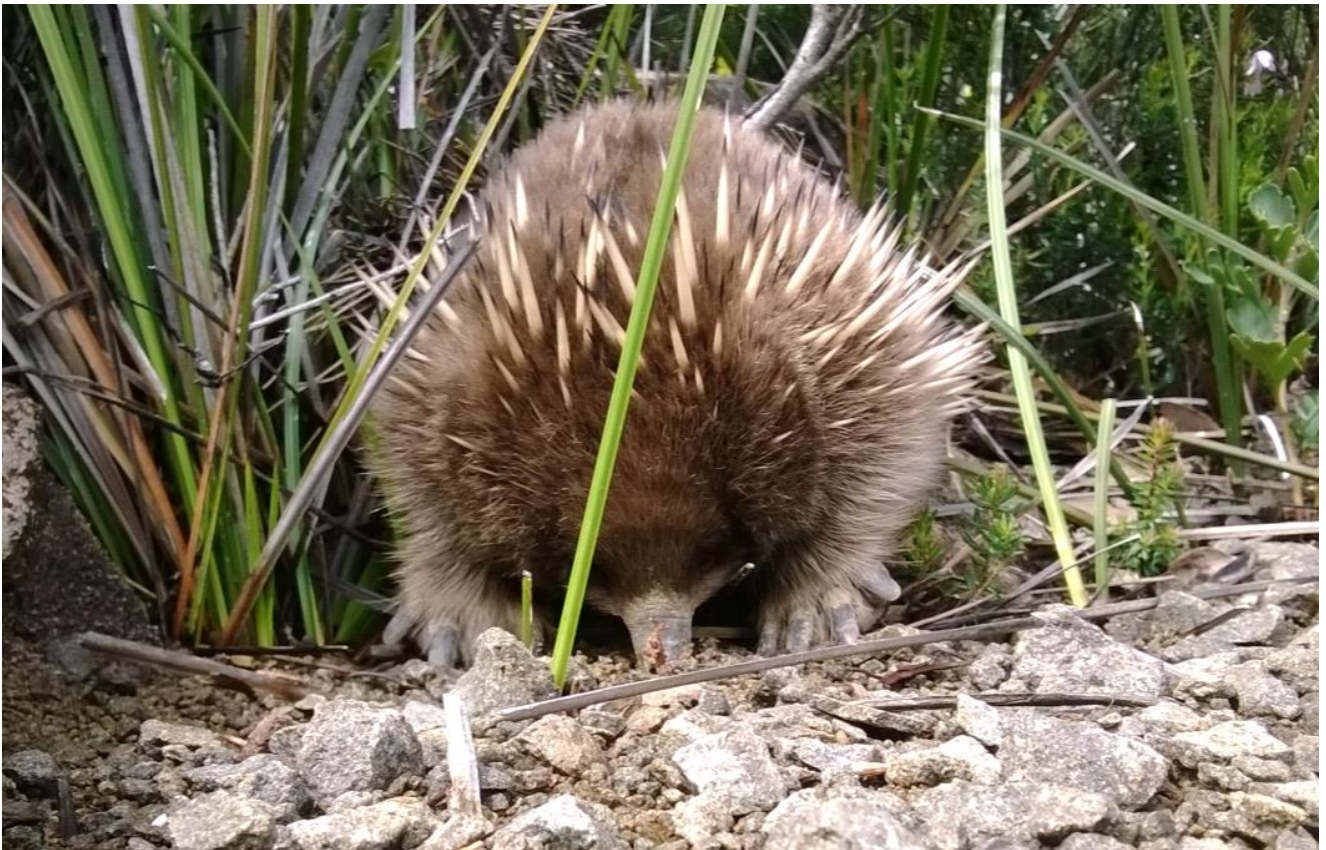




Environment and
Natural Resource Management
ACTION PLAN
2018-2023



Version: Final – Date: 16/09/2019

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Vision

A naturally beautiful environment that speaks to our heart. A diverse and thriving community; a place of opportunity. A place where everyone feels safe, welcome and connected.

