of Power Partnership which presents an opportunity to join dozens of other councils across the country leading the way to a zero emissions future by providing the necessary tools, resources, and connections to help accelerate their climate and energy goals.	21 Mar 2023	16/05: Council have agreed to the recommendation and will implement as part of its commitment to progressing iCEP initiatives. Council Officers are reviewing the participation requirements including the pledge list.	Complete

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No.	Recommendation	Meeting	Update	Outcome
4	SEAP recommends Council to investigate opportunities for greater take up and usage of the Home Energy Audit Toolkit (HEAT).	16 May 2023		New
5	SEAP recommend Council request a speed limit reduction for Sisters Beach Road from the Transport Commissioner.	16 May 2023	Traffic Counters will be placed on Sisters Beach Road before the end of July in order to present necessary data to Council and the Transport Commissioner.	In progress
6	SEAP recommend Council consider extending the virtual fencing along Sisters Beach Road	16 May 2023	A verbal update to be given at the meeting	In progress

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INFORMATION FOR DISTRIBUTION

ATTACHMENTS LIST:

1. Draft Pause Places Design Guidelines
2. Action Plan Brainstorming Session Table
3. SEAP Reorganisation of Objectives, Processes, Success Measures
4. Towards Vegetation Management Strategy
5. Scoping Paper WWC Vegetation Management Strategy
6. Second Rd for Sisters Beach Considerations
7. Council meeting minutes extract July 2020 (SB second access)
8. Council meeting minutes extract June 2021 (SB second access)

1   PAUSE PLACES PRESENTATION

Pause Places are community led small landscape projects that seek to make the streets and open spaces (even) more attractive and inviting places to walk, cycle and enjoy community life. The Design Guidelines (attachment 1) document was produced to help communities who would like to participate in the programme to implement a pause place in their neighbourhood. The initiative, through Cradle Coast Authority, has gained funding to implement pause places in a few key locations (yet to be determined) in the municipality as it aligns with one of the recommendations of the WWC Liveable Settlement Strategy.

2   SEAP ACTION PLAN

SEAP will discuss the action plan during this month's meeting, aiming to endorse the current version for recommendation to Council. The current draft with additional thoughts (attachment 2) were provided by C. Hocking and are largely a reorganisation of actions under new "focus area" headers. An amended version of the action plan, that has been reorganised is also included for consideration (attachment 3).

It should be noted that while extensive discussion and workshopping has occurred an alternate action plan (amended from the draft action plan initially provided during the expression of interest process) has not been recommended to Council for endorsement to date. Gaining Council acceptance and funding of SEAP initiatives will gain greater certainty if a recommendation can be made to Council and gain endorsement.

3   VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A vegetation management strategy outline has been drafted and is included for consideration and discussion in the group with the intent of making recommendation to Council to fund and proceed. (attachment 4) Also included is a vegetation management strategy scoping paper for Waratah-Wynyard Council to help inform the development of the strategy (attachment 5).

4   SECOND ROAD FOR SISTERS BEACH

Some points of consideration have been prepared regarding any consideration of a second road into Sisters Beach by C. Hocking for noting by the group (attachment 6). Additional background information has also been included from previous Council Meetings where a Sisters Beach additional access road was a subject of consideration (attachment 7 & 8).

Attachment 1: Draft Pause Places Design Guidelines

Pause places design guidelines

A Healthy Focus Project Funded by the Department of Health

June 2023 v2

Abstract

The what, how, why and where of pause places

Logos

Contents

Introduction

The Cradle Coast Authority's Pause Place Programme is funded by the Department of Health's Healthy Focus Fund. Pause Places are community-led small landscape projects that seek to make our streets and open spaces (even) more attractive and inviting places to walk, cycle and enjoy community life. This document has been produced to help communities who would like to participate in the programme to implement a pause place in their neighbourhood.

This document should, however, be considered a design *guide* and not a design *standard*. This is because it is not the definitive last word on what is and isn't appropriate. Sometimes other matters take precedence over these guidelines such as underground services or sight lines on corners. When this happens, we may need to vary from the guidance in this document. Your local council will help you determine which if any other matters need to be considered.

What are pause places?

Pause places are compositions of simple, easy to construct elements that are sourced from within our region. These are things like logs and rocks and planting which are laid out to make attractive, interesting places that invite passersby to break journeys, rest, look at the world go by, learn about the magic of your local environment and, if you are so minded to play. These elements might be seen as a kit of standard parts that can be arranged in different ways. They are co-designed and co-managed by Council and the local community. Precedents for this idea from other parts of the world can be found in appendix 1.

The pause place will link with an app via a QR code which will provide information about the area's ecology, any stories of the areas history and why it has been dedicated as it has. The app will also allow people to leave their comments and add another layer to the stories of each pause place.
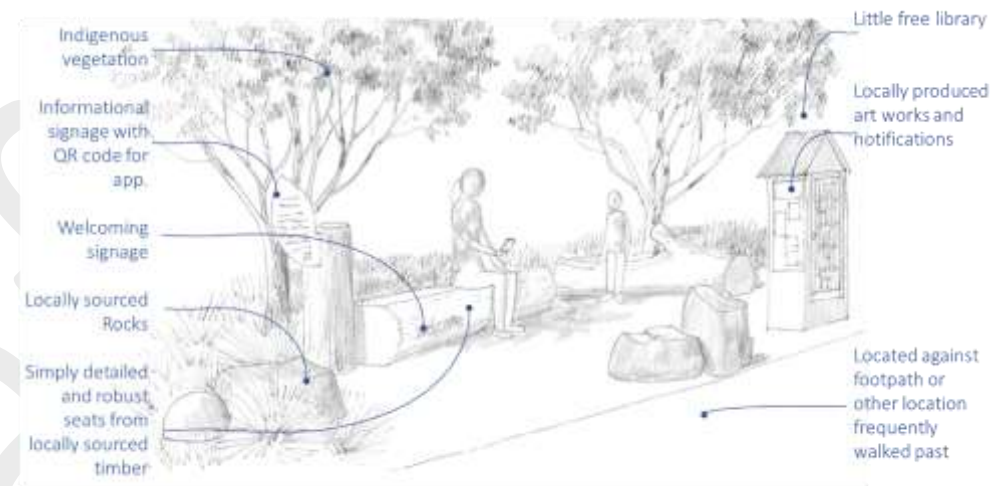

Figure x elements of a pause place (please note different pause places are likely to have other elements in other combinations as outlined in these guidelines

Why are we encouraging pause places?

Unfortunately, we tend to be less healthy than those living in other parts of Australia[1]. One of the reasons for this is that many of us don't walk enough[2]. Instead, we rely on cars for even short trips.

Another factor that diminishes our health is that despite being a friendly and engaged community we have high rates of social isolation and loneliness. According to the 2021 census, close to a third of Tasmanians

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[1] https://www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Primary-Health-Tasmania-Needs-Assessment-2022-25.pdf

[2] https://www.health.tas.gov.au/professionals/working-health-promoting-ways/priority-areas/more-active-communities-more-active-people

(29 per cent) live alone, which is higher than the national average of one-in-four living solo (25.6 per cent)[3]. Many of these are older, with limited mobility and less access to a car.

By encouraging pause places we can:

- Give people a chance to take a greater stake in their community
- Make it easier to walk and stay walking longer as we age by allowing people to break journeys up to make them more walkable. For example, a walk of one kilometer might be too much but with a place to rest it might be seen as two walks of only 500m. This might make important destinations such as town centres and the coastal pathway currently under construction more accessible.
- Give people a chance to sit and watch the world go by and enjoy the little boosts that come from saying hello to people and enjoy the chance interactions of the street[4]
- Offer additional places to enjoy the company of well met friends
- Provide a source of identity and local pride
- Celebrate local people and events.

We hope that these interventions will benefit:

- Local residents
- Local businesses
- People who cycle
- Pedestrians
- Public transport users

- Other road users
- Children
- The elderly

Evidence suggests the most 'distance sensitive' segment of the community are the aged, for whom pause places would represent both a destination and a place to rest and take a break.

How will pause places be implemented?

The Healthy Tasmania Fund Healthy Focus fund has awarded the CCA a grant to work with community groups to implement pause places. If you are interested in the process by which one can be built in your area you should look through these guidelines to see where and if a pause place would work. If you think it would be a good idea and a number of other people have agreed to share the management tasks associated with adopting a pause place (we will call this the adopting group in the remainder of these guidelines) you are invited to contact xxxxxx to develop your idea and help you put in an application. Your application should include why you think it's a good idea, any thoughts on a design (if you have one) and a management plan and any other information you think relevant.

If your application is successful we will draft a letter outlining maintenance responsibilities and if that is acceptable Council will undertake to install the core elements (these are described below) and you can install the additional elements as per your approved design.

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[3] https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-24/tas-groups-helping-to-connect-people-and-fight-off-loneliness/101804408

[4] Qualls, S (2014) What Social Relationships Can Do for Health. American Society of Ageing. Accessed July 2016, www.asaging.org/blog/what-social-relationships-can-do-health

After two years the pause place will be reviewed and the community, through the adopting group and given the choice of:

1. Keeping it as is
2. Exploring possibilities to amend/improve it
3. Remove it

Figure x typical Pause place

Where will they be located?

They will be located in places where two conditions are met:

- The local community wants them in that location; and,
- They meet the guidelines below. This will ensure they have the best chance of being used and looked after.

Design guidelines
Location

It is important that pause places are located in the right place. There are a number of factors you will need to think about.

If they are to be located on private land, or on land owned by a government entity other than Council please make sure you have the approval of the owner before proceeding.

In towns they should be located where people are already, typically this means alongside routes well traversed by pedestrians. Places of high footfall as the planners call it. People will rarely go out of their way to find a seat.

Figure x People will take up the opportunity to sit almost anywhere they can in areas of high footfall, even when no formal seating is provided (examples from Ireland and Wales)

In villages we can be a bit more flexible as they provide an opportunity to be a destination in their own right where there is no other destination but people have identified a need for a hub.

Figure x Village pause place indicative design to serve as a mini-hub as well as a place to pause

It is important they are in places where people want to be. This means not on poorly drained soil, muddy areas or where they are surrounded by traffic. A traffic island would not usually be a good location but overlooking a beach, a view or where lots of people are passing by might be a good location.

They should not impede pedestrian flows or present a trip hazard by blocking or narrowing a footpath unless the footpath is wide, in which case the pause place with someone sitting on it should not narrow the path to less than 2m. This is the minimum distance that would allow two wheelchairs to pass one another comfortably[5].

They should be located adjacent to footpath to make it easy for people to get to them without getting muddy or eroding topsoil.

They should be where they can be seen from surrounding houses, footpaths or businesses. This is called 'passive surveillance' and will make them feel a great deal safer and deter anti-social behaviour.

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[5] https://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Waltham-Forest-Mini-Holland-Design-Guide.pdf

Bad Passive surveillance   Good Passive surveillance

Figure x examples of places with good and bad passive surveillance

They should be orientated towards the adjoining footpath unless there is a particularly important view to look at in which case consider orientating them in both directions.

It may be appropriate to locate them in the roadway, subject to co-ordination and agreement with local planners and engineers but if so care needs to be taken to ensure they don't interfere with drainage and they are located where there is no kerb which might otherwise become a trip hazard.

In town centres experience elsewhere suggests they could be good located on side roads adjacent to main shopping streets.
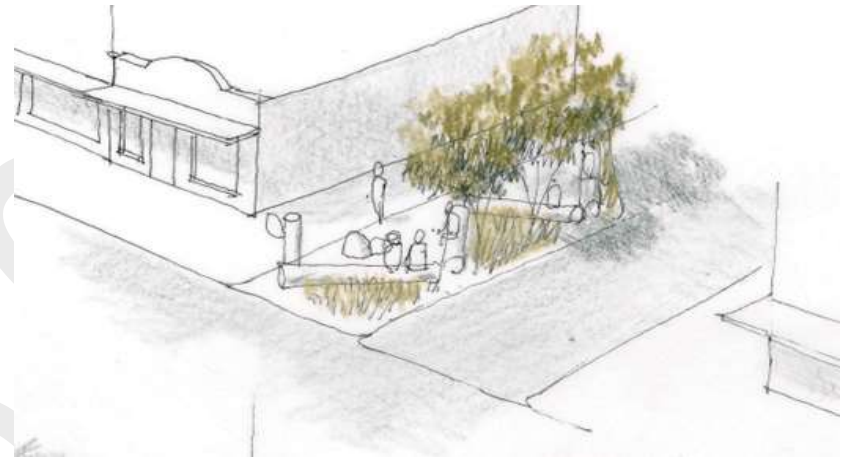

Figure x indicative on road pause place

Subject to appropriate permissions they may provide an interesting outlook at the back of the beach or along a riverside.

