



Working with community groups

G-4.1

Community involvement is essential to achieving the protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage along Tasmania's coastline. Many coastal areas are fortunate enough to have dedicated community groups of local volunteers that regularly care for the coastal environment. Environmental community groups often undertake significant coastal land management works in partnership with local land managers and other coastal stakeholders.

This guideline will assist land managers to consider how they work with community groups and where improvements are required. Community groups can be a great advocate for land management authorities and their works programs if a healthy partnership is developed and fostered. It is essential to consult with local community groups before planning coastal management works.

Use these guidelines in conjunction with the information provided in Chapter 4 to ensure that consultation with local community groups occurs at the planning stage of proposed works and that work activities are complementary to local group activities.

Collaborating with community groups

Provide a regular open channel for community groups to provide input in coastal management decisions and planning. Ensure regular contact between group and organisation is maintained. Advise groups to appoint a key contact person.

Employ a dedicated natural resource management (NRM) facilitator within land management organisations.

Provide at least six week's notice to groups wherever possible when seeking input into planning or coastal management decisions. This allows groups to hold a regular monthly meeting to consult with their own members and then consolidate that input into a response.

Establish a partnership agreement and/or management plan with local community groups to provide clear direction on everyone's responsibilities and establish common goals. Review these regularly with groups.

Review existing works programs and activities to ensure that land management practices align with community group programs and activities.

Ensure that community group activities align with local, regional and state strategies. Where there are inconsistencies, work with the group to get everyone working towards the same goals.

Supporting community groups

Provide resources such as tools and funding when possible. Consider working with other land managers to pool resources.

Provide training for particular tasks or safety aspects of work activities such as chemical handling or first aid training.

Make regular visits to each of the sites that the community group is working in and make note of their concerns and aspirations and provide technical advice.

Attend meetings and working bees when possible to update groups on land management activities and plans and to hear about group activities and plans.

Undertake liaison with specialists on behalf of the group or in conjunction with the group if required.

Encourage the community group to seek support and advice from other NRM organisations such as NRM regional bodies, and community group umbrella organisations such as the Tasmanian Landcare Association (TLCA), Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania (SCAT) and Wildcare.

Support groups to submit funding applications to undertake coastal activities. This may involve assistance with writing the application or providing preliminary approvals of proposed activities.

Become familiar with NRM funding programs and the constraints and processes that are part of these funding opportunities. Be prepared to respond in a timely way when funding rounds open.

Ensure that all land management staff and contractors are aware of the community group and their activities and that land management works will not impact on the group's activities or exacerbate existing coastal problems.

More Information

Southern Coastcare Association
www.scat.org.au

Tasmanian coastal works manual: Chapter 4, Page & Thorp 2010

Tasmanian Landcare Association
www.taslandcare.org.au

Wildcare
www.wildcaretas.org.au

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C-4.1

Working with community groups

Community involvement is essential to achieving the protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage along Tasmania's coastline. It is essential to consult with community groups before planning coastal management works.

Use this checklist in conjunction with the accompanying guideline and the information provided in Chapter 4 to ensure that consultation with local community groups occurs at the planning stage of proposed works and that work activities are complementary to local group activities.

Collaborating with community groups

- Regular open communication with community group
- Community group invited to provide input into coastal management decisions and planning
- Adequate time allowed for community groups to provide input in coastal management decisions and planning. Six weeks minimum
- Regular contact between group and organisation maintained
- Dedicated natural resource management (NRM) facilitator, or community support officer employed within land management organisations
- Partnership agreement and/or management plan established with local community groups and reviewed regularly
- Existing works programs and activities reviewed to ensure that land management practices align with community group programs and activities
- Community group activities reviewed to ensure they align with local, regional and state strategies

Supporting community groups

- Resources, such as tools and funding, allocated to groups where possible and appropriate
- Training for particular tasks or safety aspects of work activities provided where possible, such as chemical handling or first aid training
- Regular site visits undertaken noting community group concerns and aspirations

- Technical advice provided as required
- Attendance at meetings and working bees when possible to update groups on land management activities and plans and to hear about group activities and plans
- All staff and contractors aware of community group's activities, ensure that land management works will not impact on the group's activities or exacerbate existing coastal problems
- Group representative contacted prior to planning or initiating coastal works on sites where group is active
- Community group kept informed of all proposed coastal planning and activities
- Liaison with specialists on behalf of the group or in conjunction with the group if required
- Community group encouraged to seek support and advice from other NRM organisations and volunteer support organisations
- Support and assistance provided to groups for submitting funding applications to undertake coastal activities

More Information

Southern Coastcare Association
www.scac.org.au

Tasmanian coastal works manual: Chapter 4, Page & Thorp 2010

Tasmanian Landcare Association
www.taslandcare.org.au

Wildcare
www.wildcarea.org.au

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