[Break O’Day Council Strategic Plan 2017-2027]

Goal

To balance our use of the natural environment to ensure that it is available for future generations to enjoy as we do.

Introduction

This five year Action Plan focusses on the most urgent and important actions with outcomes making a positive change to the strategic priorities for the natural environment and resources of Break O’Day.

It follows the associated *Environment and Natural Resource Management Strategy 2019*, which documents the longer term strategic priorities of Break O’Day and its community. The NRM Strategy document is in turn based on the *Break O’Day Council Strategic Plan 2017-2027* and the earlier *Break O’Day NRM Strategy 2012*.

The Council Strategic Plan 2017-2027 provides the priority focus areas that underlie the structure of this plan. The Environment and Natural Resource Management Strategy 2019 provides details on the development of the Strategy and this Action Plan.

Land

- Land and Soil
- Biosecurity
- Flora and Fauna

Water

- Catchment Management
- Water Quality
- Wetlands and Waterways
- Marine Environment and Aquatic Resources
- Flood Risks #

Our Use

- Natural Hazards and Risks
- Access—using & enjoying the Environment
- Awareness—using & enjoying the Environment

To be consistent with the structure of Council’s Strategic Plan 2017-2027 and assist reporting on its progress, actions for flood hazards and risks are included in the ‘Water’ focus area rather than, as in the Environment and NRM Strategy, the ‘Our Use’ strategic focus area.

Shared Responsibility

There are roles and contributions the whole community must make to achieve this plan.

Residents and landholders, community groups, other government agencies, business and industry and others all make use of, benefit from and enjoy our natural environment and resources. This Action Plan needs to be interpreted and acted on by the wider community: community, Council and others working together with the differing roles and capacities they have to complement and support the efforts of each other. Achieving its goals depends on the contributions, support and participation of the residents, visitors and government agencies, land managers and industry with Council.

The Council Strategic Plan 2017-2027 highlights shared roles between the community and Council and a need for joint action and cooperation to achieve its goals for Break O'Day. This shared responsibility is interpreted below for the achievement of this plan.



Action Plan

	The Community will...	Council will...
Leadership and Ownership	<p>...consider the bigger picture and be open-minded in our views and actions.</p> <p>...lead by example in the use and development of the natural environment.</p> <p>...advocate for things that are important to us.</p>	<p>...be visionary and accountable in sustainable management of our land and natural resources.</p> <p>...represent the views of our community and make decisions for the greater good of Break O’Day.</p>
Communication	<p>...get involved in issues and speak up.</p> <p>...seek and share information.</p>	<p>...listen to, consult and engage with the community and organisations.</p> <p>...keep people informed and be open, honest and proactive.</p>
Natural resources, services and the environment	<p>...practice sound and sustainable management of land and water.</p> <p>...care for our common natural heritage in partnership with other land managers and Council.</p>	<p>...plan, manage and maintain quality natural environment and resources.</p> <p>...strive to deliver excellent community service.</p>
Cooperation	<p>...be an active participant and collaborative contributor.</p> <p>...support community groups, Council and other organisations.</p>	<p>...build and maintain strong relationships and partnerships.</p> <p>...support and facilitate our community and other land managers.</p>
Stewardship/ Custodian	<p>... through our actions, nurture a sense of community responsibility and effectiveness.</p> <p>...respect and value our environment and act with the future in mind.</p>	<p>...make responsible plans and decisions for Break ODay’s natural environment and resources.</p> <p>...balance competing needs while keeping a sustainable future in mind.</p>
Management Resources	<p>...seek the funds and time required to manage our natural environment and resources.</p> <p>...be mindful that Council and others must make difficult decisions on priorities.</p>	<p>...operate with financial sustainability focusing on securing outside funding, spending wisely and being fair to all.</p> <p>...recognise the limitations of resources and the community</p>

Operation of the Action Plan

- Five year plan (2018–2023)
- For joint implementation by others with Council, with resources available from year to year
- Progress followed by the Break O’Day Council NRM Committee
- Responsive to opportunities with funding, programs and partners
- Used with rolling updates for Council’s annual plans and operations
- Review in third year.

