

# Georges Bay Foreshore Strategy



## Acknowledgement of Country

Break O' Day Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land and pays respect to ancestors and to Elders, past, present, and emerging. We honour their culture and knowledge as vital to the self-determination, wellbeing, and resilience of their communities. We stand for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, culture, language and history.

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## Overview

The objective of this strategy is to create an accessible, diverse, and flexible network of public foreshore spaces along the Georges Bay foreshore for the enjoyment and benefit of our residents and visitors. It covers eight public spaces connected by the Georges Bay trail including Moulting Bay, the Bird Viewing Platform, St Helens Foreshore, Beauty Bay, Kirwan’s Beach, Lions Park, O’Connor’s Beach, and Stieglitz Foreshore. Popular activities around the foreshore include boating, paddling, fishing, walking, cycling, markets, food trucks and events. Individually, each site is unique and has its own characteristics and key activities. Collectively, these spaces form a connected network of public spaces that cater to the wider community’s needs.

## Our vision

Our vision is aspirational, describing what we envisage our public foreshore spaces around Georges Bay will be like in the years to come.

*‘We envisage a network of public foreshore spaces connected by the Georges Bay Trail that are accessible to all, are well provisioned with diverse recreation facilities and are flexible in supporting new opportunities and responding to challenges.’*

## Our principles

The following principles will guide our approach to planning and improvement in public spaces around the foreshore.

### Accessible

Our foreshore is connected, easy to navigate, safe, and welcoming for everyone.

### Diverse

Our foreshore supports diverse use for an active, vibrant, and connected community.

### Flexible

Our foreshore is flexible, supporting new opportunities and responding to challenges.

## What is covered?

The strategy covers eight key public foreshore spaces connected by the Georges Bay Trail. It applies to lands and structures under the management of Break O’ Day Council.

Where?	Who?	What?
The Georges Bay Foreshore including the Georges Bay Trail, Moulting Bay, Bird Viewing Platform, St Helens Foreshore, Beauty Bay, Kirwan’s Beach, Lions Park, O’Connor’s Beach, and Steiglitz Foreshore.	Break O Day Council in partnership with public landowners including Crown Land Services and Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania.	Public foreshore spaces and the infrastructure to support community use.



### Where does it fit?

The strategy builds on and integrates information and actions from several local and regional strategies and plans including:

Local	Regional
Break O'Day Land Use Development Strategy	East Coast Marine Infrastructure Strategy
Break O'Day Coastal Plan	Planning for Sustainable Tourism on Tasmania's East Coast
Break O'Day Recreation & Open Space Strategy	
Break O'Day Economic Development Strategy	
Break O'Day Responding to Climate Change	
Break O'Day Georges Bay Foreshore Recreational Precinct Plan	
Break O'Day St Helens Township Plan	
Break O'Day Disability Action Plan	

## Impacts of COVID-19

Around twice as many Australians are now working remotely (either at home or away from their regular office) than was the case before the pandemic. Increased ability to work remotely, combined with affordability and lifestyle factors, has seen more people relocate to regions such as Break O' Day. The rate of population growth outside Greater Hobart has been increasing in recent years, overtaking the state's capital in 2020.<sup>1</sup> In 2021, 6936 residents called Break O' Day home, a 13% increase on 2016 figures.<sup>2</sup> Upgrading our public spaces along the Georges Bay foreshore will improve the lifestyle of our current and future residents and consolidate our place as an attractive destination to live and holiday.

## Importance of health and wellbeing

The benefits of being active are well documented and important for the health and wellbeing of our community. Tasmania has the highest median age of all Australian states at 42 years of age and Break O' Day has one of the highest in Tasmania at 56 years of age. As a result, we report more health conditions associated with an ageing population including arthritis, heart disease and mental health conditions. Improving access to quality open spaces can have significant physical, social, financial and mental benefits. Mental health in particular has become a common and growing driver of participation in recreation. From 2020-21 to 2021-2022 there has been a significant increase in mental health as a participation motive across all age groups in Australia including young adults, people living with a disability and older Australians aged 55+. By upgrading our recreational and community infrastructure around the Georges Bay foreshore, we will support our community to be happier, healthier and have high quality of life.