Figure x indicative beachside pause place

Detailed design

Because pause places use natural materials each seat/log is different. This might mean ensuring you think about the fall of the site and orientation of the log to ensure it does not interfere with drainage, the sitting area has very little crossfall and is as stable as possible.

Seats orientated towards one another will facilitate groups of people to sit together.

Multiple seats will help ensure people who don't know one another can share a pause place without intruding on each other's personal space.
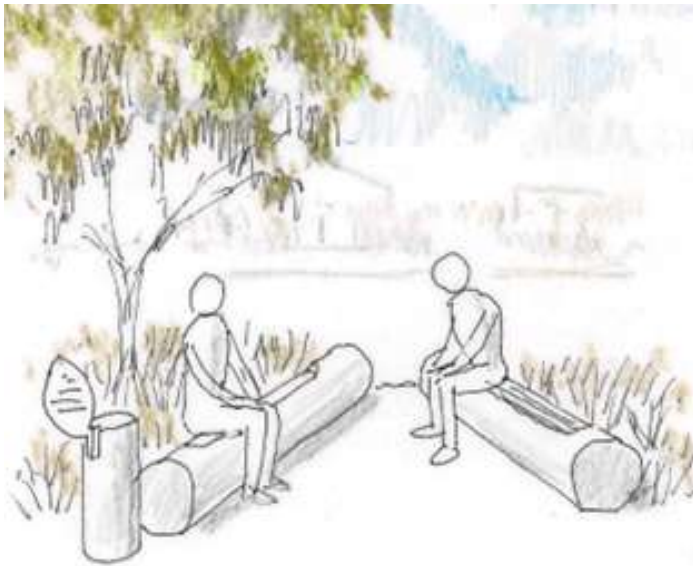

Figure x Multiple seats will allow people to share a pause place comfortably even if they don't know one another

Different heights of seats will work for different ages. All seats/aprons should be 300-450mm in height to facilitate comfortable sitting by most people. Timber should be used with a low oil content to reduce staining and that doesn't crack too much with ageing.

A seat with a back works better for old or infirm but even where that isn't provided a backless bench of the right height can still meet the needs of many.

A seat with a leaning back pitch and arm rests provides a place to relax and would suit breast feeding mothers.

Figure x Seats with backs will be more versatile but will not be needed by all.

Rocks and seats may need footings for stability and to avoid pinchpoints. If these can't be avoided xxxxx will work with you to detail these elements

Core features

These are the 'kit of parts' that will be provided as part of the programme and remain the property of xxxx, however they will be lent to the managing community group for as long as they wish the pause place to remain.

Seats comprising logs with limited dressing/preparation of between 300-450mm height and up to 4m in length.

Other timber features that may be used to frame a planting bed or provide a habitat for insects, etc.

Short sections of log can provide seating stumps individually or a play feature/sculpture in groups.

Specialised timber elements such as a log bicycle rack.

Figure x indicative log bicycle rack

Rocks; Basalt, granite or other local rocks of various sizes to provide freestanding features or part of a composition.

Signage; Welcome and a naming/dedication signs will add to the sense of people being invited to share the pause place and give it more meaning for the users and provide a way of recognizing local people, organisations or historical events. The sign will also include a QR code or similar.
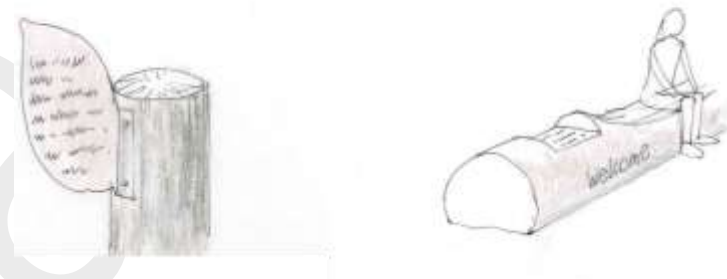

Figure x indicative signage design to welcome and inform people

Surfacing; granitic sand or gravel or similar may be provided if necessary

App; The app would include the history of the site, the community behind it, insights on the landscape chosen and (subject to further investigation) the indigenous perspective on the ecology or area.

Additional features

These are owned and the responsibility of the individual or group who will manage the pause place. XXXXXX will provide help and advice on how to design these elements to best effect. None are essential but are presented here as things you might want to think about to get the most from your pause place.

Plants

Plants will add a lot to a pause place and make it an even more attractive place to visit. Where possible plants indigenous to the area should be used as these tend to do best in our local climate and are most supportive of local flora and fauna. Appropriate plants for your area can be found at: https://issuu.com/cradlecoast01/docs/combined_cradle_coast_planting_guid

Locating pause places in the shade of existing canopy trees or planting trees that will grow to provide canopy will make the pause place more comfortable in hot weather and add to its appeal. However, care should be taken to ensure that this doesn't damage the roots of the tree through compaction, change in drainage or litter such as cigarette butts. Also remember that low branches or exposed roots can be dangerous, particularly for older people, and it is best to seek advice about whether this is likely to be a problem if a pause place includes trees.
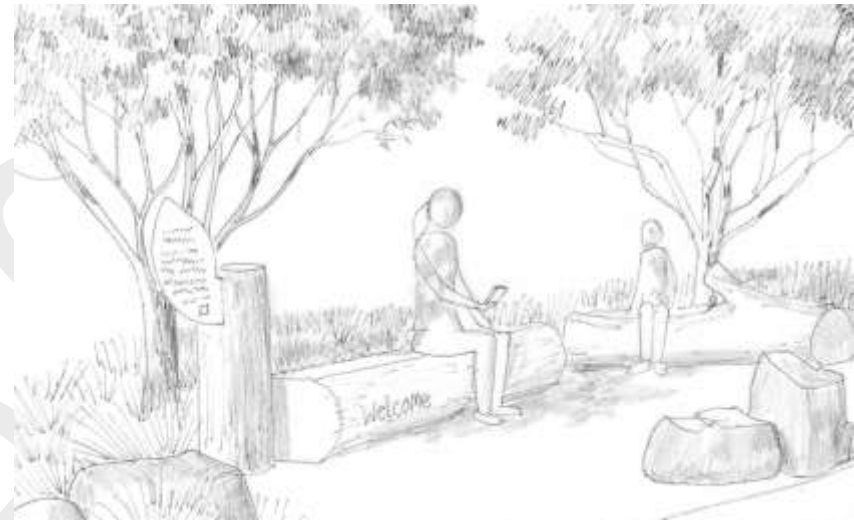

Figure x Pause places are often improved with landscaping, but plant selection and maintenance need to be carefully considered

When selecting plants please consider things like:

Hardiness, plants in pause places will have to put up with people moving through them, may be in poor soil and sometimes people may drop cigarette butts. It is important to select plants that have a good chance of surviving this sort of treatment

Aspect, many plants like to be in particular location (full sun, part sun or shade) and if so care should be taken to locate them where they have the best chance of thriving

Potential risks, avoid using spiky or otherwise harmful plants where they might brush against bare legs or be ingested by children.

Please note that as well as being nice places for people pause places will also be nice places for a variety of insects and animals to live. This should not be considered a problem but the signage will forewarn people that they may encounter a variety of creepy crawlies in this area.

Fire pit (village/rural only)
This can help provide an additional focal point for community activities. They will probably not be appropriate in urban areas because of smoke concerns.

Figure x indicative fire pit

Acoustic feature
These can add a playful element to the pause place and add to the sense of fun they evoke.

Figure x indicative acoustic feature

Little free library

Bug hotel

To include information on the insects that live there

Rubbish bin

(only in locations with a rubbish removal service where these can be emptied regularly)

Rain gardens

with appropriate permissions and in the right area it might be possible to install rain gardens or other water sensitive urban design feature to support sustainable drainage and irrigation.

Example Rain garden

FAQ

How is it decided where they are located?

The first two or three will be built by Council in high profile places so people can see what they are like in the flesh, as it were. After that it will be up to community groups, individuals or other entities who will become the adopting group to submit an application for future pause places. If it conforms with the guidelines below we will work with you to implement your pause place. If applications exceed resources we will select the ones with the best proposals.

How are they designed?

They are co-designed with the community and professional designers to ensure it benefits from diverse insights and commitment. Each one will be different and you needn't feel obliged to use all the core elements or all the ideas for supporting elements. Equally, if you have an idea that extends beyond those described here we would love to hear it.

Who builds them?

Council will install the core elements, its up to the community group, business or individual; 'the adopting group' who requested the pause place to install the additional elements as per their agreed design.

What about maintenance?

When preparing the design we will work on a management plan that outline the community's responsibilities that will form part of the agreement with the adopting group.

What happens at the end of the program?

We update these guidelines with any lessons learnt and if they prove to be a good idea we capitalize on the lessons we have learnt to encourage communities to install them themselves.

How do we get one in our community?

If this sounds interesting to you submit a letter outlining why you think one would be good in your neighbourhood and suggesting a couple of locations, ideally indicated on a map. If you have a suggested design send that to us to but please be aware it may have to change.

The letter should be signed by all those who would be willing to participate in its maintenance. Maintenance tasks will include:

Clearing rubbish, maintaining plants, reporting damage or vandalism to Council. We will also require someone to act as co-ordinator of the community group and primary contact to Council.

Draft agreement between adopting group or individual and the Council

(to be completed)

Appendix 1 Precedents

Attachment 2: SEAP Reorganisation of Objectives, Processes, Success Measures

FOR SEAP Mtg 4, July 18 2023

FROM CH: A CLEAN COPY OF MY SUGGESTED RE-ORGANISION OF THE OUTCOMES OF OUR BRAINSTORM, INTO FOCUS AREAS, PROCESSES AND TARGETS (PREVIOUSLY LABELLED AS OBJECTIVES). Following on from this is the original list of 'Objectives' with comments on how I have gone about re-organising this.

Our SEAP may now want to review this early list, in light of what our SEAP has chosen as our first list of Focus Areas, as well as any additional Focus Areas, or sub-points within these, that some in our group have been pursuing since it was was first put together.

Colin Hocking 30/6/23

A. FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS AREA 1: SHARED COUNCIL & COMMUNITY ACTION FOR MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE – HOUSEHOLD ENERGY EFFICIENCY & REDUCING FOSSIL FUELS

    I.   Energy audit for residential properties

    II.   Energy efficient house advice

    III.   Change sponsorship for Fossil fuels

    IV.   Climate leadership in line with Paris Agreement ?

    V.   Action on community adaptation & resilience

FOCUS AREA 2: WASTE MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND RECYCLING

    I.   waste education

    II.   green waste recycling

    III.   food and garden waste management (compost system)

    IV.   local and sustainable food & waste systems

    V.   Reuse of organic waste

FOCUS AREA 3: MANAGING LAND AND WATERWAYS TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY

    i.   Increase native biodiversity (empty land use)

    ii.   Exemplars of agreed corridors for Wildlife (Council & Private Land)

    iii. Plan for arboreta/ums (local places to connect with and learn about nature)

    iv. Land for wildlife reserves

    v.   Waterways analysis, clean rivers and riparian zones

    vi. Nature based tourism

    vii. Natural values database

         - Encourage citizen scientists' participation e.g. documenting wildlife, trees

  (viii) Events to increase connection to nature appreciation

         - Tree planting

         - Reserves and parks

  (ix) Education on weeds

Sub-Area 3.1: Clear tree policy and strategy

    i)   Prominent tree website

    ii)   Significant Tree register

    iii)   Incorporates the principals of objective 1 Need for Conservation & Environmental Protection

    iv)   Review Council procedures for tree management

POSSIBLE FOCUS AREA 4: FOOD SECURITY PROJECT [MAYBE THIS IS A SEPARATE NEW AREA? OR SHOULD WE INCLUDE IT UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE?]

B. PROCESSES

APPROACHES & PROCESSES TO BE USED/INCLUDED IN IMPLEMENTING OBJECTIVES

    i.   Conservation & Environmental Protection Education
(protecting environ from humans (conservation) vs. protecting humans from environ (protection))

    ii.   Community Conversations

    iii. Mobilise community to implement social & environmental projects

    iv. Case studies of wider community engagement with environment incl. nature

    v.   Encourage citizen scientist approaches

    vi. Find projects and case studies we can adapt. (what projects?)