Actions in this plan are listed according to the strategic focus areas and underlying issue areas. They include specific projects, activities or tasks, other actions that are on-going or continuous (such as delivering support, advice and information), or that involve monitoring and response (for example a new pest incursion or an opportunity for grant funding or a partnership). Several actions are already part of Council’s Annual Plan for 2018-19.

Resources for implementation

Council cannot act alone to achieve the many priorities in this Action Plan. Residents and the community, landholders, industry, government agencies and others all have important parts to play and role in achieving these actions; often lead roles and responsibility. Some of the actions require funding or partners to be found and as part of their ‘priority’ include monitoring for these opportunities. Many activities also involve fostering collaboration and cooperation to help secure the participation and resources needed.

From year to year Break O’Day Council will consider what it can take on and implement with resources available during its Annual Planning and budget processes. External grants funding is an important source of resources for action that will be pursued. Council budget funding required for the Action Plan priorities can only be determined from year to year and is subject to uncertain external resourcing opportunities. This includes the contributions and leadership that others apply and the needs for matching funding for grants. Council must also consider its other competing priorities when allocating budget funds. What can be implemented as the Action Plan progresses will be determined from year to year by Council’s Annual Plans and what residents and the community, landholders, industry, government agencies and others contribute.

Assessing Progress

Progress with the Action Plan and Strategy will be followed by Break O’Day Council’s NRM Committee made up of representatives from different community interests, farmers and government agencies and Council. The Committee will provide advice on the Action Plan each year to support Council’s planning of operations and to review the Action Plan with reference to the Environment and NRM Strategy.

The achievement of this plan will be measured based on criteria from the Break O’Day Council Strategic Plan 2017-2027.

1. Sustainable land and water use strategies
2. Land and water management projects and works undertaken
3. Community awareness and knowledge raising activities
4. Community events and activities
5. Grant funding and other resources acquired.

1 LAND

1.1 Land and Soil

Degradation of land and soil is addressed to maintain productivity and healthy catchment systems and water quality.

Aim	Strategy	Actions	Priority	Comment
1.1.1 Managing soils and drainage to reduce soil loss, degradation and waterway pollution, protecting habitats and land resources.	Rehabilitation of key erosion sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of significant erosion sites and land degradation by connecting landholders and managers to knowledge, plans, funding and works opportunities. 	Continuing, monitor and opportunities.	Depends on funding programs and partners.
.	Best practice soil and water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate soil and water management performance by works and land development projects to identify planning and management improvements. (Linked to Water Quality). 	2022-23	Council.
1.1.2 Adoption of best practice land and soil use maintains sustainable production of farming sector.	Agricultural soil health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting farming community opportunities to improve grazing and cropping practices to improve soil health and productivity (eg. soil carbon, cover crops, STP sludge reuse as soil conditioner) 	Monitor for opportunities	(Possible opportunities 2018-23).

1.2 Biosecurity

Reducing the impacts of weeds, pests and diseases and guard against the threats.

1.2.1

Manage weeds to contain their spread, reducing their impact on the environment, economy and people.

Weed Action Plan

- Refine specific outcomes and milestones for weed management work plan.
- Implement (updated) Weed Action Plan and control priority weed threats through on ground works, public education and engagement and maintain resources for priority weed control on Council properties.

2018-19,
continuing

Council.

Cooperation across land tenures

- Facilitate inter-agency, landholder and community cooperation to coordinate management of Break O’Day weed priorities

Continuing

Others with Council.

1.2.2

Minimise risks of introducing and spreading weeds, pests and diseases.

