

Break O' Day Municipal Management Plan Vegetation Management Plan, 2013 - Summary Document

The Vegetation Management Plan was prepared following surveying and investigations to:

- Utilise, present and interpret available data on the vegetation and natural values of the defined coastal zone.
- Confirm boundaries of sensitive or threatened ecosystem boundaries utilizing existing data.
- Identify major areas of ecosystem connectivity utilizing existing data.
- Indicate areas and locations with potential for future development.
- Make recommendations for the management of vegetation within identified areas of the coastal zone.

In Break O' Day the following Coastal bioregions are recognised:

- **Flinders:** the coastal strips forming the eastern part of the Break O' Day Municipality (as well as Flinders Island to the north).
- **Freycinet Marine Bioregion:** This covers the marine coastal environment from Tasmania's North East tip to Maria Island.

For simplicity, ES&D identified high potential impact zones, which are shown in Figure 1 and identified as:

Survey Area 1: ANSONS BAY extending from the northern boundary of the Municipality near Boulder Point south of Cape Naturaliste within Mt William National Park to and including Policemans Point where Ansons Bay itself meets the sea.

Survey Area 2: THE GARDENS extending from south of Policemans Point to the south of The Gardens point adjacent to where Big Lagoon enters the sea.

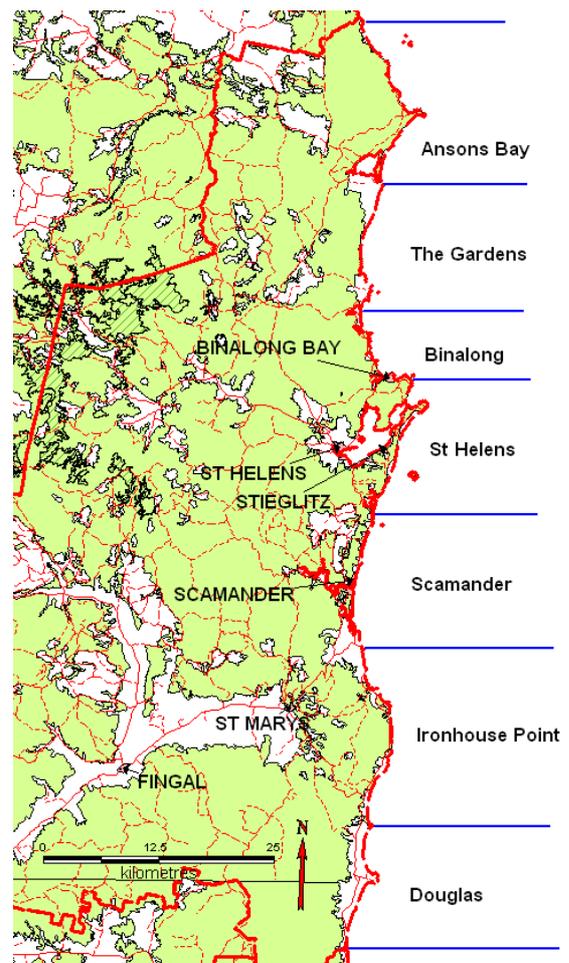
Survey Area 3: BINALONG BAY from where Big Lagoon enters the sea to the township of Binalong Bay and to the top of Moulting Bay to include the Humbug Point Nature Recreation Area.

Survey Area 4: ST HELENS extending from Humbug Point Nature Recreation Area to Diana's Basin including Georges Bay, St Helens and Stieglitz urban area and St Helens Point.

Survey Area 5: SCAMANDER from south of Diana's Basin to north of Henderson's Lagoon including the townships of Scamander and Beaumaris.

Survey Area 6. IRONHOUSE POINT from and including Henderson's Lagoon and Falmouth to Chain of Lagoons, including Four Mile Creek, Ironhouse Point and Picaninny Point.

Survey Area 7. DOUGLAS RIVER from Picaninny Point to the southern boundary of the Municipality south of Douglas River, including Seymour and Long Point.



The vegetation regime along the area nominated as coast was examined by review of numerous existing reports from a variety of sources. Following this review, observations in the field were necessary to gauge the existing condition of the vegetation and to observe the pressures resulting from various management and policy processes. The interpretation of the data review and on site observations has led to the following conclusions, which may be concisely stated as:

- Given that tourism is a major economic driver for Break O'Day Council, it is essential to recognise that one of the principle attractions for tourists to the area is the landscape, of which the vegetation is a major component.
- The available vegetation data is not (and is unlikely ever to be) adequate to make proper decisions on the sensitivity of land proposed for development on a lot by lot or even sub divisional basis. Subsequently, a flora/fauna assessment that takes local AND regional considerations into account should be mandatory for development applications.
- The capacity of Break O'Day Council to manage the coastal strip is limited by tenure and capacity. Tenure control is limited by the fact that the entire immediate coastline, and much of the hinterland, is managed by Parks & Wildlife, and a much smaller proportion of the hinterland is freehold land. Capacity to manage the coast is also limited by financial capacity, planning scheme restrictions, and political impediments.
- Vegetation management needs to take into account the conflicting but overlapping requirements of protection of life and property from fire, AND protection of natural ecology from fire. Subsequently a fire management policy needs to be completed which includes a concept of limits of burn frequency for various vegetation types and conditions, subdivisional and residential clearing, campfires and access to residences in vegetated areas.
- The minimum lot size for environmental sustainability is much greater than the minimum planning scheme required lot size of 2 hectares.
- It is absolutely essential that proper management of coastal vegetation and infrastructure needs to be undertaken with full cooperation of the stakeholders, principally DPIPWE and Parks & Wildlife, but also such organisations as DIER and TasWater.
- Break O'Day Council's Tree Policy does not encourage the retention of trees.

The report identifies vegetation communities, threatened flora, environmental weeds and reserved lands within each of the survey areas and identified potential issues, limitations and where opportunity for development or conservation exists.

The outcomes of the Vegetation Management Plan will then inform the preparation of the Coastal Plan, which is currently under preparation by TCG Planning as a component of the Municipal Management Plan.