



Strategic Plan

July 2007

to

June 2009



Tasmanian Conservation Trust

Strategic Plan July 2007 – June 2009

Introduction

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT) was formed in 1968 and has for many years performed the role of Tasmania's peak conservation organisation. The TCT has a broad range of individuals, groups and businesses as members and is governed by a Council elected from this membership. The TCT is a non-political organisation, and is committed to working with government, industry, other non-government organisations and the community to achieve genuine, on-ground conservation outcomes whenever and wherever possible.

The core activities of the TCT:

- Represent conservation interests to all levels of government, industry, and the broader community.
- Formally engage with government and industry on conservation issues, participate in management processes and provide independent and informed advice.
- Emphasise the importance of the protection and, where possible, enhancement of the natural environment and heritage of Tasmania.
- Provide advice and support to groups and individuals on conservation-related issues.
- Assess and comment upon proposed developments and other activities that have the potential to have significant conservation impacts, on a case by case basis.
- Actively assist in the development and promotion of ecologically sustainable activities.
- Encourage and support scientific research and disseminate information on conservation-related issues.
- Encourage and support involvement of the broader community in the management of natural resources.
- Take such action as is considered necessary or appropriate in the interests of promoting conservation and protecting the natural environment and heritage of Tasmania.

The Strategic Plan

This document will provide the strategic direction for the TCT over the next two years. It is intended to be a living document that will be reviewed, and if necessary revised, as and when required, including at least once prior to the end of June 2008.

The plan is divided into 10 key challenges for the organisation for the next two years. Each of these challenges has one or more objectives associated with it, and in turn each of these has a number of actions and targets. Three of these challenges are priority ones, and the organisation will devote resources to these three issues first and foremost. Many of the targets are collaborative ones, and rely just as much on the actions of other bodies as the TCT. Nevertheless, these are important outcomes which we intend to work towards, hence their inclusion in this plan.

Mission Statement

The mission of the TCT is:

- *to be Tasmania's premier conservation group;*
- *to be representative of a broad range of individuals, groups, and businesses;*
- *to provide independent and informed comment on conservation issues;*
and
- *to achieve genuine, on-ground conservation outcomes.*

Support our key stakeholders

Priority Challenge #1

The key stakeholders of the TCT include: the government agencies with which we interact on a regular basis; non-government organisations with which we share common goals and/or which complement our core activities; the projects and corporations we work closely with; and the individuals, organisations and businesses that make up our membership. Specifically, these key stakeholders are:

- all individual, concession, household, organisation and corporate members of the TCT.
- Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water
- Tasmanian Department of Tourism, Arts and Environment
- Australian Department of Environment and Water Resources
- Sustainable Living Tasmania
- Launceston Environment Centre
- Northwest Environment Centre
- Tasmanian Land Conservancy
- Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania
- WWF Australia
- Humane Society International.

● **Objective 1: Maintain and build relationships with key stakeholders**

Actions

- Provide advice, support and resources to key stakeholders.
- Increase cooperation with key NGO stakeholders on submissions, grant applications and projects.
- Complement activities of key stakeholders.
- Produce and distribute newsletter, email bulletins and media on TCT activities.
- Maintain and update website.
- Maintain involvement in government committees and working groups.
- Provide formal comment on conservation issues to government and industry.
- Maintain involvement in Derwent Estuary Program.

Targets

- 6 editions of *The Tasmanian Conservationist* per year.
- 4 joint submissions completed in each of 2007 and 2008.
- 1 joint project grant application with a key stakeholder per year.
- 24 formal submissions on conservation issues per year.
- 1 round-table conference per year involving key stakeholders.

Increase support for the TCT

Priority Challenge #2

Increasing support of the TCT from individuals, organisations and businesses will help confirm our position as Tasmania's premier conservation group as well as increase our capacity for fundraising, which in turn will help implement this strategic plan.

• Objective 2: Increase the number of individuals supporting the TCT

Actions

- Initiate advertising to capitalise on major project announcements and activities.
- Use targeted mail-outs to capitalise on major project announcements and activities.
- Distribute promotional material at specific events and through associated organisations.
- Establish protocols to distribute promotional material in response to enquiries.
- Review website as membership tool.
- As and when required, produce and distribute promotional materials at events as well as generally, including but not limited to newsletters, membership brochures, position papers and stickers.
- Target key individuals, particularly scientists and conservation professionals, for membership.

Target

- An additional 100 individual members by the end of June 2009.

• Objective 3: Increase number of groups supporting the TCT

Actions

- Alter TCT constitution to allow for NGO representation on council.
- Target NGOs for membership of TCT.

Targets:

- 2 NGOs as members of the TCT Council by the end of 2007.
- 10 additional NGOs as members of TCT by end of June 2009.

• Objective 4: Increase number of businesses supporting TCT

Actions

- Target businesses for sponsorship of specific projects.
- Seek advertising for newsletter and website.
- Target businesses for membership.

