



George Town Coastal Communities Management Plan *2017 Action Plan Update* *(Summary Document)*

"Communities and management authorities working together to protect, enhance and sustainably manage the natural values of our coastal area for recreation and conservation into the future."



Prepared by Tamar NRM for the
George Town Coastal Communities Management Group

Statement of Endorsement

This action plan presents the latest reviewed on-ground works consistent with aims of the George Town Coastal Management Plan (2005), which was the first truly community driven coastal management plan in Tasmania. It is an important resource to guide future community action and assist government and local planning authorities in the ongoing management of coastal areas within the George Town municipality.

Through workshops and consultation, the coastal communities of Bellingham, Weymouth, Lulworth, Tam O'Shanter, Beechford, Bellbuoy Beach, Low Head and Hillwood have identified priority works for the protection and restoration of the places they live, work and recreate in.

The George Town Coastal Management Group, George Town Council, Tamar NRM and the Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania have endorsed the actions for the management of the George Town Coastal area and are committed to working in partnership for the full implementation of this action plan.

ENDORSED BY:



John Martin, General Manager
George Town Council



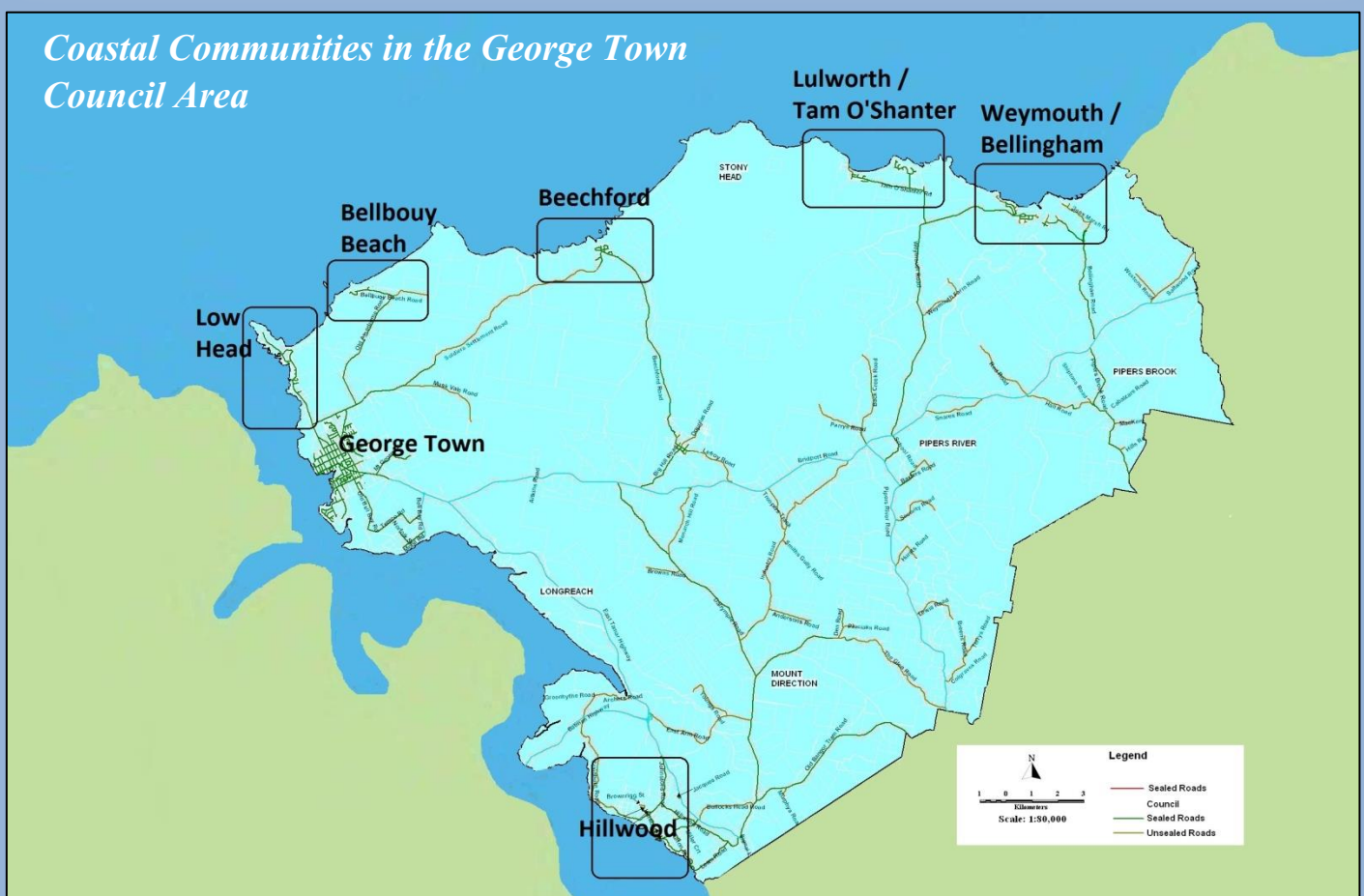
Roger Tyshing,
President Tamar NRM



Chris Colley,
Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania.



Ian Sauer, Chairman George Town
Coastal Management Group



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Prepared by Tamar NRM for the George Town Coastal Communities Management Group (GTCMG)

February, 2017

Any views and opinions expressed in this document are not necessarily those of Tamar NRM or stakeholders.

This is a Summary Document and should be read in conjunction with the George Town Coastal Management Plan 2005.

Full Action Plan Update is available from the Tamar NRM Website www.tamarnrm.com.au

Passages of text from the 2005 plan courtesy of SFM Environmental Solutions Pty Ltd.



Acknowledgements

The George Town Coastal Communities Action Plan Update 2017 would not have been possible without the input from residents of the George Town Council municipality who attended community forums, wrote submissions and provided their experiences and local expertise. George Town Coastal Communities Management Group wish to extend gratitude to members of local management authorities George Town Council, Parks & Wildlife, Tasmanian Fire Service and Crown Land Services.

The local communities have previously been involved with a variety of on-ground activities, including revegetation projects, weed removal and track maintenance. Building strong working relationships and networks between these local community groups and the management authorities involved is essential to the success of the Management Plan and this Action Plan update. Community consultation has been of utmost importance during the formulation of this document, as the Action Plan's implementation schedule will largely be "driven" by local residents.