## Climate change and sea level rise

Many of Tasmania's coastal areas will be at risk from sea level rise and more severe storm surges associated with climate change with impacts including, increased coastal erosion and recession of erodible shorelines, inundation and flooding of low-lying areas and coastal infrastructure. Infrastructure and facilities in high-risk locations is likely to incur damage or require redesign or relocation. Further, rising average temperatures particularly in summer highlights the importance of shade to ensure users stay cool. To protect our foreshore spaces, we need to plan ahead to ensure they are resilient and adaptable to climate change and sea level rise.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UTAS COVID 19 and the future of work in Tasmania Report

<sup>2</sup> Census 2021 Break O Day Quick Stats

<sup>3</sup> Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania Tasmanian Coastal Works Manual

## Community Snapshot

Between the 13<sup>th</sup> of June and 27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022 we asked for community participation in an online survey and received 161 responses. The survey asked how frequently people visited foreshore spaces, what activities they took part in and what suggestions they had for improvement. We promoted participation of the survey through social media, Councils website, distribution through community groups as well as site signage with QR links at public foreshore spaces. In addition, 16 key stakeholder groups were interviewed, and feedback provided.

We learnt that we are an active community with high participation in recreation activities on both land and water. On land, active use had the highest level of participation with 83%, followed by passive use and fishing. On water, sail/paddle which includes kayaks, individual sailing vessels, wind surfing, canoes and surf skis had the highest level of participation with 51% followed by swimming and boating.

Top 3 land-based activities		Top 3 water-based activities	
83%	Active Use	51%	Sail/ Paddle
58%	Passive Use	44%	Swimming
35%	Fishing	42%	Boating

We also learnt that we visit our foreshores less in the winter months, likely attributed to the shorter days and colder weather.

Visitation in Summer		Visitation in Winter	
39%	A few times a week	30%	A few times a week
33%	Daily	19%	Daily
12%	Once a week	14%	Once a week
8%	Once a fortnight	12%	Once a fortnight
4%	Once a month	12%	Once a month
3%	Rarely	12%	Rarely

We asked what level of change you would like to see at St Helens Foreshore and we learnt that is needed but that it needs to be sympathetic and considered, a balance between major and minor improvement.

48%	Want to see minor improvements (eg renewing existing facilities, minor upgrades etc)
44%	Want to see major improvements (eg. reconsidering locations of existing infrastructure, upgrading infrastructure and facilities)

We also asked where our priorities for improvements at St Helens Foreshore should be. The top 3 responses were:

43%	Improvements to walk/ cycle connections
37%	Improvements to recreational facilities
37%	Improvements to commercial/ hospitality style businesses

## Framework

The framework provides a structure for planning and improvement of public foreshore spaces. It consists of two components:

- 1) A hierarchy; three levels of foreshore space each with a clear intended purpose and function.
- 2) Key activities; identifying the key activities to be supported within each space.

## Hierarchy

There are three levels of foreshore space including Destination, District and Local. Each has a clear intended purpose and function within the greater foreshore.

Hierarchy	Purpose and Function
Destination	<p>Large, flexible public spaces with diverse facilities that cater to a wide range of users. Can support more than 3 key activities.</p> <p>Example: St Helens Foreshore</p>
District	<p>Distinctive spaces that support the uses that are most suited to the site. Can support up to 3 key activities.</p> <p>Examples: Beauty Bay and Stieglitz Foreshore.</p>
Local	<p>Low-key spaces that support 1-2 key activities. While generally not destinations themselves, these spaces play an important role as quiet spaces and provide respite along the Georges Bay Trail. Natural values should be prioritized at these sites.</p> <p>Example: Moulting Bay and Bird Viewing Platform.</p>



## Key activities

This component of the framework identifies which key activities are most appropriate for the site. Key activities will be supported in the action plan. The aim is to create an appropriate and sustainable level of use at each site, reducing the risk of crowding, user conflict and land and infrastructure degradation from overuse.

Activity	Example
Boating	Power boating and fishing, jet skiing and motorised water sports such as water-skiing, wake boarding etc.
Sail/ Paddle	Kayaks, individual sailing vessels, wind surfing, canoes and surf skis etc.
Swimming	Swimming, wadding from shore etc.
Fishing	Casting from beach, jetty or pier. Not from boats etc.
Passive use	Relaxing, picnic, playground etc.
Active use	Walking, jogging, cycling etc.
Commercial/ Hospitality	Café, takeaway etc.

## Development Guidelines

These development guidelines are intended to support implementation of the action plan, ensuring consistent and quality outcomes in all additional, renewed and upgrades facilities around the Georges Bay foreshore. They may also be referenced when considering future community requests.

### Bike racks

The Georges Bay Trail is a popular with cyclists and the provision of bike racks makes it easier and more attractive for cyclists to access other facilities around the bay. Bike racks are located at St Helens Foreshore and Beauty Bay and additional bike racks are proposed at Lions Park, O'Connor's Beach and Stieglitz Foreshore.

- Bike racks are to be installed to relevant Australian standards.
- Bike racks should not interfere with pedestrians and cyclists the Georges Bay Trail and should be set back slightly and close by to other facilities.