C. MEASURES OF SUCCESS

TARGETS, GOALS & MEASURES OF SUCCESS

    I.   A successful Advisory Group

    II.   Council have brought the community along for the iCEP journey

    III.   Engagement with community; community values, natural values – "Nature Positive"

    IV.   TOR reviewed prior to nominations being called each term

    V.   Identify iCEP priority and meet targets of said priorities

    VI.   Environmental impact study on all Council Projects (becomes BAU)

    VII. Progress toward measurable sustainability and environmental impacts/goals

CH Note: the following is a record of how I have re-organised the 'Objectives' tour SEAP group identified as specific starting-point in the Brainstorm in our first SEAP meeting. These have been reorganized into Focus Areas, some of the Processes we need to use to pursue these Focus Areas, and Measures of Success (including Targets and Goals) for our SEAP.

On the previous pages is a clean copy of what these Focus Areas, Processes and Measures of Success might look like.

1 OBJECTIVE 1: SHARED COUNCIL & COMMUNITY ACTION FOR MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE – HOUSEHOLD ENERGY EFFICIENCY & REDUCING FOSSIL FUELS

Actions:

b) Energy audit for residential properties

c) Energy efficient house advice

d) Change sponsorship for Fossil fuels

e) Climate leadership in line with Paris Agreement

f) ADD: Action on community adaptation & resilience

1.1 ~~Sub-Objective Action[1] 1.1: Reuse of organic waste~~ [Move to waste management objective

[CH comment – waste management is not directly related to actions for climate change – so a separate Waste Education and Recycling Objective has been created below:

2 OBJECTIVE 2: WASTE EDUCATION AND RECYCLING (NEED TO NARROW DOWN ACCORDING TO SEAP COMMITTEE INTERESTS

i) waste education

ii) green waste recycling

iii) food and garden waste management (compost system)

iv) local and sustainable food & waste systems

v) [Added from former 1.1] Reuse of organic waste

~~OBJECTIVE 2: YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION & ENVIRONMENT~~

[CH comment – integrate into other specific SEAP objectives]

Actions:

a) ~~Natural values database~~ [Move to Objective 3]

- ~~Encourage citizen scientists' participation e.g. documenting wildlife, trees~~

b) ~~Events to increase connection to nature appreciation~~ [Move to Objective 3]

- ~~Tree planting~~

- ~~Reserves and parks~~

c) Food security project [Maybe this is a separate new Objective?

d) ~~Action on community adaptation & resilience~~ [Move to new Objective 1]

e) Education on weeds [Move to Objective 3]

f) ~~Meaningful input from SEAP members on implementation of iCEP~~ [Very general]

2.1 Sub-Objective Action 2.1: Attitude Change within Council & Community –

[CH comment: Do these need to be a separate Objective, or better to integrate within other Objectives

---

[1] A sub-objective action is an action of the main objective but has one or more significant actions of its own to move to completion.

- could these be a set of overarching processes we want to draw on for each specific Objective?]

i) Conservation & Environmental Protection Education
(protecting environ from humans (conservation) vs. protecting humans from environ (protection))

ii) Community Conversations

iii) Mobilise community to implement social & environmental projects

iv) Case studies of wider community engagement with nature

v) Find projects and case studies we can adapt. (what projects?)

3 OBJECTIVE 3: MANAGING LAND AND WATERWAYS TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY

Actions:

a) Increase native biodiversity (empty land use)

b) Exemplars of agreed corridors for Wildlife (Council & Private Land)

c) Plan for arboreta/ums (local places to connect with and learn about nature)

d) Land for wildlife reserves

e) Waterways analysis, clean rivers and riparian zones

f) Nature based tourism

3.1 Sub-Objective Action 3.1: Clear tree policy and strategy

i) Prominent tree website

ii) Significant Tree register

iii) Incorporates the principals of objective 1 Need for Conservation & Environmental Protection

iv) Review Council procedures for tree management

Also from original Objective 2:

e) Education on weeds

g) Natural values database

- Encourage citizen scientists' participation e.g. documenting wildlife, trees

h) Events to increase connection to nature appreciation

- Tree planting

- Reserves and parks

4 OBJECTIVE 4: MANAGEMENT OF TARGETS, GOALS & MEASURES OF SUCCESS

a) A successful Advisory Group

b) Council have brought the community along for the iCEP journey

c) Engagement with community; community values, natural values – "Nature Positive"

d) TOR reviewed prior to nominations being called each term

e) Identify iCEP priority and meet targets of said priorities

f) Environmental impact study on all Council Projects (becomes BAU)

g) Progress toward measurable sustainability and environmental impacts/goals

Attachment 3: Action Plan Brainstorming Session Table

10

FOCUS AREAS	LINKS to ICEP PRIORITIES & ACTIONS REF	ACTION	RELEVANT COUNCIL INITIATIVES/COMMENTS (IN REVIEW / IN PROGRESS / IN PLACE)	Potential / Existing Activities	Related Links	MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS	TIMEFRAME	Seap Participant	ASSIGNED COUNCIL OFFICER	STATUS
1: Household energy efficiency & reducing fossil fuels	1. Maintaining a high-quality knowledge base – Actions 1.3 & 1.5 6. Assisting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its resource consumption and carbon footprint – Actions 6.1 & 6.4 10. Contributing to regional, state, national and international climate initiatives – Actions 10.1, 10.2, 10.4 & 10.5 12. Facilitating community access to accurate, timely and practical information – Action 12.1 19. Helping ensure current and future housing stock meets the demands of a changing climate – Action 19.2 22. Applying a risk-management approach to strategic land-use planning and population change. – Action 22.4 30. Helping property owners to understand and plan for financial risks associated with climate change. – Actions 30.1 & 30.2 34. Supporting opportunity identification in the carbon market – Action 34.1	a. Energy efficient residential house audit and advice	**A.** review what energy monitoring equipment Council has – in line with 19.2 iCEP **B.** add page to resident's toolkit in line with iCEP 12.1		New Residents Kit		A. easy win – this year (2023)		B. R Hogg / Comms Officer	
		b. Change sponsorship for Fossil fuels	**C.** up for review – GM & Council management to action in policy review		Sponsorship Signage Policy (2.2.10)		B. easy win – this year (2023)		B. D Summers	
		c. Climate leadership in line with Paris Agreement	**D.** review Paris Agreement - The Agreement sets long-term goals to guide all nations:		10 Year Corporate Strategic Plan		C. easy win – this year (2023)		C. D Summers	
			• *substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5 degrees* – commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030, progress reviewed yearly (minutes in council meeting when adopted)		Corporate Carbon Emissions WWC Carbon Emission Report					
			• *review countries' commitments every five years;* - ongoing review of commitments, progress toward and reporting on iCEP goals		Annual Reports					
			• *provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate change, strengthen resilience and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts.* - how can we apply this to the local community? - potential community grant program	**Activity** - SEAP to assist Council to reform this idea with community focus. **Activity** - Targeted community activation round						
2: Waste management, education and recycling	5. Managing waste sustainably – Action 5.1 6. Assisting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its resource consumption and carbon footprint – Action 6.5	i. waste education	i. - in place via socials.	**Activity** - Council to look at adding YouTube videos to the website. **Activity** - Council to conduct/organise targeted community conversations for non-social media users on topic.	Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy		i. easy win – this year (2023) (2023)		i – iv D Hicks, K Steward, B Folden cross over - K Milikins	
		ii. green waste recycling	**ii. – iii.** - in place via socials, website information, FOGO considerations strategy, feasibility report community garden, share-your waste site awareness.	**Activity** - SEAP to assist with input suggestions for website and community conversations.	Waste & Recycling Site		ii. well progressed this year (2023)			
		iii. food and garden waste management (compost system)	iii. - Waste Strategy, FOGO Feasability study (council minutes).	**Activity** - Council to make a decision on participation in FOGO by end of May 2023.	Council Agenda - FOGO Feasibility Study 2020 (9.4) Council Agenda - Reference to FOGO implementation (10.12)		iii well progressed this year (2023)			
		iv. local and sustainable food & waste systems	**i. – iv.** SEAP make connection with WHS Green Team – Community Activation team through community engagement	**Activity** - SEAP R Krabbe & Council K Milikins to touch base **Activity** - Council K Milikins touch base with LIX @ WHS re green team/interested students WWYL	Y Plan (Youth Plan) 2019-2024		iv. connections easy win – this year (2023)			
3: Managing land and waterways to protect and improve biodiversity	4. Reducing Council's resource consumption and carbon footprint - Action 4.10 11. Advocating for effective environmental management and adaptation resources – Actions 11.1 & 11.2 13. Supporting localised community-led Community Based Adaptation (CBA) initiatives – Action 13.1 14. Reducing the impacts of heatwaves for people in their homes, workplaces, schools and care facilities. – Action 14.2 15. Reducing the impacts of bushfire smoke and poor air quality for people in their homes, workplaces, schools and care facilities. - Action 15.1 22. Applying a risk-management approach to strategic land-use planning and population change. – Action 22.6 23. Acknowledging and planning for the impacts of coastal erosion. – Action 23.1 34. Supporting opportunity identification in the carbon market - Action 34.3 35. Encouraging tourism operators to understand risks and opportunities. – Actions 35.2 & 35.3 37. Planning for change in the physical environment – Actions 37.1 38. Protecting, enhancing and recovering biodiversity – Actions 38.2 & 38.7 & 38.5 42. Monitoring pollution and environmental health – Action 42.2	a. Increase native biodiversity (empty land use)	**A.** Landcare at Fossil Bluff re-greening the Bluff, Camp Creek Riparian reserve - railway to old bass highway & Inglis River Riparian Reserve - biodiversity enhancement / improvement, East Wynyard Foreshore trees, Council rates digitisation to plant a tree per rates notice converted to digital. - review of purchase of land around Frenches road reserve.	**Activity** - SEAP participate with Council officer(s) to develop a street tree strategy	Settlement Strategy		A. Ongoing with potential quick wins in Camp Creek and Inglis River		A. – E. B Walker & D Summers	
		b. Exemplars of agreed corridors for Wildlife (Council & Private Land)	**B – F.** dependant on understanding what we have now. - baseline natural values database - councils officers to supply maps of council owned land for group think		Cemetary Strategy (Natural Burials, Natural Ashes Interment) Public Land Register (Transparency & Accountability site)		B. Ongoing with potential quick wins in Camp Creek and Inglis River			
		c. Plan for arboreta/ums (local places to connect with and learn about nature)	**-** Council with assistance from SEAP to source potential locations for arboreta - Waratah? French's Road Reserve? Ballad Ave? - Devil Fencing at Sisters Beach, Cat cameras at Oldina, Frenches Road Reserve	**Activity** - Council with assistance from SEAP to source potential locations for arboreta			C. medium term – achievable within term requires planning			
		d. Land for wildlife reserves			Virtual Devil Fencing at Sisters Beach		D. medium term – achievable within term requires planning			
		e. Waterways analysis, clean rivers and riparian zones	**E.** state of the environment report - not released by state since 2009		ABC News - State of the Environment Report - Tasmania (08/2022) Statement - State of Environment Report Jeremy Rockliff (09/2022)		E. dependant on information released by state to an extent			
		f. Action on community adaptation & resilience	**D.** Sisters Beach foreshore erosion		Sisters Beach Open Space Plan		D. needs immediate attention		D. B Folden	
		g. Nature based tourism	**F.** Fossil Bluff tourism strategy, Wynyard & Somerset Maps - tourism strategy (getting back to basics p14)	**Activity** - Council to investigate off peak tourism season Gov't grant funding **Activity** - SEAP assist in ideas gathering	Tourism Strategy (getting back to basics p14)		F. Ongoing		F. R Hogg & K Steward?	
		h. Natural values database encourage citizen scientists participation, eg documenting wildlife, trees	**A - B.** key foundational action – opportunity to help shape what this looks like.- use of technology such as Pinpoint, opportunities for community participation and viewed by Council, state gov natural values Atlas is clunky group knowledge on natural values atlas applicability. Opportunity for community to participate, register significant trees, of interest, corridors.	**Activity** - SEAP to help drive action - Council to provide medium to capture and share **Activity** - SEAP to provide knowledge base on natural values Atlas applicability.			A. needs immediate attention – ongoing progress		A. B Walker & D Summers	
		i. Events to increase connection to nature appreciation	**B.** events in known areas of significance to record the data. - what kind of events? - Landcare or community group events? - Community Activation team, springloaded etc. - Councillor community conversations Sally & Shane - Youth lead activity part of spring loaded spring loaded and seniors week	**Activity** - Council K Milikins & P Rodwell from the Ccommunity Garden and WWYL to collaborate.	Y Plan (Youth Plan) 2019-2024		B. needs attention – ongoing progress		B. B Folden	
		j. Education on weeds	**E.** what level of education, not on mass, - road side signage in some places. - linking to weeds database (parks?) - cradle coast authority actions - coordinating and connecting.		Focused Example - Spanish Heath Blitz Annual Report on Natural Resource Management and Weed		E. medium win – next two years for progress (2023/24)		E. B Walker	