Targets

- 1 additional business-sponsored project per year.
- 5 new corporate members by the end of June 2009.

Protecting Tasmanian biodiversity

Priority Challenge #3

Protecting Tasmania's unique native plants and animals from human-induced impacts is one of the most important tasks of the TCT.

• Objective 5: Improving management of native vegetation

Actions

- Engage with State and Commonwealth agencies, NRM committees, Forest Practices Authority and other regulatory bodies on native vegetation management issues.
- Highlight inappropriate native vegetation management activities.
- Participate in and support processes that will increase the level of reservation of under-reserved vegetation communities.
- Utilise Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System and other statutory avenues to protect significant native vegetation as and when required.

Target

- Reduction in number and extent of under-reserved native vegetation communities by June 2009.



• Objective 6: Ending or mitigating unsustainable and unacceptable impacts on native animals

Actions

- Maintain opposition to the use of 1080 poison against native animals.
- Engage with government, industry and stakeholders in the phasing out of 1080 poison.
- Maintain opposition to inadequately regulated and researched recreational and commercial exploitation of native animals.
- Develop and promote roadkill mitigation strategies.
- Utilise Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System and other statutory avenues to prevent unsustainable and unacceptable impacts on native animals.

Targets

- Use of 1080 poison against native animals continues to decline each year.
- Recreational duck and shearwater harvesting on public land ends by June 2009.
- Assess and comment on all commercial wildlife harvesting proposals.

• Objective 7: Protecting native species and communities

Actions

- Support threatened species recovery planning processes.
- Seek to fill gaps in listed threatened species and communities.

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- Oppose developments that have significant impacts on threatened species.
 - Utilise Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System and other statutory avenues to protect native species and communities where and when necessary.
 - Support, promote and progress projects in partnership with government, industry and other NGOs that will protect native species and communities.

Targets

- Assess and comment on all proposals that might have a significant impact on listed threatened species and communities.
- Prepare two submissions per year on gaps in listed threatened species and communities.
- Have a native species/communities conservation project up and running by June 2008.

• **Objective 8: Combating invasive species and diseases**

Actions

- Maintain involvement in fox taskforce and seek means to value-add to eradication effort.
- Maintain support for mandatory cat registration.
- Maintain support for increased biosecurity measures.
- Support Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) Taskforce.
- Support targeted invasive species control/eradication projects.
- Investigate and highlight impacts of emerging diseases.

Targets

- 4 Tasmanian councils involved in cat registration schemes by June 2009.
- Membership of Fox Taskforce and DFTD Taskforce maintained.
- No new incursions of invasive species and diseases.

Achieve collaborative conservation outcomes on private land

Challenge #4

Engaging positively with private landholders provides a major opportunity for achieving genuine on-ground conservation outcomes.

• **Objective 9: Increase in Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification of forestry operations on private land**

Actions

- Maintain involvement in FSC Australia.
- Participate in National Standards Development process.
- Promote FSC to private landholders and wider community.

Targets

- 1 Tasmanian property per year achieving FSC certification.

• **Objective 10: Increase in the amount of private land managed for conservation**

Actions

- Maintain involvement in government initiatives for conservation on private land.
- Engage with industry, landholders and key stakeholders on initiatives for conservation on private land.
- Review private land conservation measures, particularly property management planning processes and produce analysis.

Targets

- Review of private land conservation measures, highlighting positives, negatives and opportunities for involvement and value-adding, presented to Council by end of June 2008.
- Formal TCT involvement in private land conservation initiative by end of June 2009.

Sustainable waste management

Challenge #5

Improving waste management practices and promoting recycling are genuine conservation outcomes.

- **Objective 11: Participate in sustainable waste management projects**

Actions

- Assess status of Great Car Body Clean up Project.
- Assess existing waste management practices.
- Support container deposit legislation.
- Investigate alternative waste management projects.
- Liaise with Department of Tourism, Arts and Environment, industry and the community on waste management issues.

Target

- New sustainable waste management project initiated by June 2008.
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Mitigating climate change

Challenge #6

Climate change is the planet's single biggest conservation issue. Although Tasmania's contribution to climate change is small, we are morally obliged to take steps to reduce our emissions.

- **Objective 12: Track, coordinate and/or complement a climate change campaign in Tasmania**

Actions

- Track all climate change-related activities and events in Tasmania.
- Engage with other NGOs, industry, government, research institutions and individuals on climate change.
- Collate and distribute climate change-related information via email bulletin, contributions to websites, newsletters and media.
- Maintain support for setting of Tasmanian-specific targets for emission reductions.
- Maintain involvement in Climate Action Network of Australia.
- Support the Up2Me website and campaign.

Targets

- Adoption of acceptable emission-reduction targets by the Tasmanian Government by 2008.
- Increased cooperation between NGOs on climate change issues.