### Bins

Bins are required to ensure we sustainably and responsibly manage landfill, recycling waste and dog waste in our public spaces. It is important to carefully consider location, provision and frequency of collection to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.

- Landfill bins are provided at Destination and District Foreshores.
- Recycling bins are only provided at Destination foreshores.
- Dog waste bins with dispensers are provided based on an assessment of other facilities present and need.
- All bins to be located in positions that are accessible for maintenance purposes e.g. near the entry and exits and near BBQ and picnic facilities.
- Dog waste bins are to be located at entry/exit to these reserves and not near any BBQ/picnic areas, playgrounds or seats.

### Boat Ramps

Boat ramps are where we launch our boats and watercraft using trailers and tow vehicles. Ideal Fishing and boating conditions can vary with wind and weather, therefore access at different locations is required. Boat ramps are located around the bay at St Helens Foreshore and Stieglitz Foreshore and further investigation is required for an additional boat ramp at Moulting Bay.

- Boat ramp improvements are in collaboration with MAST.
- Boat ramps and associated facilities must consider projected sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- Off street carparking with trailer provisions are required at all boat ramps.

### Car Parking

Car parking ensures our public spaces are equitable and accessible to all and ensures our residents and visitors who are not within walking or cycling distance can access facilities.

- Off street carparking is required at all destination and district spaces. On street carparking is adequate at local spaces.
- Quantity of parking required to meet the existing or proposed change to the area.
- Carparks should not have undue impact on adjoining land use or create unreasonable loss of existing open space.

- Proposed design to adhere to Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD) principles and best management practice regarding safety of car park design.
- Proposed size, material use and design does not compromise the desired landscape character.
- Lighting is not required, except where there is insufficient ambient light.
- Encourage, where appropriate, multiple use of the car park (i.e. surface that is available for other uses when not being used as a car park).

## Drinking water

Drinking water is a vital component to keeping people hydrated and healthy during recreational activities. To promote and encourage people to drink more water, drinking water should be accessible, appealing and readily available. Water refill station upgrades are proposed at St Helens Foreshore, Beauty Bay, Lions Park, O'Connor's Beach and Steiglitz Foreshore.

- Water refill stations with fountains, downward bottle tap and dog bowls are the preferred way of accessing water over standalone drinking fountains or taps.
- Location of refill stations to consider projected sea level and coastal erosion.
- Refill stations to be located along the Georges Bay Trail and nearby to other facilities such as playgrounds, toilets, and picnic areas.
- Flow meter gauges can be installed to monitor usage.

## Exercise equipment

Informal exercise in has increased in popularity across the country creating demand for more free-to-use, unstructured physical activity opportunities. Provision of outdoor exercise equipment supports active lifestyles and community connection with a focus on health prevention. Exercise equipment is located at St Helens Foreshore with additional facilities proposed for Steiglitz Foreshore.

- Exercise equipment should take in views of the bay and pedestrian activity.
- Consideration for additional equipment only in high use areas close to residential areas.
- Provision of equipment should contain a mixture of dynamic and static facilities.

## Jetties

Jetties are structures extending from the shore giving access to deeper water for fishing and swimming. They also provide destinations for walks and places for quiet contemplation. Jetties are located at Beauty Bay, Kirwans Beach, Lions Park and O'Connor's Beach.

- Off street carparking should be provided near jetties where possible.
- Upgrading of existing jetties will be prioritised over construction of new jetties.
- Jetties should include lighting and fish cleaning tables and hook bins to supporting fishing use.
- All new and upgraded jetties should comply with DDA legislation.

## Lighting

Lighting along the foreshore can help to improve safety and amenity, integrate sustainability, and enhance the foreshores lifestyle and character. Good lighting design complements the environment, improving the quality of public spaces, and is crucial aspect of supporting use outside of daylight hours. Lighting improvements are proposed for St Helens Foreshore, Beauty Bay and Kirwans Beach and Georges Bay Trail paths between them.

- Utilise existing lighting where possible, for example, street lighting.

- Lighting alone does not improve safety; safety also requires good passive surveillance from people.
- Where new lighting is required select lighting that: minimises upward glare (to reduce impact on native fauna and adjoining residential amenity), is energy efficient or has a viable alternative energy source, that it is scaled to meet the specific need identified, is easily maintained.
- The design of all lighting upgrades should be considered wherever possible and complement the character of the bay.
- Use a consistent approach to lighting infrastructure design and finishes.

## Picnic/ BBQ Facilities

Picnic and BBQ facilities provide our community with places to cook, eat and socialise. They are equitable and available for use by everyone. Picnic/ BBQ facilities are located at destination and district foreshore spaces around the bay.