FOCUS AREAS	LINKS to ICEP PRIORITIES & ACTIONS REF	ACTION	RELEVANT COUNCIL INITIATIVES/COMMENTS (IN REVIEW / IN PROGRESS / IN PLACE)	Potential / Existing Activities	Related Links	MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS	TIMEFRAME	Seap Participant	ASSIGNED COUNCIL OFFICER	STATUS
3.1: Clear tree policy and strategy	2. Embedding climate and environmental concerns in Council decision-making – Action 2.3 13. Supporting localised community-led Community Based Adaptation (CBA) initiatives – Actions 13.2 & 13.3 22. Applying a risk-management approach to strategic land-use planning and population change. – Action 22.1 3. Establish mechanisms for partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on environmental management and climate action – Actions 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 & 3.5 12. Facilitating community access to accurate, timely and practical information – Action 12.2	i. Prominent tree website	**i.** to be created - heritage register in the works, possible site collaboration with trees site to be established, possible starting point.	**Activity -** Council to create site for heritage register, link in with tree site. **Activity -** SEAP to assist in development of site requirements			i. medium term for establishment and ongoing there after		i. – iv. B Walker & D Summers with B Folden	
		ii. Significant Tree register	**i. – ii.** to be created	**Activity -** Assist to combine with heritage register			ii. medium term for establishment and ongoing there after			
		iii. make clear the distinction between Conservation & Environmental Protection	**iii.** to be reviewed				iii. ongoing			
		iv. Review Council procedures for tree management	**iv.** to be done	**Activity -** SEAP to assist in reforming the current policy **Activity -** Council (A Macmichael) to consider MCC tree management policy	Current Tree Management policy		iv. medium term requires Council team members to upskill, improve knowledge and capability			
4: Food Security	17. Enhancing community food security – Actions 17.1, 17.2 & 17.3 32. Supporting opportunity identification in new agricultural products and markets – Action 32.1	a. Food security project	**C & D.** cross over into the health and wellbeing program?	**Activity -** SEAP R Krabbe and Council K Milikins to touch base	Community Health & Wellbeing Plan 2019-2024		C. TBC		C. B Folden	
5: Management of Targets, Goals & Measures of Success	3. Establish mechanisms for partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on environmental management and climate action – Action 3.1	a. A successful Advisory Group	**A.** SEAP has been established				A – G Longer term, completion by end of term (October 2024) – may need to consider recommendation to Council to extend the current term to give best chance of achievement.		A. & B. D Hicks & K Steward	
		b. Council have brought the community along for the iCEP journey	**B. - C.** TBC - Tulip festival 'Enviro Champ' - visible at the with fluro vests with "Enviro Champ" on back. - photos, collars, jackets, hoods, vests, bins & ed stickers		January Meeting Minutes (ref 'Enviro Champs' - pg 88)					
		c. Engagement with community; community values, natural values – "Nature Positive"							C. D Hicks & B Folden	
		d. TOR reviewed prior to nominations being called each term	**D.** Agreed						D. D Hicks	
		e. Identify iCEP priority and meet targets of said priorities	**E.** Structure roadmap of implementation for council consideration and adoption.	**Activity -** SEAP assist Council officers to draft road map based on priorities.					E. D Hicks	
		f. Environmental impact study on Council Projects (becomes BAU)	**F.** Define scope of matters to be addressed in environmental impact study - natural values assessments currently done adhoc for Council projects - best practice or other case studies to find future state	**Activity -** SEAP assist Council Officers finding case studies and best practice for EIS as BAU					F. D Hicks & D Summers	
		g. Progress toward measurable sustainability and environmental impacts/goals	Carbon footprint reduction goal, goals embedded in waste management strategy - best practice or other case studies to find future state/additional goals	**Activity -** SEAP assist Council Officers finding best practice or case studies **Activity -** SEAP help draft future state goals	Environmental Sustainability Policy					
To be integrate with other Focus areas Facilitating community access to accurate, timely and practical information – Action 12.2	2. Embedding climate and environmental concerns in Council decision-making – Action 2.4 6. Assisting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its resource consumption and carbon footprint – Actions 6.2 & 6.9 10. Contributing to regional, state, national and international climate initiatives – Action 10.2 12. Facilitating community access to accurate, timely and practical information – Action 12.3 13. Supporting localised community-led Community Based Adaptation (CBA) initiatives – Action 13.3 38. Protecting, enhancing and recovering biodiversity – Action 38.4	i. Community Conversations	**i. – ii.** methodology to achieve other actions. - Existing Council community conversations that can be used to achieve this – iCEP themed	**Activity -** Council to conduct/organise targeted community conversations with iCEP themes. **Activity -** SEAP to assist with topic suggestions for iCEP themed community conversations.	Community Conversations		i. Ongoing		i. D Summers	
		ii. Mobilise community to implement social & environmental projects	ii. Ongoing Sisters Beach estuary rehab & Goldie St heathland translocation. (website?) - Council S Hanson & Wyn Landcare R Campbell on Goldie ST Heathland project - Council B Walker & SEAP C Hocking on Sister's Beach estuary rehab project				ii. Long Term – education and Council facilitation dependant		ii. D Summers & B Folden	
		iii. Case studies of wider community engagement with nature	**iii. – iv.** – SEAP & Council officers research opportunity – bring back to group.	**Activity -** SEAP assist Council officers finding case studies to inform actions that may be replicated for our area	Case Study - Resident Shorebird Monitoring Programme, Stanley to Narawntapu NP.		iii. Easy win – potentially this year (2023)		iii. K Steward	
		iv. Find projects and case studies we can adapt.		**Activity -** SEAP review case studies and help to build a roadmap of action	Explore the wonders of wynyard geolgy - jo crothers		iv. Easy win – potentially this year (2023)		iv. K Steward	

Attachment 4: Towards Vegetation Management Strategy

Towards a Vegetation Management Strategy

There is a growing awareness, appreciation and support in the community for preserving and enhancing natural vegetation, trees and biodiversity areas and reserves. Hence, SEAP recommends that the "*Tree Management Policy*" which is primarily focused on risk management of trees be replaced by a more comprehensive "*Vegetation Management Strategy*" that encompasses and embraces all vegetation types from single trees to natural reserves and corridors as assets to be adequately managed.

The Waratah-Wynyard Council manages a wide variety of vegetation types from rural and urban trees, park and street trees, roadside vegetation, nature strips, natural bushlands, foreshore reserves, riparian reserves, buffer zones and green belts, parks and gardens.

The positive values of trees and vegetation reserves include: enhancing aesthetic appeal of streets and facilities, providing a sense of place, improving peoples health and wellbeing, maintaining biodiverse ecosystems, providing fauna habitat, active community voluntary participation, eco-tourism, erosion control, fire management, creating windbreaks, improving water and air quality, and inhibiting weed growth.

1. Develop a Vegetation Management Strategy

Many councils in Australia have policies and/or strategies to guide the management of trees and/or vegetation. Many of these are risk based, rely on different State Government legislation, or are region-specific. These documents would be an excellent starting place to develop a clear and transparent "Vegetation Management Strategy" relevant to this region, to be adopted by the Waratah-Wynyard Council.

1.1 First Draft of Policies and/or Aims

- Provide a cost-effective framework for making structured, consistent, transparent and environmentally sound management decisions for vegetation on Council owned and managed land.

- Provide vegetation management that is consistent with community expectations and legislation.

- Preserve, manage and enhance biodiversity using best practice management methods, including the management of priority weeds.

- Enhancement and protection of threatened species and communities.

- Manage vegetation in a safe and healthy condition in order to maintain and enhance the quality of life and the safety of its employees, residents and visitors.

1.2 Draft Scope of strategy

- tree and vegetation planting, revegetation, tree replacement, including selection of appropriate species
- tree maintenance, pruning and removal
- significant trees, heritage value
- unauthorised tree and vegetation removal or planting
- weed management is detailed in a separate strategy but needs to be integrated with this Vegetation Management Strategy

- fire hazard reduction and removal of significant risk vegetation
- integration with the wildlife corridors policy
- inspection of natural and built assets
- monitoring of natural ecosystem communities
- safe and healthy operations including herbicide spraying

1.3 Crucial next sequence of actions to get started

Who in Council will oversee and develop this strategy?

Who else needs to to be involved?

How will the decision making process be made transparent?

Implementation of the strategy will require Council to allocate an initial budget to get started and appoint both manager and operational staff

2. Document and map significant vegetation habitats

The Waratah-Wynyard Municipality has a number of important biodiversity reserves with management plans. However, there are many other small biodiversity areas and significant trees that are not identified, documented or managed. It is essential to assemble a biodiversity assets register to document significant trees, natural areas and reserves, foreshore and riparian habitats, etc. Accompanying this would be a simple application of both monetary and aesthetic value of the asset.

This would go alongside identifying a number of key natural areas to which the draft Vegetation Management Strategy could be applied as pilot applications, to stress test the draft Strategy and refine the strategy in the light of the pilot applications.

It would be beneficial to hire an ecology consultant to help with this process.

An example is the [Natural Resource Management Plan](#) developed by the Central Coast Council that documents a concise overview of 17 biodiversity reserves. Details for each site include:

- aerial image of site
- biodiversity index (threatened vegetation communities, threatened flora and fauna, cultural & community values, weed status, erosion risk, volunteer support)
- description of land, common uses (area, habitat description)
- ongoing maintenance actions (inspection & monitoring, weeds, revegetation, tracks, illegal dumping, engaging community)
- suggested new future actions (weeds, revegetation, signage and information, land expansion)
- budget allocation (maintenance, capital)

This biodiversity assets database could be made available to the community via an online web site where information is presented in both a searchable and map format. Information could also be included in the TasVeg database for use by State Government agencies.

3. Collaboration, engagement, education and active participation

Stakeholders to: engage closely and partner, engage and influence, or inform and involve:

- Parks and Wildlife Service
- Cradle Coast NRM (including the regional weeds group)
- Council field staff
- aboriginal representation
- volunteer groups; Wynyard Landcare, field naturalists, wildcare
- Conservation Land Owners
- schools/youth/ tertiary institutions
- Tasmanian Fire Service
- others...

Attachment 5: Scoping Paper WWC Vegetation Management Strategy

THE SOCIAL YIELD
KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS FOR IMPACT

Scoping Paper: Vegetation Management Strategy

*Issues and considerations to inform development of
a Vegetation Management Strategy for
Waratah-Wynyard Council*

This paper was produced by The Social Yield Pty Ltd for Waratah-Wynyard Council, June 2023.

THE SOCIAL YIELD

For questions relating to this paper, please contact:

Daniel Summers

Director Infrastructure and Development Services

Waratah-Wynyard and Circular Head Councils

21 Saunders St, Wynyard TAS 7325

33 Goldie St, Smithton TAS 7330

Contents

Introduction

This scoping paper is intended to assist Waratah-Wynyard Council (WWC) to explore options for developing a Vegetation Management Strategy (VMS). Preparation of the scoping paper responds, in part, to dialogue between Council and the Waratah-Wynyard Sustainability and Environment Panel (SEAP), in which SEAP identified opportunities for Council to emphasise a value-based approach to vegetation management within a context of broader environmental and sustainability commitments.

This paper presents a range of issues and considerations for developing a Vegetation Management Strategy. It is based on a rapid literature review of current practice at small and medium (<100,000 pop) rural and regional local government entities in Australia, with a focus on issues likely to be relevant to Waratah-Wynyard Council. Additional research has been sourced from government and industry sources on an *ad hoc* basis.

Importantly, this paper is not prescriptive about the potential content of a VMS. Rather, it has cast a wide net over the local government vegetation management policy and strategy landscape **to present an 'ideas bank' for consideration and discussion.** It is anticipated that Council will engage in significant further discussion on the appropriate scope and inclusions of any future Vegetation Management Strategy for WWC.