Weed, pest and disease hygiene

- Investigate and facilitate best practice weed, pest and disease hygiene practices in Council operations, contracts (eg. for *Phytophthora cinnanommi*), and promote benefits in industry – ‘clean low risk’ earthworks for clients and municipality.

2019-20,
continuing

Council and industry, partners.

Guard against new incursions and outbreaks

- Support detection and reporting of weed, pest and disease incursions (including marine pests), communicate biosecurity alerts and threat information to community and support coordinated responses to threats or incursions.

Continuing

Support Biosecurity Tas. lead role, and national biosecurity responses as needed.

1.3 Flora and Fauna

Native habitat health and integrity is maintained and the threat of extinction for species and communities is reduced

1.3.1

Manage for healthy connected native habitats that support biodiversity and ecological integrity at a landscape scale.

Planning Scheme

- Ensure habitat connectivity and integrity in Biodiversity Code and trigger (map); land use zoning strategy maintains habitat connectivity (eg. avoids fragmentation by coastal 'ribbon development')

2019-20

Council, in new local Scheme from Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

Landscape scale **habitat integrity and linkage**

- Maintain Dog Management Policy with strategic zones for beach access, through an integrated approach involving relevant stakeholders, and implement (dog exercise facilities, education, signage and compliance).

2018-2020, continuing

Council with community and PWS.

- Support projects to protect habitat of shorebirds and migratory birds: beach user engagement and education, clean up works by community volunteers.

Monitor and opportunities

(Possible opportunities 2018-23).

1.3.2

Manage native flora and fauna and habitats conserved and species and communities threatened at national or state level to protect them from harm.

Conservation covenant support

- Maintain rate relief (conservation covenants) policy for landholders volunteering to reserve native habitat on their land.

Continuing

Council Policy - review of effectiveness as required.

Flora and fauna conservation

- Promote local native flora and habitat management with landholders.

2019-20

Council, website and customer service.

Action Plan				
	Threatened biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and take up opportunities for actions for priority species and communities with regional, national and state threatened species initiatives and landholder projects. 	Monitor and opportunities, continuing.	Depends on external funding (possible opportunities 2018-23).
1.3.3	Urban and peri-urban habitats. Nature in built environments managed to produce quality-of-life benefits for people and habitat value for wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and review a 'Tree Guide' for the municipality to inform species selection and re-planting decisions. 	2018-19	Council.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the state of vegetation cover of urban and peri-urban areas, benefits, issues and trends and develop strategies for management priorities. 	2021-2023, monitor and opportunities	Select/priority locations for urban green space planning. Seek opportunities for external funding and programs/partners.

2 WATER

2.1 Catchment Management

Impacting water issues on a watershed scale.

2.1.1

Coordinate and integrate management priorities of catchments.

Integrated catchment management priorities

- Progressively review known issues and their management status to identify future integrated catchment management actions for the George, South Esk rivers and the other large catchment systems.

2018-19, continuing

Council (progressive review) – implementing actions depends on opportunities for external funding and programs/ partners (ie. on water quality, waterway fitness, flood and other strategies).

- Review issues and their management status of our small **coastal water catchments**, identifying priority issues and strategies to manage the health of their aquatic systems.

2022-23

Council, monitor and opportunities.

2.2 Water Quality

Aquatic biodiversity, people and productivity benefit from clean and healthy fresh and marine waters.

Aim	Strategy	Actions	Priority	Comment
2.2.1 Reducing water pollution impacts on aquatic habitats and water resources in the municipality with strategies for litter, nutrients, sediments, diseases, toxic pollutants.	Water Quality actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate Healthy Georges Catchment and Bay activities; coordinating the establishment of a reference group of relevant stakeholders for the protection of the health of Georges Bay. 	2018-19	Council and others.
	Action on water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid dumping of boat sewage in Georges Bay by promoting with port user community and authorities use of the wharf sewage pump-out station and compliance with state directives. 	2019-2020	Council, engaging port users, Taswater, MAST, EPA.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of oil-spill response capacity for Georges Bay—local resources and people to treat small spills. 	2020-2021	Council with state government and others—seek opportunities with funding programs and partners.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop water quality priorities and opportunities for action in the George catchment and Bay from the review of catchment issues and their management status, with community, aquaculture and state agencies, including monitoring water quality. 	2020-2022	Monitor for opportunities with funding programs and partners for actions.	