- Location to consider projected sea level and coastal erosion.
- Positioned to be near car parking wherever possible.
- Co-located to be near other facilities including playgrounds and toilet facilities where they will be well used.
- Shelters to be designed to respond to the local character and sized to meet the anticipated regular use.
- Designed to allow all-ability access and use of the facility.
- Picnic shelters to be fitted with lighting and USB charging ports wherever feasible.
- Lighting is not required, except where there is insufficient ambient light.

## Play spaces

Access to play spaces provide a safe space for children to become active, engage with others, adapt and learn skills. There are many physical, social, cognitive and emotional benefits that accrue from play. Play spaces are located at St Helens Foreshore, Lions Park and Stieglitz Foreshore.

- Location to consider projected sea level and coastal erosion.
- Universal design principles that optimise access to play spaces and associated park infrastructure for the whole community will underpin the planning and design.
- A focus will be on integrating nature play spaces with the site on which they are located that fits into and complements the landscape is prioritised.
- Tree shade is preferred to shade sails.

## Pontoons

Pontoons are floating structures that support access to tidal waters. They can be located close to shore to support boat and kayak launching or slightly off shore to support swimming. A network of pontoons will support use between sites at Beauty Bay, Kirwans Beach and O'Connor's Beach. Further investigation for an additional pontoon is required at Moulting Bay.

- Off street carparking should be provided near pontoons where possible.
- Universal design principles that optimise access to pontoons and associated infrastructure for the whole community will underpin the planning and design.

## Public Toilets

Public toilets are important community assets that contribute to the vitality and accessibility of public spaces and allow for much longer stays. Public toilets are provided at St Helens Foreshore, Beauty Bay, Lions Park, O'Connor's Beach and Stieglitz Foreshore.

- Location to consider projected sea level and coastal erosion.
- Where possible integrate with other buildings in the reserve.
- Utilise best practice environmentally sustainable principles in siting and design, particularly in relation to water re-use.
- Location should have least possible impact on prominent public views and not create hidden or unusable areas around them.
- Located with as much natural supervision as possible, preferably on a road verge and not adjacent to a car park.
- Designed such that cubicles open directly to the outside and include wash facilities rather than an ante room with basins.
- Adequate lighting.
- Appropriately sized to meet demands and size of the foreshore area.
- Complement the character of the area.
- Provide disability access in accordance with current Australian Standards.

## Seating

Seating that is accessible, comfortable, well-maintained, and located in the right places is vital to creating interesting, vibrant and safe spaces.

- Location to consider projected sea level and coastal erosion.
- Locations for seating are places where there are people, especially in areas where people can watch other people, views or features.
- Consider a variety of settings including some in groups and some alone.
- Consider a variety of locations with some in the shade and others in the sun to provide for a diversity of needs.
- Variety of seat types including bench seats, seats with backs and some including armrests to improve all-ability access.
- Located adjacent to paths or paved areas to allow for access to them.

## Shared paths

Shared paths support uses such as walking, jogging and cycling. These spaces are for everyone to share and enjoy the benefits of being active. The Georges Bay Trail connects seven of our public spaces around the bay, with additional connections proposed between Moulting Bay and Binalong Bay, and O'Connor's Beach and Stieglitz Foreshore.

- Alignment and construction to consider projected sea level and coastal erosion.
- Gradients on existing and proposed paths to meet the standards for access and mobility, and Austroad standards for shared trails.
- Sightlines to allow clear visibility along paths, particularly near bends without low overhanging vegetation.
- To be a minimum of 2.5 metres wide.
- Surface of trail to be appropriate to the character, location and usage levels of the path.
- Have control measures for cyclists at critical points along the trail.

- Minimise points where shared trails cross vehicle entries and boat ramps.

## Signage

Signage and other visual, tactile, sound, colour and light cues can either assist or hinder how people get around, find their way from one point to another. When a space or pathway is well-considered and well-signed, it can help everyone feel more confident and safer, and can be essential for people with disability. Updated signage design guidelines and new signage is recommended for all sites.

- Identification, directional, distance, informational and regulatory signage should be integrated and simplified wherever possible to reduce visual clutter.
- Signage design should be consistent and use clear graphics.
- Identification signage should include place names in English and Palawa kani language.
- Informational signage should include a balance of indigenous and post settlement perspectives.
- Signage on the Georges Bay Trail to clearly highlight that trail is shared and users need to accommodate each other including cyclists, pedestrians, and dog on lead walkers.
- At local spaces, signage should remind visitors to take rubbish home with them if bins are not provided.

## Facility Provision

These facility provision guidelines indicate what type of facilities may be suitable for a foreshore space based on hierarchy. Destination foreshores should be very well provisioned with diverse facilities, district foreshores should have facilities that support key activities and local foreshores should have basic facilities.