Broadly, this paper highlights the tension between risk and public value. In other words, a VMS will need to acknowledge the sometimes-conflicting goals of reducing the social and ecological *risks* of vegetation while also enhancing the social and ecological *value* of vegetation. Determining this balance between risk and value—and doing so within specific contexts and sites, such as those named in the diagram below—will require careful consideration of community, Council, regional and State priorities.
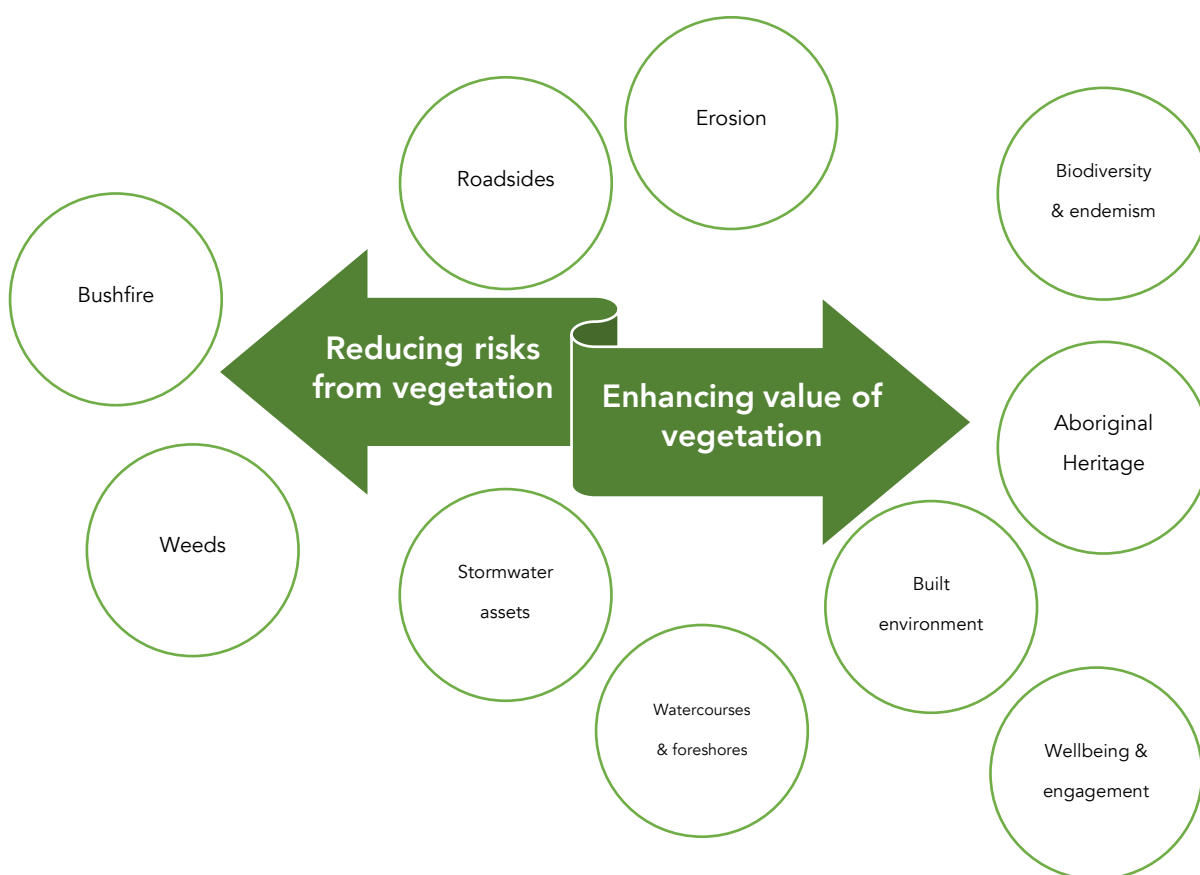
1. Methodology

Research for this scoping paper has consisted of a five-day desktop review of selected external local government plans, policies and strategies. Where necessary, contextual information has been sourced from State, regional and WWC policies and strategies as well as from industry sources.

On advice from Council, examples of local government vegetation management approaches were sourced in the first instance from regional councils of a similar size to Waratah-Wynyard. To widen the pool of examples, the search was then expanded to include rural and regional councils with a population of <100,000. The following external local government strategies, plans and policies were considered in this review:

- Bathurst Region Vegetation Management Plan 2019

- Buloke Shire Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2015-2019

- Central Coast Council (Draft) Natural Resource Management Plan 2023

- Clarence Valley Council Tree Management Policy

- Coorong District Council Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

- Edward River Council Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

- Hilltops Council Rural Roadside Vegetation Management within Council owned and Managed Roads Policy

- Hornsby Shire Council Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

- Midcoast Council Vegetation Management Policy

- Midcoast Council Greening Strategy 2021

- Mildura Rural City Council Native Vegetation Plan 2020-2024

- Port Macquarie Hastings Council Roadside Vegetation Management Policy

- Queenscliffe Council Vegetation Vandalism Policy

- Queenscliffe Council Electric Line Clearance Management Plan 2023-2024

- Shire of Murray Local Biodiversity Strategy 2013

- Tweed Shire Council Vegetation Management Strategy 2004

In addition, the review included the following documents identified by Waratah-Wynyard SEAP (May 2023):

- Frenchs Road Nature Reserve Management Plan

- Earthwatch Australia, Tiny Forests: Growing Resilient Cities

- Redland City Council Wildlife Connections Plan 2018-2028

2. Context for a VMS

2.1 Policy and planning context

A Waratah-Wynyard Council Vegetation Management Strategy (VMS) will sit within a complex policy, planning and legislative context. The following strategy and policy positions are likely to be of key relevance in considering potential inclusions for a VMS.

Tasmania

At the State level, relevant legislation includes the *Local Government Act 1993, Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, the *Biosecurity Act 2019* and the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)'s Natural Heritage Strategy for Tasmania 2013-2030[1] takes a 'landscape' approach to conservation management that considers the environment along with social, economic and cultural factors. The Strategy's Vision is: 'Tasmania's unique natural heritage is healthy, resilient, well understood and highly valued both in its own right and for its essential contribution to the Tasmanian community, economy and way of life'. The high-level goals of the Strategy are:

1. Tasmania's biodiversity and geodiversity values are identified, understood and conserved.

2. All stakeholders and the community have the opportunity to support and protect natural heritage.

3. Tasmanians experience social, economic and environmental benefits from sound landscape-scale conservation and management.

4. The natural heritage strategy is implemented in a coordinated, efficient and effective way that achieves measurable results, and improves through experience.

The Strategy names local government as a potential partner in delivering a consistent approach to natural heritage in Tasmania. This includes working with local government and fire management authorities to integrate conservation objectives into fire management planning; entering into conservation partnerships with local government and other stakeholders; and working with local government and other stakeholders to ensure that biodiversity and geodiversity protection mechanisms are incorporated into regional and local resource management and planning systems.

In addition to the Strategy, the NRE provides advice and information on development planning, tools for conservation assessment and the sustainable use of Tasmania's natural values and resources. Tools with potential relevance for developing a VMS include:

- The Natural Values Atlas—a searchable database of 20,000 species as well as sites/locations with defined conservation values; and the ability to run a Natural Values Report on specific areas;

- Threatened Species Link—an online tool that provides management and conservation advice on Tasmania's threatened species, with data searchable by species or area;

- The Tasmanian Reserve Estate Spatial Layer—which maps the extent of the reserve system in Tasmania, including land, inland waters, estuaries and marine areas; and

- TASVEG (The Digital Vegetation Map of Tasmania)—a comprehensive map of Tasmania's vegetation, depicting the extent of more than 150 vegetation communities, including coastal heathlands, eucalypt forest and alpine communities.

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[1] https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/NaturalHeritageStrategy2013.pdf

North-West Region

Cradle Coast Authority is the Australian Government's service provider for the north-west Tasmania NRM Management Unit. The Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management (NRM) Strategy 2030 is one of three regional NRM strategies in Tasmania. Together, these strategies aim to support healthy, resilient and biodiverse environments; healthy and productive water and marine resources; and productive and sustainable land management.

The Vision for the Cradle Coast NRM Strategy 2030 is: 'Collaborative action for healthy landscapes and seascapes, protected natural values, and sustainable livelihoods and lifestyles'. The Strategy set out priorities and actions across three themes of Land, Water and Biodiversity. In addition, the Strategy contextualises NRM within the Aboriginal concept of 'Country' (land, sea and sky) and commits to open engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to identify priorities for action.

The Cradle Coast NRM Strategy regards local government organisations as key collaborators for implementation. Actions with an identified collaboration opportunity for local government include such integrating coastal natural resource management objectives into strategic land-use planning, reducing threats from invasive species, protecting key biodiversity areas, and protecting threatened flora species.

Waratah-Wynyard Council

WWC's Corporate Strategic Plan[2] states the following high-level objective: 'Waratah-Wynyard will be an environment where green meets blue; where natural beauty and heritage values are appreciated and managed through best practice'.

Waratah-Wynyard Council's role is defined by the *Local Government Act 1993.* The Act sets out the following functions for local government:

a) to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community;

b) to represent and promote the interests of the community; and

c) to provide for the peace, order and good government of the municipal area.

Consistent with this role, in 2020 Council developed the Waratah-Wynyard Integrated Council Environmental Plan (iCEP). [3] The iCEP states: 'The natural environment is one of Waratah-Wynyard's most important assets. It is central to our local identity, and it is a key element of the visitor economy. Our woodlands, heaths, wetlands and coastlines together support a rich level of animal and plant biodiversity. The natural environment is also highly valued by our community for its role in supporting recreation, health and wellbeing.'

The iCEP names 'Environmental stewardship' as one of its key themes. The iCEP set out several actions for Environmental Stewardship under the priority areas of:

* planning for change in the physical environment;
* protecting, enhancing and recovering biodiversity;
* anticipating and mitigating biosecurity risks;
* working with relevant stakeholders to protect Aboriginal heritage values in the landscape;
* managing water sustainably; and
* monitoring pollution and environmental health.

Waratah-Wynyard's Council Environmental Sustainability Policy[4] describes sustainability as a 'whole-of-Council' responsibility. The Policy commits Council to responding to increasing pressures on the physical environment; to partnering with the community and others to enhance sustainability and recover biodiversity; and to reduce the impact of climate change on the environment.

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[2] Waratah-Wynyard Council, 2017, 10-Year Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2027
[3] Waratah-Wynyard Council, 2020, Integrated Council Environmental Plan (iCEP) 2020-2030
[4] Waratah-Wynyard Council, 2021, Environmental Sustainability Policy (Vers. 6)

2.2   Potential stakeholders

Council will ideally engage relevant stakeholders early and throughout the process of developing a VMS. Engagement will look different for different stakeholders—varying along a spectrum of 'informing' (letting a stakeholder group know about the strategy's development) to 'shared decision-making' (involving stakeholders in making final decisions about the Strategy content).

Before commencing development of a VMS, Council will benefit from conducting a stakeholder analysis to identify who should be involved and the type of engagement most appropriate for them. Potential stakeholders for development of a Waratah-Wynyard VMS include (in no particular order):

- The Waratah-Wynyard community (including landowners, land managers and non-owners/managers);
- Adjacent local governments: Circular Head, West Coast, Burnie, Central Coast and Kentish;
- WWC Sustainability and Environment Panel (SEAP);
- Cradle Coast NRM;
- Aboriginal Heritage Council;
- Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal stakeholders;
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE);
- Department of State Growth Tasmania;
- Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service;
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Tasmania;
- Landcare/Community Environmental Groups;
- Tasmanian Famers and Graziers Association;
- Local nurseries and seed collectors; and
- Local environmental experts and advocates.

3   Format and content

The scope of the VMS should be tailored to the aspirations and resources of Waratah-Wynyard Council. Based on this review of comparable vegetation management strategies and related plans of other regional Councils, the following section describes some potential considerations for the VMS format and content.

3.1   Front matter

The front matter of the VMS will ideally set out the following contextual matters:

Background—the context that led to development of the VMS. This may include relevant Council initiatives, plans and policies; as well as formal and informal policy reviews (such as the work recently done by SEAP) to identify strategic gaps and opportunities. The Background section could also reference key technical and environmental studies to define and summarise vegetation values in the Waratah-Wynyard local government area.

Approach—the methodology used to develop the VMS, such as stakeholder engagement, good practice research, environmental studies and analyses, decision-making processes and a framework for future reviews.