Action Plan

- Support works for river water quality to achieve integrated management priorities for catchments (identified by 2.1.1 above), such as revegetation or changed grazing and cropping practices, effluent re-use and water quality monitoring.

Monitor and opportunities

State government, Council and others— nature of works depends on funding programs and partners (possible opportunities 2018-23).

2.2.2

Reducing dissolved, suspended and gross pollutants in stormwater from built environments impacting on streams, estuaries, lagoons and wetlands.

Stormwater

- Support Council’s Stormwater System Management Plan process to include 'clean stormwater objectives' and facilitate priority actions for water quality.

2020-2023, monitor and opportunities

Council, such as WSUD demonstration sites, which are likely to depend on funding opportunities.

- Facilitate information and training to improve soil and water management practices in Council operations, and with landholders, businesses and local civil construction, building and property industry.

2021-22, continuing

Council with others; seek opportunities for external funding and programs/partners.

2.3 Wetlands and Waterways

Stable stream channels and estuaries, lagoons and wetlands, protected by riparian buffers to maintain healthy aquatic systems and clean water.

2.3.1

Managing riparian buffers and stability of the bed and banks of stream channels to provide healthy natural river systems.

River management practices

- Undertake engagement, awareness and training activities and support demonstration sites for best practice river management with landholders.

Continuing and monitor and opportunities

Council landholder groups; possible opportunities 2019-2023.

Riparian and riverworks

- Review past 'rivercare' programs and plans and the status of streams to identify critical stream sites threatening the natural stability of river systems and, prioritising healthy stream reaches and building on past works (referencing 2.1.1 above); facilitate riverworks projects to stabilise and protect identified priority sites and stream reaches.

2020-2022, Continuing, monitor and opportunities

Council review; builded on 2.1.1 (above) identifying integrated management priorities for catchments. Facilitating works depends on funding programs and partners.

2.3.2

Maintain the health of our estuaries, coastal lagoons and wetlands with targeted management.

Estuaries, coastal lagoons and wetlands

- Review Break O'Day Coastal Lagoons 'health check' Assessment (2009) and other data on coastal waterway health and issues to identify current priorities, and develop opportunities and facilitate works and other management strategies to enhance and protect identified priority coastal wetlands and waterways.

2021-2022, monitor and opportunities

Council, review of current priorities for action. Facilitating works depends on opportunities with funding programs and partners.

2.4 Marine Environment and Aquatic Resources

Healthy and productive marine systems.

2.4.1

Sustainably managed marine habitats and resources.

Marine protected areas

- Support state government in providing information and programs on marine protected areas.

Monitor and opportunities.

Council and others, seek funding and partner opportunities.

2.5 Flood Hazards and Risks

Reduce the risks from flooding.

2.5.1

Flood resilient communities minimising their flood risks and the impacts of flooding.

St Marys Flood Risk Management

- Develop and maintain a St Marys Flood Risk Management Plan for Council to review and endorse to implement recommendations of the St Marys Rivulet flood risk report.

2018-19

Council.

- Implement priority actions from St Marys Flood Risk Management Plan, including pursuing funding to undertake priority works.

2018-2023, continuing

Council and others, seek funding and partner opportunities.

Lower George and floodplain

- Liaise and support Georges Riverworks Trust to develop an action plan for managing flooding issues and threats (including river channel changes/break outs), using the 2018 sedimentation investigation by the Trust and priorities for catchment management, and secure funding for works priorities.

2018-2021, monitor and opportunities

Riverworks Trust, Council support, both seek funding and partner opportunities. Coordinate with *Tasmanian Flood Mapping Project* and integrated catchment management priorities (1.1.2 above).