- ✓ *Suitable*
- ✗ *Not suitable*
- *Optional if support a key use*

Facility	Destination	District	Local
Barbeques	✓	○	✗
Bike racks	✓	✓	○
Bins – landfill	✓	✓	✗
Bins - recycling	✓	✗	✗
Bins – dog waste with bag dispenser	✓	○	✗
Boat ramps	✓	○	✗
Carpark – off street	✓	✓	✗
Carpark – on street	✓	✓	✓
Community facilities (including club rooms)	✓	✓	✗
Drinking station (fountain/bottle/dog bowl)	✓	✓	✗
Exercise/fitness facility (eg. fitness station, half court, outdoor table tennis etc)	✓	○	✗
Fish cleaning facilities	✓	✓	✗
Jetty	✓	○	✗
Large open grassed areas for unstructured recreational use	✓	✓	○
Lighting (e.g. key linking paths and carparks)	✓	✓	✗
Path - shared	✓	✓	✓
Playground - large	✓	✗	✗
Playground - medium	✓	✓	✗
Playground - small	✓	✓	✗
Pontoon	✓	✓	✗
Public toilets	✓	○	✗
Seating	✓	✓	✓
Signage – identification/ directional/ informational/ regulatory/ braille and tactile	✓	✓	✓
Skate/BMX/ MTB facilities	✓	○	✗
Water feature/ Water play	✓	✗	✗

## Project Prioritisation

We will prioritise our efforts by considering existing asset conditions, feedback on user satisfaction and funding availability. We will also do our best to undertake works together to limit disruption to users.

### Existing Asset Condition

The following condition grades will aid prioritization of renewals/ upgrades/ disposals of existing foreshore facilities. Assets in most need of renewal will be prioritised first.

Condition		Description
1	Very Good Condition	Only normal maintenance required
2	Minor Defects Only	Minor maintenance required
3	Maintenance Required to Return to Accepted Level of Service	Significant maintenance required
4	Requires Renewal	Significant renewal/upgrade required
5	Asset Unserviceable	No longer functional

### User Satisfaction

The following user satisfaction scores will be used to benchmark progress during the life of the strategy. Baseline user satisfaction scores were recorded during consultation for this project. Sites with the lowest user satisfaction will be prioritise first.

Satisfaction	
1	Very dissatisfied
2	Dissatisfied
3	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
4	Satisfied
5	Very satisfied

### Funding

Projects able to be funded through operational budgets will be prioritise to deliver earlier in the program while feasibility for capital improvements and major works is undertaken.

Funding		Description
O	Operational	Able to be undertaken within annual Council operational budgets
C	Capital	Subject to funding in Councils future capital works program
M	Major	Require funding contributions/ partnership from external sources such as MAST, State and Federal Government



Actions have been prioritised over a 10 year period. Implementation often requires allocation of appropriate funding and staff resources by Council on an annual basis. If opportunities arise to undertake these with external funding or as part of other projects, they may be pursued earlier.

Priority	Timeframe
High	1 to 3 years
Medium	4 to 7 years
Low	8 to 10 years

## Strategic Actions

The following strategic actions are recommended to support the implementation of this strategy.

### Key Moves

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
SA1	Develop guidelines for commercial activation of public land	Develop a guideline and process for reviewing proposals for commercial activation of public land in order to regulate such activities in order to balance them with the needs and expectations of community	C	High
SA2	Develop a Mobile Food Van policy	Develop a food truck policy to guide food truck activations at foreshore spaces (where permitted in lease agreements)	C	High
SA3	Update signage design guidelines	Develop a consistent signage design guideline for the Georges Bay Foreshore	C	High
SA4	Benchmarking user satisfaction program	Prepare an online survey to benchmark user satisfaction during life of the strategy. Baseline satisfaction was captured during consultation. Provide link on Council website and via QR code on updated park signage.	C	High
SA5	Review Weeding/Planting Programs	Review weeding and planting program to enhance the natural values of public spaces around the foreshore	C	High

### Projects Requiring Further Investigation

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
SA6	Investigate bay health monitoring program	Investigate reinstating a bay health monitoring program to better inform decisions around environmental management	C	Medium

## Capital Works

### Moulting Bay

Hierarchy	Key Activity
Local	Passive Use

#### Summary

Moulting Bay is a local foreshore space, supporting passive use. Previously there was a jetty at this location however it was demolished and not reinstated. Currently there are no facilities present. Moulting Bay is underutilised and has potential for use by kayaks and small fishing boats, particularly when the other side of bay is exposed to NE winds. If investigations for an additional boat ramp/pontoon proceed, this space should be considered for upgrade to a district foreshore space and additional facilities provided. Feedback on user satisfaction at Moulting Bay had a median score of 3 'Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'. Suggestions for improvement included a boat ramp, further extension of the Georges Bay Trail and additional seating.