Coastal Communities Priority Management Actions

Five major issues identified which are common to all lands covered by the Action Plan:

1. The overall coordination of the Management Plan
2. Waste disposal within the Coastal Management Area (CMA)
3. Fire management within the CMA
4. The encroachment of private yards onto the CMA
5. Control of feral animal populations

Priority Management Actions by Location

Priorities for Low Head	Priorities for Bellbuoy Beach	Priorities for Beechford
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weed management 2. Coastal track access 3. Wetland protection 4. Green and general waste 5. Penguin habitat protection 6. Community capacity building 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve quality and maintenance of tracks and local picnic area 2. Weed control 3. Pruning and revegetation programs 4. Interpretation signage 5. Fire management and planning 6. Dogs 'at large' roaming the CMA uncontrolled 7. Green waste dumping in the CMA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community capacity 2. Weed management 3. Fire management 4. Waste management 5. Foreshore access
Priorities for Lulworth/Tam O'Shanter	Priorities for the Weymouth	Priorities for Bellingham
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beach access 2. Public awareness (Vehicles on beach) 3. Green waste 4. Encroachment onto public lands 5. Fire management 6. Weed management 7. Revegetation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire management (Protection and Prevention) 2. Weed management/revegetation 3. Waste management 4. Encroachment onto CMA land 5. Future management of public camping areas on coast 6. Stabilisation of river mouth, dunes and maintenance of groynes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recreational vehicle dune access and degradation 2. Weed management 3. Waste management 4. Fire management 5. Condition of Bellingham picnic ground
Priorities for Hillwood	<p>The Action Plan is a non-statutory document that aims to preserve the natural values of the George Town coastal region by addressing management issues in a coordinated and systematic manner. This Plan covers the Coastal Reserves, Recreation Reserves and some areas of unallocated Crown Land in the coastal areas of Bellbuoy Beach, Beechford, Low Head, Lulworth, Tam O'Shanter, Hillwood, Weymouth and Bellingham.</p> <p>George Town Coastal Working Group will be supported by Tamar NRM to oversee the progress of on-ground works. The Working Group consists of representatives from various community groups, Tamar NRM, the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and the George Town Council.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feral/Native Animal increase/Wallaby mortality 2. Weed management 3. Egg Island Point beach 4. Boat Ramp improvement 5. Walking track from the boat ramp to the bridge. 		