Limitations—what the VMS does *not* do. Defining limitations can be a useful technique for setting appropriate expectations for a strategy. Limitations for a VMS include the need to account for competing land uses; the importance of understanding vegetation in terms of both value and risk; the limits of powers under the Tasmanian planning scheme; limits on influencing vegetation management on privately owned or Crown land; and limitations relating to implementation. Defining and communicating limitations should occur early and often in any engagement to ensure stakeholders share the same expectations about the potential scope of the VMS.

Resource implications—the financial and in-kind supports that will make the VMS viable. Developed in context with the 'Limitations' section, a summary of resource implications for the VMS commitments will be important to securing the strategy's sustainability. Council may wish to implement a VMS within its current budget, or it may seek

additional funding[5] or in-kind support to deliver the VMS actions.

3.2   Principles and objectives

The WWC VMS might include a statement of high-level principles and objectives for vegetation management. Ideally, such principles and objectives would be closely aligned with Council's existing environmental strategy and policy positions and would be reflected in any subsequent vegetation management policy.

Principles and objectives for the VMS might include (but would not be limited to):

- Acknowledgement of Country and the longstanding role of traditional Aboriginal custodianship and management;

- Council's preferred role/identity (e.g. facilitator; custodian; caretaker; steward; provider) in regard to vegetation management;

- the place of vegetation management within a framework of other types of public value (i.e. conservation, recreation, health and wellbeing; biodiversity; public safety; amenity and township character; tourism; etc)

- the role of Council-community partnerships and shared knowledge in developing and implementing the VMS;

- the importance of evidence-based decision-making to vegetation management; and

- the importance of best-practice techniques and relevant standards to Council's vegetation management commitments, e.g. *AS 4373-2007*

Pruning of Amenity Trees and *AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites.*

3.3   The Strategy area/s

The VMS will likely be comprised of text and maps that define the land area/s covered by actions. In practice, many local government organisations address vegetation management through small-area planning. This acknowledges the fact that different locations may have unique vegetation characteristics, values and requirements.

To incorporate a small-area planning approach to developing VMS, Council may work with relevant stakeholders and experts to identify priority locations based on pre-agreed assessment methods and criteria (e.g. agreed net public and environmental benefit; feasibility; at-risk ecological values; identified Aboriginal heritage values; etc). It is likely that Council and SEAP would be able to quickly draw up a shortlist of such small areas for consideration. In a complementary spatial approach, Council may also identify a schedule of actions specific to existing patterns of land use based on zones and overlays set out in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

3.4   Defining responsibilities

Similar to the iCEP and Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan, the VMS could be considered a multi-stakeholder plan. That is, the final actions could be co-designed with others (SEAP, community groups, State government, Cradle Coast NRM, etc) to identify opportunities to share responsibility for implementation. Each action in

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[5] Identification of alternative funding opportunities was not within the scope of this paper. However, findings of the rapid literature review suggest the following ideas may be worthy of further discussion at Council:
- assisting community groups to target environmental grants, e.g. State and Commonwealth grants, TasNetworks Sustainable Futures Grant Program, Wildcare Grants, etc;
- requiring Developer Contribution Plans for the management of specific habitats (although the preparation of these DCPs may themselves have resource implications through requiring specialist/consultant input); and
- considering an Environmental Levy on property owners to help fund Council's vegetation management commitments and/or community grants for environmental projects. For an example of an Environmental Levy, see Coffs Harbour Council, which currently charges $44 per rate payer and raises $1.3 million per annum for local environmental works. In Waratah-Wynyard, which has approximately 7,825 rateable properties, the same levy would raise $344,300.

the VMS should—at minimum—specify which Council division is responsible for its implementation, as well as which partners/collaborators will be involved.

Authors of the VMS should also be alert to the fact that the VMS is likely to be a 'living' document. That is, some identified actions may be prioritised for immediate implementation, while others may be emerging or under exploration—to be formalised in a later iteration of the VMS. The language choices featured in this document (e.g. 'ensuring'; 'prohibiting'; 'requiring'; 'preventing', 'considering', 'exploring opportunities for…', etc) are not prescriptive in suggesting a timeline for implementation. Rather, it is expected that relative priorities for action—and the language of implementation—will be determined during the VMS's development.

3.5 Glossary & style

A glossary of terms will help stakeholders, audiences and potential community partners to 'speak the same language' in vegetation management. Several of the local government documents considered for development of this paper include useful glossaries and definitions.

In addition, the rapid literature review found that local government vegetation plans display a variety of communication styles, from technical/scientific language to more conversational tones. To both enhance readability *and* preserve fidelity of technical information, Council may wish to consider preparing an engaging, plain-language VMS that is suitable for public use, as well as an Appendix or Reference Document containing technical information and detailed maps. For an example of a reader-friendly approach, see the Midcoast Council Greening Strategy 2021.

4   Strategy options

The following section sets out a broad range of potential inclusions for a Vegetation Management Strategy for Waratah-Wynyard Council, informed by a rapid review of the vegetation management initiatives of other small (<100,000 pop.) Australian local governments.

As noted in the Introduction, it is unlikely that a council of WWC's size would wish to include the entire suite of options presented here. Rather, the potential inclusions should be regarded as a 'ideas bank' for future discussion on developing a VMS.

Further, it should be emphasised that this Scoping Paper has not systematically examined WWC's existing commitments with regard to vegetation management. It is possible that some of the actions suggested below already form part of Council's normal operations. There is considerable merit in commencing a VMS by first auditing the vegetation initiatives and commitments currently implemented at Council. Bringing these initiatives under the VMS umbrella will be an important first step in identifying additional strategic gaps and opportunities.

4.1   Aboriginal heritage values

Aboriginal heritage values overlap with vegetation management in three ways. Firstly, remnant and other vegetation may be co-located with Aboriginal cultural artefacts and sites, such that vegetation management practices might disturb or otherwise impact on the value of those artefacts and sites. Secondly, Aboriginal heritage may be inscribed in vegetation itself, such as in the case of scar trees, birthing trees, burial/cremation sites and ring trees. Thirdly, traditional Aboriginal vegetation management methods, such as firestick farming, may inform and implement contemporary vegetation management practices (see also the 'Bushfire' section of this paper).

This review has not assessed the extent to which Aboriginal heritage overlaps with vegetation values

in the Waratah-Wynyard local government area. Ideally creation of a VMS will be based on further investigation of Aboriginal heritage values in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

The Tasmanian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* is the primary legislation for protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in Tasmania. The Act is accompanied by Guidelines, including Procedures for Managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Forest Practices. If the Australian Government identifies that a State or territory government has not provided effective protection for Aboriginal heritage, it may respond under the Commonwealth *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984.*

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council was established in 2017 under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. The Council provides advice to the State Government and other stakeholders on the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania. The Aboriginal Heritage Council takes a partnership approach in developing measures to promote community understanding and awareness of Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania.

Actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to vegetation management and Aboriginal heritage values include, but are not limited to:

- engaging closely with the Aboriginal Heritage Council, local Indigenous stakeholders and Traditional Owners in development of the VMS;

- formally acknowledging Traditional Custodianship, Aboriginal connection to Country and longstanding histories of traditional vegetation management in the front matter of the VMS;

- in partnership with relevant Indigenous organisations and in the context of expert advice, identifying and developing protection protocols for vegetation values on Council-managed land deemed as having high Aboriginal cultural significance. Note: for

reasons of Aboriginal heritage protection, exact locations of culturally significant trees, materials and sites are typically maintained as confidential/non-public information;

- requiring Aboriginal cultural heritage due diligence before any vegetation management works occur in critical habitat, and formalising Council's commitment to managing vegetation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* and Guidelines;

- committing to searching the Aboriginal Heritage Register before undertaking development and other activities on Council-owned or managed land that may impact Aboriginal cultural heritage;

- requiring the isolation and protection of known Aboriginal heritage values adjacent to planned vegetation/weed management works;

- exploring opportunities to educate Council workers and contractors to increase recognition of previously unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage material (e.g. middens, surface scatters) within remnant vegetation; and

- raising awareness of traditional values and uses of native vegetation by creating a self-guided Aboriginal Plant Walk with interpretive signage in a Council park. For an example of an Aboriginal Plant Walk, see the Australian National Botanic Gardens website.[6]

4.2   Biodiversity & endemism

The Waratah-Wynyard local government area is rich in biodiversity. Data from the Australian Natural Heritage Assessment Tool (ANHAT) shows that compared to the rest of Australia, parts of the north-west Tasmanian NRM region show a high level of richness (i.e. number of different species in a given area) for a range of aquatic (both fish and mammal), insect, mollusc and plant families.

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[6] https://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/visiting/exploring/aboriginal-trail/index.html

Compared to the rest of Australia, parts of the north-west Tasmanian region also show a high level of endemism (i.e. the degree to which species have a small geographic range) for several fish, animal, bird, mollusc, insect and plant families. The region is home to five species declared as critically endangered, 26 species declared as endangered, and 23 species declared as vulnerable[7]. The Waratah-Wynyard local government area itself is home to 12 threatened endemic plant species[8].

A preliminary set of proposed actions for biodiversity corridor planning has been drafted by SEAP member, Colin Hocking (May, 2023). Additional/related actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to biodiversity and endemic vegetation include, but are not limited to:

- formally committing to enhancing the extent, viability and diversity of endemic vegetation where it occurs;

- identifying and describing key endemic flora/fauna relationships within the Waratah-Wynyard local government area and articulating the role of vegetation management in these relationships;

- in partnership with local, regional and State stakeholders and using agreed criteria, assessing and mapping Waratah-Wynyard's biodiversity assets, including prioritising critical areas of endemic vegetation for protection and rehabilitation;

- setting 'small area' vegetation management priorities based on the presence of rare, threatened or endemic plant species;

- in partnership with the community, supporting habitat provision for native wildlife by identifying options for linking native vegetation within and between developed/urban and rural landscapes;

- supporting schemes that encourage landowners to incorporate native conservation on their properties (e.g. the Land for Wildlife[9] scheme),

- piloting biodiversity corridor management and protection protocols and critically evaluating their impacts;

- in partnership with community groups and schools, identifying and supporting local tree-planting projects (such as 'Tiny Forest' initiatives) to support biodiversity linkages and the creation of ecological and social value;[10]

- identifying opportunities under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme to prevent fragmentation of biodiversity corridors and damage to biodiversity values;

- in partnership with schools and community groups, implementing 'citizen science' programs to increase biodiversity knowledge and to encourage biodiversity management in the community;

- setting a desired benchmark percentage of endemic planting within revegetation projects to improve future landscapes;

- require site-appropriate endemic planting in the creation or remediation of biodiversity corridors;

- requiring site-appropriate endemic planting on new developments and/or in replacement planting in Council-managed parks consistent with *AS 2030:2018 Tree Stock for Landscape Use*;

- in partnership with local organisations, identifying opportunities to revegetate vacant

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[7] Australian Dept of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2011, Biodiversity Summary for NRM Regions.
[8] Tasmanian Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2013, Threatened plants within the Local Government Area: Waratah-Wynyard, NRE, Hobart.
[9] https://tasland.org.au/programs/land-for-wildlife/
[10] Earthwatch Australia Institute, *Tiny Forests: Growing Resilient Cities,* Carlton, Victoria.

land with endemic species to create recreation and learning/interpretation opportunities for the community (for example, the Heathland Reserve initiative at Fredrick St Reserve, Wynyard); and

- investigating opportunities for planting appropriate endemic species as street trees, consistent with *AS 2030:2018 Tree Stock for Landscape Use* and in the context of broader street tree objectives (see also the 'Built environment' section of this paper).

4.3   Built environment

Undertaking land-use planning and development through an environmental lens can create diverse types of public value in settlements and towns. Along these lines, the concept of urban 'green infrastructure' has been proposed as way of thinking about vegetation in the built environment.