#### Key Moves

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
MB1	Additional Seating	Add seating that takes in the views of the bay	O	High
MB2	Upgrade Signage	Upgrade signage as part of wider program	C	Medium
MB3	Upgrade On Street Parking	Upgrade car parking to improve safety, amenity, functionality	C	Medium

#### Projects Requiring Further Investigation

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
MB4	Moulting Bay Boat Ramp/ Pontoon	Investigate the feasibility of boat ramp and pontoon at the sheltered cut. This land is currently under private ownership.	C/M	Medium
MB5	Shared trail connection between Moulting Bay and Binalong Bay	Investigate alignment for extending the Georges Bay Trail out to Binalong Bay improving access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists	C/M	High

## Bird Viewing Platform

Hierarchy	Key Activity
Local	Passive Use

### Summary

The Bird Viewing Platform is a local foreshore space, supporting passive use. Currently there are no facilities. This space looks out over significant area of saltmarsh habitat and is one of the best locations around Georges Bay for bird watching. These salt marshes are of significant ecological value, should be protected and their values enhanced. Suggestions for improvement included landscaping improvements, seating and a lookout.

### Key Moves

Project	Description	Funding	Priority	
BP1	Upgrade Signage	Upgrade signage as part of wider program	C	Medium
BP2	Additional Seating	Add seating to take in views of the saltmarsh and bay	O	Medium
BP3	Lookout upgrade	Upgrade the lookout including a lookout deck over the saltmarsh and landscaping improvements in the surrounds	C	Low

## St Helens Foreshore

Hierarchy	Key Activity
Destination	Boating, Passive Use, Active Use, Commercial/ Hospitality, Community facilities

### Summary

St Helens Foreshore is a destination foreshore space, supporting a diversity of uses including boating, passive use, active use, commercial/ hospitality and community facilities. The space is well provisioned including a recently upgrade boat ramp, a large play space, toilets, and off street carparking. Other than the boat ramp, many of these facilities are in average to poor condition. The foreshore was created by a land reclamation project undertaken during the late 70's and early 80's. The first commercial/ hospitality business opened at the site in 1994. Over the years, facilities have been added to the foreshore in an ad hoc manner. In order to consolidate and connect buildings, open space and facilities on the site in a holistic manner, it is proposed that a masterplan be developed to guide future development of the site. Community feedback highlighted that 48% want to see minor improvements at the site (eg renewing existing facilities, minor upgrades etc) and 44% want to see major improvements (eg. reconsidering locations of existing infrastructure, upgrading infrastructure and facilities). Top responses for priority areas to improve were: 43% walk/ cycle connections, 37% recreational facilities and 37% more commercial/ hospitality businesses. Feedback on user satisfaction at St Helens Foreshore had a median score of 3 'Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'. Suggestions for

improvement included upgrading the wharf, upgrading the place space, a pump track, lighting improvements, upgrade retaining walls along esplanade and better places to sit and eat.

### Key Moves

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
SH1	St Helens Foreshore Master Plan	Prepare a masterplan to guide development of St Helens Foreshore. The masterplan will consolidate and connect buildings, open space and facilities on the site prioritising walking/ cycle connections, recreational facilities and commercial/ hospitality businesses. The community will have further opportunities to provide comment on the draft masterplan.	C	High

### Projects Requiring Further Investigation

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
SH2	St Helens Wharf Upgrade	Replace St Helens Wharf and include floating marina berths for recreational boats as long as these don't impact on commercial boating facilities	M	High
SH3	Information Centre/ Community Hub	Investigate inclusion of an Information Centre/ Community Hub with resources such as internet access and meeting rooms.	C/M	High
SH4	Saltmarsh Boardwalk	Investigate feasibility of a saltmarsh boardwalk from the northern end of the foreshore across the salt marsh to the bird viewing platform.	C/M	Low

### Beauty Bay

Hierarchy	Key Activity
District	Swimming, Fishing, Passive Use

### Summary

Beauty Bay is a district foreshore space. It is protected from winds making it popular destination for swimming, fishing, and passive use. Existing facilities include an off-street carpark, landfill bins, picnic tables, BBQ shelter, toilet block with shower, dog bag dispenser, jetty with ladder and fish cleaning table. Generally, these facilities are in very good to good condition. Beauty Bay is particularly busy in

summer months which can create issues between swimmers and boats crowding in the calm protected waters of the bay. Consultation feedback on user satisfaction at Beauty Bay had a median score of 4 which is 'satisfied'. Feedback on user satisfaction at Beauty Bay had a median score of 4 'Satisfied'. Suggestions for improvement included a pontoon, shower screen and drinking water.