Note: Unless otherwise stated, Land Managers will be responsible for undertaking or coordinating actions on their land and the responsibility for the actions does not fall solely onto one group but is a joint effort between land managers, the community and organisations.

Issues identified which are common to all lands

Issue	Task Description	Responsibility	Time Scale
Overall management plan co-ordination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain a working group with members from George Town Council, Tamar NRM, PWS/Crown Land Services (CLS) and various progress associations. This working group will oversee the implementation of the Plan, providing external co-ordination when needed. 2. Restructure of overall coordination - terms of reference, interaction relationships between Council, GTCMG and PWS; SOPs, where each organisation fits in relation to the plan and actions. More formal communication between council, Tamar NRM and GTCMG. Review of original relationship arrangements in 2005 George Town Coastal Community Management Plan. 	George Town Coastal Management Group (GTCMG). Support from Tamar NRM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing 2. Restructure of overall coordination by November 2017
Green waste disposal in the CMA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council to work with Progress Associations to collect green waste from working bees. 2. Promote responsible green waste disposal by property owners. 3. Council to provide free green waste drop off in November each year at the Waste Transfer Station – Mt George Road, George Town. 	George Town Council & GTCMG	Ongoing
General waste management within the CMA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. George Town Council to monitor and review current waste collection methods. Council to investigate increasing the frequency of waste collection in certain public areas specifically the Bellingham Picnic ground and the Bellbuoy Beach picnic areas. 	George Town Council	Ongoing
Encroachment of adjacent land owners onto the CMA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a covering letter for the Creeping Backyard brochure stating clearly what private land owners are, and are not allowed to do regarding clearing areas for view scapes and fire buffers. Legislation should be explained including the consequences of failure to comply. 2. Investigate if other brochures are available and source for Community groups to distribute in their coastal communities. 3. Council's Development department to distribute relevant brochures when issuing permits in the coastal regions. 	Land Managers - George Town Council in conjunction with PWS/CLS and Tamar NRM.	Ongoing
Fire management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain council lands and PWS/CLS reserves. 2. Fire trails and breaks specifically in Weymouth, Bellingham and Beechford, Hillwood foreshore areas to be maintained by PWS before the summer fire season as resources and other priorities allow. 3. Fire Management through planning. 4. Hazard Reduction Plans to be developed for all areas. 	Land managers responsible for their own land. PWS/CLS Tasmanian Fire Service George Town Council Tamar NRM PWS/CLS to co-ordinate and give permission to local fire authorities to conduct clearance subject to appropriate assessments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2/3. Priority maintenance be completed by end October 2017. Preparedness for 2017-18.fire season 4. Ongoing
Feral Animals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Populations of feral cats and rabbits area increasing in the CMA. Land managers to take reports of feral cat sightings and their impacts and to work in conjunction with George Town Council if resources and other priorities allow. 2. Cat Management Plan/State Cat Act 	PWS/CLS, George Town Council, Tamar NRM	Ongoing
Capacity Building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build numbers and knowledge in the various community centres to support on ground works and monitoring by community volunteers. 2. Provide for grass-roots up driven actions. 	GTCMG and Tamar NRM through GT Council Resourcing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. March 2017 2. Ongoing