CSIRO defines urban green infrastructure as 'all of the vegetation that provides environmental, economic and social benefits such as clean air and water, climate regulation, food provision, erosion control and places for recreation… [including] urban parks and reserves, wetlands and stream corridors, street trees and roadside verges, gardens and vegetable patches, bikeways and pedestrian trails, wall and rooftop gardens, orchards and farms, cemeteries and derelict land.'[11] Infrastructure Australia notes that urban green infrastructure 'is essential to the community's sense of wellbeing, and critical for resilience and sustainability, while reducing the impacts of heat, storms and other natural hazards.'[12]

The Hornsby Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2020, reviewed for this paper, notes the following advantages of the concept of green infrastructure: it is 'policy-ready' (in NSW); it offers a way to translate ecological design and planning into spatial reality; it articulates well-established

landscape design principles and enables ecological connectivity; and it offers diverse ecological, cultural and economic benefits. An Urban Green Infrastructure Handbook has recently been developed by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and Standards Australia.[13]

Related to the theme of 'Built environment', a review of Council's Tree Policy & Strategy has been proposed by SEAP member, Colin Hocking (March, 2023). Additional/related actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to vegetation in the built environment include, but are not limited to:

- formally recognising the social, cultural and ecological value of urban vegetation within a range of contexts (e.g. street trees, vegetation in parks and reserve areas, etc) to seek an acceptable balance between a risk-based and value-based approach to urban vegetation management;

- committing to making evidence-based decisions (including the use of climate forecasts) and using best practice in the planning and management of urban vegetation;

- considering the utility of value-based concepts such as 'green infrastructure' or 'urban forest management'[14] as a framework to shape strategic land-use planning decisions in Waratah-Wynyard;

- investigating opportunities within the Tasmanian Planning Scheme to protect and enhance vegetation values within Waratah-Wynyard's built environment by:

    o ensuring new development proposals have proper regard for the established landscape, streetscape and development patterns of townships; and are consistent with, and contribute to, the existing

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[11] https://www.csiro.au/en/research/environmental-impacts/sustainability/Green-infrastructure
[12] https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-09/2021%20Master%20Plan_1.pdf
[13] https://www.aila.org.au/Web/Web/News/Articles/National/UGI-20230224.aspx
[14] For an example of the latter, see the City of Hobart Street Tree Strategy

balance between vegetation and built form in the local area;

    o   ensuring the siting and design of developments and works maintain the physical and biological integrity of natural vegetation, including a requirement for developers to adhere to the relevant standard *AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites;*

    o   preventing the premature removal of vegetation from a site prior to consideration of design options for proposed development;

    o   requiring new subdivisions to include appropriate landscaping and planting (trees, understorey species, grasses) sympathetic to local plant communities;

    o   requiring water-sensitive urban design and landscaping with natural vegetation consistent with *AS 2030:2018 Tree Stock for Landscape Use;*

- in consultation with the community, reviewing and developing landscaping and vegetation plans for major neighbourhood parks and gardens to maximise planning of native or locally Indigenous vegetation appropriate for community preferences and use patterns;

- mapping tree canopies for main townships and developing targeted streetscaping/greening in areas where increased shade would deliver community benefit;

- in consultation with the community, defining a street tree strategy for major settlements in Waratah-Wynyard with a focus on species selection that responds to community preferences, provides biodiversity and habitat value, supports climate change adaptation objectives (e.g. shade provision; micro-

climates), is low-maintenance and is tolerant to expected climate and environmental pressures;

- maintaining and protecting existing trees on Council-managed land according to defined position on the social/cultural/ecological value of urban vegetation and in alignment with current best practice and standards (e.g. *AS 4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees*);

- developing a register of significant trees within towns and settlements and encouraging community awareness of the value of these and other green assets;

- increasing Council nursery capacity to propagate and provide plants for parks maintenance and urban revegetation projects, including selling plants to property owners for inclusion in private gardens, consistent with *AS 2030:2018 Tree Stock for Landscape Use;*

- providing guidance on appropriate local species and/or practical support to property owners wishing to plant native vegetation on their land;

- providing guidance to property owners on establishing green walls and green roofs in new builds and retrofits;

- continuing to support and encourage community food/edible garden projects; and

- defining the term 'vegetation vandalism' and setting penalties for vegetation vandalism/unauthorised pruning or removal of vegetation on Council land.

4.4   Bushfire

Bushfire risk in Waratah-Wynyard is managed under the West Coast Fire Management Area (FMA) Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2021. Within this Plan, areas of strategic importance in Waratah-Wynyard include the Sisters Beach human settlement area (Sisters Beach and Boat Harbour).

The Plan notes that although the West Coast FMA contains a significant percentage of low

flammability vegetation types, it also contains large amounts of highly flammable vegetation in the form of button grass moorland, sedge land, rush land and peatland, as well as scrub and heathland. The Plan notes that the West Coast FMA has experienced a high frequency of fast-moving bushfires which have burnt out large areas of the West Coast FMA.[15]

The Tasmanian Fuel Reduction Program is guided by priorities identified in the treatment plan for the FMA. The Fuel Reduction Program is undertaken by the Tasmanian Fire Service on behalf of and with the agreement of individual landowners or organisations. Waratah-Wynyard Council does not directly manage fuel reduction burns.

The iCEP (developed before the current West Coast FMA Plan) states that Council deems Sisters Beach and Waratah to be at higher risk from bushfire and/or gorse fire, and Boat Harbour to be at risk from flammable vegetation to the west. The iCEP contains the following actions in relation to fire risk reduction:

- 27.1 Continue fire abatement program.

- 27.2 Investigate adequacy of current fire hazard reduction practices using modern scientific findings.

- 27.3 Encourage property owners to access third-party information about the potential impacts of climate change on private property, including the risks posed by bushfire and coastal erosion.

Actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to vegetation management and bushfire include, but are not limited to:

- acknowledging that clearing vegetation around developments on bushfire-prone land can reduce risks, but this risk reduction must be balanced against the value of protecting bushland ecologies;

- encouraging landholders and State Govt stakeholders to consider biodiversity conservation goals in the context of fire planning, vegetation management and fire reduction activity;

- investigating the benefits of maintaining a register of fire-resistant and fire-retardant plants on the Council website suitable for landscaping at urban interface locations;

- investigating opportunities to incorporate vegetation management education as part of Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhood (BRN) initiatives with Waratah-Wynyard communities;

- prohibiting bushfire hazard control that has not been approved by the TFS or Council;

- continuing to incorporate firebreak planning/weed control (as per West Coast FMA Plan) into Council's roadside vegetation management activities;

- setting and maintaining minimum vegetation clearances around powerlines according to bushfire risk area profiles, and conducting annual audits of vegetation infringements on clearance spaces;

- in dialogue with relevant stakeholders and Council's existing risk management frameworks, developing recommendations to the TFS for ecological burn plans for identified bushland areas, including Council-managed reserves where relevant; and

- in dialogue with Traditional Owners, the Aboriginal Heritage Council and other Aboriginal stakeholders, exploring opportunities to host or support Cultural Burning Workshops in Waratah-Wynyard local government area. For an example of a National workshop, see the 2019 Dhungala program[16].

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[15] https://sfmc.tas.gov.au/sites/default/files/West%20Coast%20BRMP%202021_0.pdf
[16] https://www.firesticks.org.au/dhungala-2019/

4.5   Erosion

Vegetation loss can result in soil and sand erosion at the interface of land and waterways; in the context of industry (e.g. cropping, forestry); and adjacent to hard/non-permeable infrastructure such as roads and pavement. This erosion can destabilise landforms, accelerate the natural rate of erosion and reduce habitat and biodiversity. Erosion can also contribute to weed infestation in creeks and drainage lines when nutrient-rich soils are washed from farms and other development areas and into stormwater.

Actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to vegetation and erosion include, but are not limited to:

- assessing and mapping the erosion risk of key sites throughout the local government area, incorporating known data from the Tasmanian Coastal Hazards Report and other relevant Waratah-Wynyard erosion assessments;

- requiring all Council vegetation management activities to be carried out according to guidelines on soil erosion practices;

- encouraging revegetation/conservation of remnant vegetation of identified erosion-prone areas to reduce the risk of bank erosion and degradation, using species as close as possible to pre-settlement plant communities;

- encouraging the planting of low-growing native plant species on road verges to help prevent soil erosion while maintaining sight lines and vehicle safety;

- encouraging farmers to adopt grazing practices that reduce the potential for erosion;

- restricting vehicle access in identified erosion-prone areas; and

- where feasible, choosing suitable weed control strategies on sloped land (e.g. brush matting, jute matting) to minimise potential for erosion.

4.6   Roadsides

WWC is responsible for maintaining a network of 539 kilometres of sealed and unsealed roads. Vegetation management on roadsides is typically aimed at reducing hazards and improving sightlines for road users.

Hazard reduction has the potential to improve safety for road users within a context of other safe use actions. However, native roadside vegetation can also provide significant social and ecological values—e.g. containing remnant plant species, stabilising embankments, preventing weeds, providing native wildlife habitat, and creating aesthetic and amenity values.

Several commitments around vegetation management are already defined in the WWC Roads Infrastructure Service Level Document 2021[17]. Additional or complementary actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to roadside vegetation include:

- mapping the vegetation condition of Waratah-Wynyard's roads according to defined criteria, (e.g. low quality (little or no natural habitat); medium (degraded or sparse native vegetation cover); high (mostly native vegetation); and very high quality (vegetation near its natural condition)); and using this map to implement management guidelines;

- creating a Significant Roadside Register to document known rare or threatened species sites adjacent to Council-managed roads, and committing to regular monitoring;

- implementing a mitigation hierarchy to be considered prior to any vegetation clearance (the following example of a mitigation hierarchy is adapted from the South Australian

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[17] Waratah-Wynyard Council, 2021, Roads Infrastructure Service Level Document 2021 (Vers. 6).

Guidelines for the Management of Roadside Native Vegetation and Regrowth Vegetation[18]):

- o Avoidance—measures must be taken to avoid clearing native vegetation wherever possible;

- o Minimisation—if clearing cannot be avoided, measures must minimise the duration, intensity and extent of impacts of the clearance on biodiversity;

- o Rehabilitation or restoration—if clearing cannot be avoided or minimised, measures must be taken to rehabilitate/restore ecosystems; and

- o Offset—any adverse impact that cannot be avoided or minimised must be offset by achieving a significant environmental benefit.

- committing to active management of rare or threatened vegetation species or ecological communities on Council-managed roadsides;

- defining alternatives to vegetation clearance where practicable (e.g. reducing road speed limits, erecting signage, installing guardrails);

- clarifying how risk assessment and prioritisation will inform reactive removal of new and emerging vegetation hazards on roadsides;

- defining schedules for the full scope of roadside works such as slashing, mowing, spraying and street tree maintenance for each defined road classification described in the WWC Roads Infrastructure Service Level Document 2021;

- defining responsibilities and scope for removal of vegetation that overhangs a public road, (including a statement to clarify requests for removal associated with private driveways/nature strips fronting properties);

- defining Council's role and responsibilities with regard to repairing boundary fences damaged by fallen roadside vegetation;

- defining how Council's vegetation waste from roadside vegetation management will be dealt with, consistent with iCEP sustainability principles;

- supporting landowners adjacent to road reserves to do revegetation by providing education and appropriate native tube stock;

- protecting roadside vegetation from livestock damage by setting and requiring compliance with Council guidelines on stock movement on any Council-controlled road; and

- protecting roadside vegetation from damage during road construction by setting and requiring compliance with Council guidelines on spoil/material stockpile handling and management;.

Further actions related to roadside drains may be found in the 'Stormwater assets' section of this paper. Road corridors are also vulnerable to weed invasion: see 'Weeds' section of this paper for more.

4.7 Stormwater assets

Council's drainage infrastructure is managed according to its Stormwater System Management Plan, as mandated by the *Urban Drainage Act 2013*. Council infrastructure consists of a piped network; kerb and channel; natural, blockwork or concrete lined waterways; and open channels/swale drains. While the WWC Stormwater Plan describes the dominant vegetation in some areas, it does not explicitly link stormwater asset management with vegetation management.

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[18] https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/native_veg_guideline_for_roadside_sept2020.pdf

Actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to vegetation and stormwater assets include, but are not limited to:

- formally recognising that drainage infrastructure is often co-located with important vegetation values;

- defining revegetation as a function of stormwater asset management, and identifying conservation and revegetation opportunities along key open drainage assets, both concrete and grassed;

- reducing the impact of localised flooding/minimising flood peaks in key locations to preserve local conservation values;

- defining schedules for regular works such as slashing, spraying and tree maintenance adjacent to relevant stormwater assets, including removal of vegetation that is obstructing, or has potential to obstruct, drainage lines;

- clarifying how risk assessment and prioritisation will inform reactive removal of new and emerging vegetation hazards around stormwater assets;

- requiring construction of new drains to be done in a way that protects roadside native vegetation, e.g. requiring a minimum distance from native vegetation; avoiding impact from sediment deposits; limiting the movement of equipment in verges;

- seeking opportunities to create stormwater infrastructure that supports remnant vegetation conservation, e.g. the construction of grassed infiltration swales, wetlands, etc;

- support the health of riparian plant communities adjacent to stormwater assets by seeking opportunities to reduce pollutants, sediment and nutrient loading of water moving through the stormwater drainage system;

- planning Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (e.g. gross pollutant traps and detention basins) on drainage reserves, road reserves and easements in support of broader vegetation management goals;

- educating property owners to minimise impacts from urban runoff and pollutants; and

- requiring landholders to retain water on-farm and/or requiring landholders to obtain permits to undertake works that affect changes in water discharge across a property boundary (e.g. discharge of saline ground water; increased flow; change of water discharge location or direction).