### Key Moves

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
BB1	Privacy screens for showers	Provide privacy screens at existing shower	O	High
BB2	Floating pontoon	Additional floating pontoon for swimmers located approx. 50m from the beach. If successful, consider an additional smaller pontoon closer to the shore	C	High
BB3	Address safety issues between swimmers and boats	Advocate to MAST to undertake a risk assessment and provide appropriate safety measures to reduce risk to swimmers from boats	<u>O</u>	<u>High</u>
BB4	Drinking refill station	Water refill stations with fountains, downward bottle tap and dog bowls	C	Medium
BB5	Upgrade Signage	Upgrade signage as part of wider program	C	Medium
BB6	Carpark upgrade	Upgrade car parking to improve amenity and functionality	C	Low
BB7	Lighting improvements	Provide lighting improvements at Beauty Bay and along the Georges Bay Trail between Beauty Bay and St Helens Foreshore	O	Low

### Projects Requiring Further Investigation

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
BB8	Remove sunken vessel	Investigate options for removing sunken vessel in beauty bay	C	High
BB9	Seawall extension to protect swimming area	Investigate options for extending a seawall at the northern point of Beauty Bay to protect the swimming area from wind and surface waves.	C/M	Low

### Kirwans Beach

Hierarchy	Key Activities
District	Fishing, Sail/ Paddle, Passive Use

### Summary

Kirwans Beach is a district foreshore space, supporting fishing, sail/ paddle and passive use. The site has a newly upgraded jetty, off street carparking, BBQ and some picnic tables. There is also a private jetty in disrepair which is a safety issue and impacts the sites visual amenity. Feedback on user satisfaction at Kirwans Beach had a median score of 4 'satisfied'. Suggestions for improvement included a floating pontoon, removal of the old jetty, shade trees and a shelter.

### Key Moves

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
KB1	Picnic table and shelter	Remove existing BBQ and replace with a sheltered picnic table	C	High
KB2	Additional bench seats	Replace existing seats and provide additional seating to take in views of the bay	O	High
KB3	Shade tree plantings	Tree plantings along foreshore to provide shade in summer	O	High
KB4	Floating pontoon	Provide a floating pontoon off the beach for swimming and kayaks launching	C	High
KB5	Upgrade Signage	Upgrade signage as part of wider program	C	Medium
KB6	Carpark upgrade	Upgrade car parking to improve amenity and functionality	C	Low
KB7	Lighting improvements	Provide lighting improves at Kirwans Beach and along the Georges Bay Trail between Kirwans Beach and Beauty Bay	O	Low

### Projects Requiring Further Investigation

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
KB8	Private jetty	Open discussions about options for removal or reinstatement of jetty in disrepair (under private lease Crown)	C	High

### Lions Park

Hierarchy	Key Activities
District	Fishing

### Summary

Lions Park is a district foreshore space, supporting fishing, active and passive use. It is popular with walkers and cyclists accessing the Boggy Creek trail and for fishing from the recently constructed jetty opposite Talbot Street. The site also contains off street carparking, toilet facilities, a BBQ shelter and play space. Feedback on user satisfaction at Lions Park had a median score of 4 'satisfied'. Suggestions for improvement included additional tree shade, a MTB washdown facility and additional play equipment.

### Key Moves

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
LP1	Fish gutting table	Additional fish gutting table at Cunningham jetty	O	High
LP2	Additional plantings	Enhance the native vegetation barrier along the inter tidal zone	O	High
LP3	Drinking refill station	Water refill stations with fountains, downward bottle tap and dog bowls	C	Medium
LP4	Additional bike racks	Provide additional bike racks close to facilities	O	Medium
LP5	Upgrade Signage	Upgrade signage as part of wider program	C	Medium
LP6	All abilities play equipment	Additional all abilities feature at play space i.e basket swing	C	Low



LP7	MTB Wash Down	Additional MTB wash down facility	C	Low
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## O'Connor's Beach

Hierarchy	Key Activities
District	Fishing, Sail/ Paddle, Passive Use

### Summary

O'Connor's Beach is a district foreshore space, supporting fishing, sail/ paddle and passive use. The site has a newly upgraded jetty opposite Cunningham's Street which is a popular fishing destination. The sea scouts hall is in poor condition and is subject to sea level rise and inundation. Other facilities include a boat ramp, two off street carparks, a picnic shelter and toilet block which are generally in poor condition. The site is very popular in summer and an ideal place for launching jet skis and kayaks from the beach. Feedback on user satisfaction at O'Connor's beach had a median score of 3 'Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'. Suggestions for improvement included a floating pontoon, upgraded toilets and shower block and shade trees.