- **Objective 13: Investigate carbon trading and carbon offset schemes**

Actions

- Compile position paper on carbon offsets and carbon trading in Tasmanian context.
- Seek endorsement of position paper by other NGOs.
- Engage with relevant stakeholders.
- Participate in any appropriate Tasmanian-based scheme.

Target

- Position paper finalised by the end of 2007.

Protecting the coastal, estuarine and marine environment

Challenge #7

Tasmania's coastal, estuarine and marine environments are under increasing pressure from development, pollution and unsustainable activities.

• Objective 14: Work towards sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

Actions

- Maintain participation in fisheries management advisory committees (MACs) and other fisheries and aquaculture management processes.
- Comment on new and exploratory fisheries and aquaculture proposals.
- Oppose unsustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices.
- Maintain support for inclusion of marine farming in the planning system.
- Maintain engagement with industry.

Targets

- Recreational gill netting banned in Tasmania by June 2009.
- Membership of all Tasmanian MACs maintained.
- Provide comment on all new fisheries and aquaculture proposals.
- Marine farming included in planning system by June 2009.



• Objective 15: Assess and comment upon activities and proposals likely to have significant impact on coastal, estuarine and marine environment

Actions

- Assess and comment on all proposals likely to have a significant impact on the coastal, marine or estuarine environment.
- Support appropriate developments and oppose inappropriate developments.
- Support implementation of prescriptive and properly resourced State Coastal Policy.
- Utilise Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System and other statutory avenues to protect the coastal, estuarine and marine environment, as and when required.

Target

- Assess and comment on all significant coastal, estuarine and marine issues.

Protecting Tasmania's reserve system

Challenge #8

Tasmania's existing reserve system is one of its greatest assets, but is at risk from inadequate funding and inappropriate development.

- **Objective 16: Protect existing reserves**

Actions

- Maintain support for adequate resources for managing Tasmania's reserve system, both terrestrial and marine.
- Investigate innovative ways of leveraging additional funds for reserve management.
- Assess development proposals within reserves against statutory management plans and principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- Support appropriate developments and oppose inappropriate developments.
- Lobby for exclusion of inappropriate and unsustainable activities from reserves.
- Utilise Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System and other statutory avenues to protect existing reserves where and when necessary.

Target

- Increased resources for management of Tasmanian reserves by June 2009.

- **Objective 17: Support expansion of the CAR (comprehensive, adequate, representative) reserve system to address existing shortfalls**

Actions

- Maintain support and participation in RPDC marine protected areas (MPA) process.
- Support consolidation of reserves around the Tarkine into a single reserve.
- Promote inclusion of identified areas of World Heritage significance into the existing WHA.
- Support new reserve proposals that address existing shortfalls.

Target

- 2 new MPAs by June 2009.
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Sustainable water management

Challenge #9

Protecting water catchments and hydrological cycles and encouraging sustainable water use and management are key activities of the TCT.

- **Objective 18: Assess and comment on significant water management issues**

Actions

- Assess and comment on major water management issues, including water management plans, catchment management plans and large dam proposals.
- Assess and comment upon issues that are likely to have a significant impact on water quality.
- Utilise Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System and other statutory avenues to protect freshwater ecosystems and water quality where and when necessary.
- Maintain support for reform of urban water management reform, including two-part pricing and a single water/wastewater authority.
- Support inclusion of plantations and other major water interceptors into the water management framework.
- Monitor implementation of the National Water Initiative.
- Identify appropriate dam-decommissioning projects.

Targets

- Assess and comment on all Draft Water Management Plans.
- Assess and comment on all large dam proposals.
- Major reform of urban water management by June 2009.

Enhance organisational efficiency

Challenge #10

The TCT's organisational efficiency is sub-optimal, particularly with in regard to office space, IT resources, furniture and general work practices.

• Objective 19: Prepare staff position descriptions

Actions

- Full descriptions for all positions confirmed by strategic plan to be prepared and approved by Council.
- Assign existing staff to positions.
- Appoint new staff where necessary.

Targets

- Position descriptions completed by the end of 2007.
- New staff appointed by the end of 2007.

• Objective 20: Prepare action plan addressing office location

Actions

- Collaborate with Sustainable Living Tasmania and other NGOs in seeking new premises.
- Investigate alternative office locations.

Target

- Decision made on new office location by the end of 2007.

• Objective 21: Overhaul of TCT office equipment

Actions

- Review existing furniture resources.
- Make recommendations on necessary upgrades (furniture, phone lines etc).
- Prepare and cost plan to upgrade resources.

Targets

- Plan for required upgrades in place by end of 2007.
- Upgrades implemented by the end of June 2009.

• Objective 22: Review IT resources and practices

Actions

- Review IT resources and prepare action plan, including costs.
- Assess use of IT resources by staff and alter where necessary.
- Increase use of electronic documents as opposed to hard copies.

Targets

- Action plan accepted and implemented.
- 95% electronic distribution of media releases, submissions and other key documents by the end of 2007.
- 25% of members receiving electronic copy of TCT newsletter by end of June 2009.