4.8 Watercourses & foreshores

Landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and coastal foreshores support endemic plant communities and contribute to the broader ecology. In addition, plant communities help protect the integrity of watercourses and foreshores (see 'Erosion' section of this paper).

Actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to vegetation around watercourses and foreshores include, but are not limited to:

- formally recognising the key ecological role and value of riparian, instream, coastal foreshore and marine vegetation;

- supporting water levels for riparian and wetland plant communities by maintaining natural drainage lines and systems;

- specifying Council's preferred vegetation characteristic for creeks, rivers and unnamed flow lines (e.g. endemic trees and understorey species);

- incorporating natural drainage lines and flows within revegetation or vegetation corridor-creation activities;

- working with Tasmanian Government agencies to identify opportunities for protecting marine plant habitats;

- protecting marine vegetation by refraining from Council activities that may harm or remove marine vegetation;

- identifying highly degraded waterways and prioritising their stabilisation and revegetation, with an emphasis on endemic species; and

- identifying opportunities to replace exotic vegetation along waterways with endemic species where this replacement would benefit water quality and/or enhance the health of native plant communities.

4.8 Weeds

The Tasmanian *Weed Management Act 1999* obliges landholders, whether public (e.g. councils) and private, to actively control or eradicate any declared weeds on their property. The Waratah-Wynyard local government area also comes under the Cradle Coast Regional Weed Management Strategy (2010).

Councils are responsible for controlling weeds on their own property but are not responsible for weed management on all property. Waratah-Wynyard's Weed Management Strategy (2005) lists priority plants for eradication or control as being Ragwort, Broom. Pampas Grass, Slender Thistle, Crack Willow and Gorse.

Council's Weed Management Strategy commits to a range of actions for weed management. Additional/complementary actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to weed management include:

- updating and incorporating Council's current Weed Management Strategy into the VMS, inclusive of its current scope but also updating actions to reflect the changing policy context (e.g. development of the Cradle Coast Regional Weed Management Strategy) as well as the likely impacts of climate change and

other environmental pressures on current/future weed species;

- defining a schedule of weed spraying adjacent to Council-managed roads and stormwater assets;

- in dialogue with relevant stakeholders, identifying and appropriately managing buffer zones between organic farms and public land on which weed spraying may occur; and

- in dialogue with the community and individuals living with herbicide sensitivities, providing public health information and advanced notice of spraying.

4.9 Wellbeing & engagement

Preparation of the Waratah-Wynyard iCEP, the Waratah-Wynyard and Circular Head Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and previous research on natural resource management for Waratah-Wynyard Council has highlighted a range of potential social values associated with vegetation and vegetation management. These include the creation of social capital and wellbeing through participation in community-based natural resource management, as well as the health and wellbeing benefits of having access to green spaces and vegetation.

A position paper on 'Healthy Communities'[19] by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects states that '…access to nature, whether it is bona fide natural areas, urban parks or even green views, impacts psychological and physical health and social functioning. Increasing access to views and environments brings health benefits such as:

- better cognitive functioning;
- greater self-discipline and impulse control;
- improved mental health overall; and
- greater resilience in response to stressful life events.'

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[19]

https://www.aila.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/_AILA/Resource%20library/Healthy%20Communities%20Position%20Statement.pdf

Actions that Council may wish to consider in relation to vegetation and community wellbeing and engagement include, but are not limited to:

- formally recognising the link between vegetation values and Waratah-Wynyard's amenity, identity and community health and wellbeing;

- providing community information and education materials about the value of vegetation and biodiversity in Waratah-Wynyard, including information about local actions and opportunities;

- growing a network of volunteers to assist with vegetation management projects such as revegetation, landscaping and maintenance of parks, bushland and riparian areas;

- enhancing the capacity of community groups— e.g. Landcare, conservation management networks, sustainable farming groups, environment groups, 'friends of' networks, schools—to contribute to Council planning and decision-making for vegetation management;

- supporting the 'adoption' of Council's open spaces and natural areas by community groups;

- encouraging the community to report threats to native vegetation in Council-managed areas (e.g. through a 'Bushland Watch'[20] initiative);

- exploring opportunities to fund and/or otherwise support community-based projects whose goals and commitments align with Council's vegetation management objectives;

- developing community guidelines for tree planting, including schedules of preferred species and guidance on site preparation and reducing impacts on services and maintenance;

- facilitating community appreciation for the value of native vegetation and habitat values through hosting special projects and events;

- identifying opportunities to connect people with natural vegetation by installing green walls and street trees, and by creating/maintaining parks, walkways, biking trails, lookouts and other unstructured recreational opportunities in nature (see also the 'Built environment' section of this paper); and

- in partnership with schools and community groups, implementing 'citizen science' programs to increase biodiversity knowledge and to encourage biodiversity management in the community (see also, 'Biodiversity' section above).

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[20] https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Services/Environmental-Sustainability/Bushland-Watch-Program

Attachment 6: Second Rd for Sisters Beach

Background and research for the proposal for a second road into Sisters Beach was never prepared. There should not be a proposal of this major type without extensive backgrounding and research.

My brief investigation into this several years ago revealed that:

a. The fire ratings in and around Sisters Beach, while fire threat is concerning for residents and should be taking seriously, have rarely been above about 25 (Severe) which means that stay and defend, and evacuate to the beach, are relatively safe options for Sisters Beach residents.

b. There has not been a loss of property at Sisters Beach in recent memory, despite many houses and infrastructure being in or close to bushland, which is a demonstration that stay and defend is an appropriate strategy. While changes in bushfire behavior should be monitored, climate predictions for the NW coast show that fire danger is unlikely to increase markedly, unlike in other parts of Australia, including other parts of Tasmania.

c. Likewise, there has never been a serious longer term blockage of the existing road out of Sisters Beach due to fire. There is adequate provision for emergency medical evacuation by air if there is a temporary blockage to the road.

d. My enquiries of senior fire people in both the Tasmania Fire Services and the Tasmanian Parks & Wildire Service revealed that they were not in favour of a second road. This is partly because, in a high fire danger situation, people need to decide well ahead of time if they are going to evacuate by road or not, rather than seeing a second road as an emergency escape. It is also partly because The Tasmanian Parks Service would prefer the National Park in Sisters Hills not to be further degraded by a major second road, and would prefer not to have to manage traffic on a second road in the event of a fire burning in the hills – the most likely place for fires that might threaten Sisters Beach (i.e. from the West). They would prefer to have access to these hills via the existing fire trails, unencumbered by general traffic.

e. I also found that these fire services were not consulted as a proposal for a second road was being developed, which was put forward mainly on the grounds of fire and evacuation,– this was a lack of attention to relevant authorities and experts that, bluntly, astounded me.

f. The development for any major proposal like a road or other actions to deal with fire fighting and evacuation should be based on sound evidence and extensive consultation with the affected communities.

In our sub-group developing a draft vegetation management strategy for Waratah-Wynyard Council, we have identified fire and fire management, including ecological/cultural burning and clearing of vegetation as fire protection as issues that Council need to address as part of the strategy. Looking at the attitudes to, and knowledge of, fire in the various communities of WWC, and what information and engagement is needed around this, should form part of the vegetation management strategy.

C. Hocking

Attachment 7: Council meeting minutes extract July 2020 (SB second access)

8.2 CR D FAIRBROTHER - SISTERS BEACH ACCESS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Recent community feedback has indicated a heightened level of concern with one road in and one road out of Sisters Beach.   whilst there is a fire safety plan for the area, identification of another road may well provide an additional layer of safety for the local community.

A number of fire trails exist in the area that may be able to be utilised without impacting on the natural environment. Ideally council may need to work collaboratively with other state government agencies and or neighbouring council to be able to identify a preferred route.

It is anticipated that the identification of a route may be able to be undertaken within the confines of the existing operational budget or alternatively the matter be deferred until 2021/2022 budget considerations.

OFFICERS COMMENT

Some preliminary investigation of possible routes can be explored during 20/21 and utilisation of existing fire trails is a sensible option to explore first. Initial findings can be reported to Council in time for 21/22 budget deliberations. It is almost certain that to progress beyond this point some funding will be required to develop concepts for a preferred route if Council chooses to pursue this (estimated to be in the range of $15,000-$30,000).

To this end a future budget consideration to advance a concept will likely need to explore the following: -

- Order of cost, asset ownership and maintenance
- construction and design standard considerations relative to the intended end use
- legislative, environmental & aboriginal heritage implications and requirements
- land tenure
- potential partnering authorities (PWS, Crown, CHC, private land owners etc)

MOVED BY	CR FAIRBROTHER
SECONDED BY	CR DUNIAM

That Council undertake an investigation into identifying a preferred secondary access to Sisters Beach.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED unanimously.

IN FAVOUR

MAYOR WALSH	CR DUNIAM	CR FAIRBROTHER	CR EDWARDS
CR BRAMICH	CR HYLAND	CR COURTNEY	CR BRADLEY

Attachment 8: Council meeting minutes extract June 2021 (SB second access)

10.8   SISTERS BEACH ALTERNATE ACCESS ROAD

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Director Infrastructure and Development Services
Responsible Manager:	General Manager
Report Date:	25 May 2021
File Reference:	Roads
Enclosures:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide an update on action taken following a July 2020 motion and seek Council direction.

BACKGROUND

At the July 2020 Council meeting the following motion was passed: -

MOVED BY	CR FAIRBROTHER
SECONDED BY	CR DUNIAM

That Council undertake an investigation into identifying a preferred secondary access to Sisters Beach.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED unanimously.

IN FAVOUR

MAYOR WALSH	CR DUNIAM	CR FAIRBROTHER	CR EDWARDS
CR BRAMICH	CR HYLAND	CR COURTNEY	CR BRADLEY

DETAILS

Following the motion in July 2020 some community concern of potential environmental impacts of a secondary access road to Sisters Beach was expressed from Sisters Beach residents to Council in various forms (social media posts, phone calls etc.). This concern was acknowledged and addressed through a public forum held onsite at Sisters Beach attended by the General Manager and Cr Fairbrother.

The motion passed by Council was focused on "identifying a preferred secondary access road to Sisters Beach". The background to the motion mentioned fire safety, but although it did not specifically talk about an emergency access road, this was the intent as clarified by Cr Fairbrother at the public forum.

Since then, Council officers have identified that a number of existing fire trails already exist that could potentially form the basis of a secondary road access in the future if deemed beneficial to community safety by Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS).

To date no recommendations of this nature have been received by TFS.

It was also noted through community feedback that the fire trail networks that do exist could be maintained to a higher standard to ensure that in the event of an emergency, access for emergency services is assured.

Any further investigation should not progress until TFS clarify their position and officers will continue to pursue this information.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

There are no statutory implications as a result of this report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 7: Environment
Desired Outcomes
Our natural and built environment aids the community with an active and healthy lifestyle.
Our Priorities
7.2 Foster opportunity through sustainable development and community engagement.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
Natural resource management	**Managing abundant, natural and productive resources** – Natural resource management is valued and development is environmentally sustainable. The environment is clean and healthy with unspoilt beauty and biodiversity.

Council Strategy or Plan Reference

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications as a result of this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications as a result of this report. The environmental impact of a secondary access will need to be considered as part of any future recommendation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

There are no consultation requirements as a result of this report other than receiving any future advice as may come from Tasmania Fire Service.

CONCLUSION

The recommendation following the motion, community feedback received, consultation with Tasmania Fire service and desktop analysis of existing fire trails reflects that a secondary access could be investigated in the future but unless there is a community safety recommendation from TFS there doesn't appear to the community support on any other basis.

MOVED BY	CR EDWARDS
SECONDED BY	CR BRADLEY

That Council:
1.   **defer any further investigation into identifying a preferred secondary access to Sisters Beach;**
2.   **take advice forthcoming from Tas Fire Service in regard to the Sisters Beach Community Bushfire response plan and any future improvements/needs identified; and**
3.   **Continue to lobby the State Government for improved maintenance service levels on existing fire trails in the Rocky Cape National Park**

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

	CR BRADLEY	CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY
CR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS	CR FAIRBROTHER	CR HYLAND