### Key Moves

Project		Description	Funding	Priority
OC1	Shade tree plantings	Additional shade tree plantings along foreshore	C	High
OC2	Melaleuca regeneration area	Continue weed and manage the Melaleuca regeneration area	C	High
OC3	Additional bike racks	Provide additional bike racks close to facilities	O	High
OC4	Drinking refill station	Water refill stations with fountains, downward bottle tap and dog bowls	C	Medium
OC5	Floating pontoon	Provide a floating pontoon off the beach for kayak and jet ski launching	C	Medium
OC6	Upgrade carpark	Upgrade carpark to support unloading of kayaks and jetskis to the pontoon.	C	Medium
OC7	Picnic Area Upgrade	Upgrade picnic/ BBQ area	C	Medium

OC8	Toilet Upgrade	Upgrade toilet block with outdoor shower	C	Medium
OC9	Upgrade Signage	Upgrade signage as part of wider program	C	Medium

### Projects Requiring Further Investigation

Project	Description	Funding	Priority	
OC10	Community Boating Club Facility Renewal	Investigate need for a new community boating facility to replace the Scout Club building. Any new development should include a commercial/hospitality activation.	C/M	Low

### Steiglitz Foreshore

Hierarchy	Key Activities
District	Boating, Passive Use, Active Use

### Summary

Steiglitz Foreshore is a district foreshore space, supporting boating, passive use and active use. This stretch of the bay has issues with sand banks forming and shifting making boat launching difficult. The existing boat ramp is quite shallow and a hump can form where boats take off creating issues particularly for visitors unfamiliar with the ramp. The space contains a play space in average condition, a dog off lead area and recently upgraded toilet, shelter and BBQ area. It is currently not connected by the [Georges Bay Trail](#) however a new path alignment has been identified around Treloggens Track. There has been issues with illegal clearing of native vegetation along the foreshore which needs to be monitored and managed. Consultation feedback on user satisfaction at Steiglitz Foreshore had a median score of 2 'satisfied'. Suggestions for improvement included boat ramp upgrade, additional plantings, better management of dog off lead and a shared trail connection to the Georges Bay Trail at O'Connor's Beach.

### Key Moves

Project	Description	Funding	Priority	
SF1	Internal Path Upgrades	Upgrade path network between carpark, playground, toilets and picnic area to be DDA compliant	O	High
SF2	Fish Gutting Table	Upgrade fish gutting table	O	High

SF3	Dog off lead improvements	Additional fence with gate to delineate dog off lead area. Include dog poo bin, bag dispenser and regulatory signage	O	High
SF4	BBQ Upgrade	Upgrade BBQ with shelter	O	High
SF5	Additional plantings	Enhance native shrub plantings along foreshore allowing for intermittent gaps to access beach.	C	High
SF6	Drinking refill station	Water refill stations with fountains, downward bottle tap and dog bowls	C	Medium
SF7	Additional bike racks	Provide additional bike racks close to facilities	O	Medium
SF8	Play space upgrade	Upgrade play space	C	Medium
SF9	Upgrade signage	Upgrade signage as part of wider program	C	Medium
SF10	Additional outdoor exercise equipment	Provide a mix of static and dynamic outdoor exercise equipment that takes in views of the bay.	C	Medium

#### Projects Requiring Further Investigation

Project	Description	Funding	Priority	
SF11	Shared trail connection between O'Connor's Beach to Stieglitz Foreshore	Investigate alignment for extending the Georges Bay Trail between O'Connor's Beach and Stieglitz Foreshore improving access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists	C/M	High
SF12	Investigate options to upgrade boat ramp	Upgrade boat ramp to allow boats to launch in deeper water. Consider option to relocate the boat ramp to the deeper waters at the northern end of Steiglitz foreshore	C/M	High

## Monitoring and Evaluation

We will monitor and evaluate this strategy during its life to ensure its progress is tracked and it remains relevant in achieving its vision and objectives. The Strategy will be published on Council's website and further consultation will be undertaken in the future during the concept and detailed design stages on specific projects as they commence.

- We will benchmark user satisfaction through the life of this strategy through an online survey to be promoted on the Council website and by QR codes on signage. Baseline satisfaction scores were recorded during consultation for this project. Our aim is to see improvement across all sites.
- We will provide regular updates on the progress of implementation showing what has been achieved.
- The strategy will be reviewed every 5 years or as required considering updated ABS data, demographic analysis, revisions to local and state policy and lease agreements.