

# Guidelines



## Auditing tracks

G-13.3

Auditing tracks is an essential component of ongoing track maintenance to identify hazards, maintenance requirements and priorities.

Auditing is a way to create an inventory of existing tracks and enables tracks to be classified according to the Australian Standards. These classifications provide guidance for maintenance schedules and may also provide a mechanism for land managers to prioritise maintenance of their track network. Existing tracks and trails should be audited before new tracks are considered.

*Use these guidelines in conjunction with the information provided in Chapter 13 when planning works and engaging consultants and contractors to ensure the proposed works use the most effective methods and minimise the risk of causing damage to coastal values.*

### Create a maintenance plan

Create and implement an audit and maintenance plan. The maintenance plan should prioritise and cost out works and identify a management timeline that ensures all issues identified during an audit are addressed prior to the next audit.

Develop a maintenance plan before constructing new tracks. New tracks should not be constructed if there is not the capacity and resources to maintain them.

Maintenance plans should be part of a broader management plan that identifies a risk management process, hazard inspection guidelines, annual maintenance program and clarifies management roles and responsibilities.

### Identify land tenure

Identify other land managers where tracks cross land management boundaries.

Map and determine which sections of the track each land manager is responsible for and then work together to establish clear and consistent management guidelines.

Alternatively a lease or licence agreement will enable one management authority to take on the management and public liability of the entire track so that a consistent management approach is applied.

### Inventory of tracks

Compile a list of all known walking tracks within management boundaries.

Consider dividing long tracks into distinctive sections for workable maintenance regimes. Some councils assign asset numbers and coding to each section for future management reference.

Identify areas where one well constructed track could replace numerous poorly constructed (or not maintained) tracks.

Rehabilitate or close tracks that are hazardous, or where the landform or vegetation is being damaged. Identify areas under pressure from overuse or any new illegal track creation.

### Regular audits

Walk each track with a hand held GPS (Global Positioning System). Palm books are also a useful tool.

For an initial audit use the GPS to map the track. Mark GPS points at regular distances and at any important features. For ongoing audits use the GPS to record points where maintenance is required.

Import the GPS track log for each track into GIS (Geographical Information System) mapping software and produce maps showing the alignment of each walking track and any potential new routes.

Undertake maintenance audits regularly and after extreme weather.

Identify any additional tracks (new illegal tracks) and potential new routes.

Establish photo points and take photos of each track to record aspects of the track conditions, standard of signage and scenic value.

Make observations regarding; the current Australian Standard walking track class, tourism potential, priority for works, cost of works, potential links to other tracks.

Make observations about general condition of track, and track structures, drainage, any hazards and level of use.

Note any potential development areas on the coast that may create increased pressure on the tracks, such as new subdivisions.

### Hazard inspections

Inspect tracks after extreme storms and coastal inundation events such as King tides. Hazard inspections should include checking the condition of the track against the track classification in AS2156.1-2001.

Hazard inspections should include assessments of the condition of the track surface including the height of trip hazards (such as tree roots), track width, condition of structures and signage; erosion of or damage to track; obstructions on the track, condition of vegetation along the edge of the track, in particular overhanging limbs or overgrown vegetation.

### More information

*Tasmanian coastal works manual: Chapter 13, Page & Thorp 2010*

*AS 2156 Part 1 Walking tracks. Classification and signage*

*Track maintenance manual. Hobart City Council, in prep*

#### Disclaimer

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# Checklist

## C-13.3

## Auditing tracks

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Auditing is a way to create an inventory of existing tracks and enables tracks to be classified according to the Australian Standards. These classifications provide guidance for maintenance schedules and may also provide a mechanism for land managers to prioritise maintenance of their track network. Existing tracks and trails should be audited before new tracks are considered.

Use this checklist in conjunction with the accompanying Guideline and the information provided in Chapter 13 when planning works and engaging consultants and contractors to ensure the proposed works use the most effective methods and minimise the risk of causing damage to coastal values.

### Equipment

- GPS
- electronic palmbok or book to record information
- digital camera

### Create an inventory of existing tracks by mapping them with a GPS

- track alignment recorded with GPS
- potential new routes identified and recorded with GPS
- new developments with potential for increased pressure identified
- photo points established
- is there tourism potential for developing new tracks?
- identify potential links to other tracks
- identify soil type and water run-off to establish future erosion susceptibility

### Undertake hazard inspections after extreme events

- record the condition of the track surface
- note height of trip hazards (such as tree roots)
- note track width
- record the condition of structures and signage
- note erosion of or damage to track
- identify any obstructions on the track
- note condition of vegetation along the edge of the track, in particular overhanging limbs or overgrown vegetation
- record all works required to repair damage

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### Regular audits

- does the track meet the standards of the relevant Walking track classification - Australian Standards?
- note level of use
- record the condition of the track surface
- note height of trip hazards (such as tree roots)
- note track width
- record the condition of structures and signage
- note erosion of, or damage to track
- identify any obstructions on the track
- note condition of vegetation along the edge of the track, in particular overhanging limbs or overgrown vegetation

### Maintenance plan

- record all works required to repair damage
- create a priority for works
- identify cost of works
- establish a timeline for works
- establish responsibilities for works

### More information

*Tasmanian coastal works manual*. Chapter 13, Page & Thorp 2010

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