Action Plan

- Facilitate modelling of flooding and river channel changes/break-out risks with the Riverworks Trust and government to assess flood risks and management priorities for infrastructure, households and businesses, and develop priorities for implementation.

2019-2021,
monitor and
opportunities

Council and Riverworks Trust, working with the *Tasmanian Flood Mapping Project* and funding opportunities.

3 OUR USE

3.1 Natural Hazards and Risks

Reduce the risks from water, fire, storms, climate change, waste.

Aim	Strategy	Actions	Priority	Comment
<p><i>Note: 'Flood hazards and risks' are included in the Water focus area above to align with the Council Strategic Plan 2017-2027.</i></p>				

3.2 Access—using & enjoying the Environment

Using natural resources in a sustainable manner with strong stewardship for lasting opportunities and productivity.

Aim	Strategy	Actions	Priority	Comment
<p>3.2.1 Land managers, users and community collaborating to ensure recreational use in Break O’Day is environmentally responsible and sustainable.</p>	<p>Cooperative management of recreational use issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate cooperative solutions for sustainable management of coastal camping and visitor sites, off-road vehicle use and growing demand and use pressures on our coastline. 	Continuing, monitor and opportunities	Council with community, PWS and interest groups—monitor for opportunities.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and share expertise in best practice environmental planning and management for sustainable MTB trail development and operation. 	2019-2022, monitor and opportunities	Council, with user groups, industry and land managers.

3.3 Awareness—using & enjoying the Environment

The natural environment is understood, appreciated and cared for well.

Aim	Strategy	Actions	Priority	Comment
<p>3.3.1 Increase awareness of the natural environment, its values and the pressures it faces, and build capacity for appropriate actions and behaviours to sustain it and what it provides.</p>	<p>Information, knowledge and skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and provide access to information, publications and resources on the environment and natural resource management for visitors, landholders and land managers and agencies—Council website local and other contact networks, media, print. 	<p>Continuing, monitor and opportunities</p>	<p>Council as required across focus areas and strategies for Land, Water and Our Use. Uses information resources of government and others and some by Council.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support activities and events to foster a positive relationship between Council, the community and the environment. Such as outdoor activities (eg. tree planting, rubbish clean-ups, citizen science, weeding days, ‘discovery’ & summer activities), training, presentations, workshops and discussion forums, support for groups. 	<p>Continuing, monitor and opportunities</p>	<p>Council, as required, with community groups, across focus areas and strategies for Land, Water and Our Use. Seek funding and partner opportunities — possible opportunities 2018-2023.</p>

Action Plan

<p>3.3.2 Community has opportunities to be an active and leading participant in action to achieve outcomes for the environment and natural resource management.</p>	<p>Work together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting local communities, groups and volunteers (such as Upper South Esk Landcare & Productivity Group, NE Bioregional Network and Wildcare groups) and programs, and with regional and higher networks and governments. 	<p>Continuing, monitor and opportunities</p>	<p>Council, as required, with community and others, across focus areas and strategies for Land, Water and Our Use. Seek funding and partner opportunities.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Charter for Break O’Day Council Special NRM Committee to provide balanced representation and a forum for collaboration on issues priorities and maintain and evaluate progress with the Environment and NRM Plan. 	<p>Continuing</p>	<p>Council.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise and applaud significant contributions to the environment and natural resource management with targeted awards, grant programs or events. 	<p>2019-2020, continuing</p>	<p>Council; and seek and promote funding, awards and partner opportunities.</p>
<p>3.3.3 Aboriginal people and their deep cultural connection and traditions on the land and sea shared and respected in the community.</p>	<p>Aboriginal community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with Aboriginal people, groups and their culture, by promoting and supporting information and learning activities and environmental management projects. 	<p>Continuing, monitor and opportunities</p>	<p>Council with Aboriginal people of Break O’Day and others, seeking appropriate opportunities for activities, partners and funding together.</p>