

A framework for managing natural resources across GSB through collaboration and cooperation.

**GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY  
NATURAL RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE  
RESILIENCE STRATEGY.**

## Executive Summary

This strategy provides an overview of the Natural Resources of the Glamorgan Spring Bay municipality, the pressures on those resources and priority actions for their management. Natural Resource Management (NRM) is about caring for our land, waterways and the plants and animals that inhabit them. The strategy provides a framework for cross-tenure collaboration and cooperative action over the next five years. It outlines common goals, actions and targets to provide strategic direction for Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and other stakeholders to work collaboratively to manage natural resources across GSB.

Located on Tasmania's east coast, the Glamorgan Spring Bay (GSB) Local Government Area (LGA) extends over approximately 2,600 square kilometres. It is bounded by the Denison River in the north and the base of Bust Me Gall Hill in the South, the ridgeline of the Eastern tiers in the West and coastline dotted with beaches, inlets and islands to the east. The area includes three major water catchments, the Prosser, Little Swanport and the Swan Aspley, which provide a range of freshwater, estuarine and coastal environments including internationally significant Ramsar wetlands, marine reserves and Maria Island and Freycinet National Parks.

The major influencing pressure on the sustainability of all natural resources is climate change. There are also many other pressures such as habitat loss, soil degradation and erosion, pollution, the spread of invasive pests, and natural disasters particularly floods and fires. All these known pressures are exacerbated by climate change and the predicted scenarios of higher emissions. It is for this reason that this strategy focuses on the management of natural resources and building resilience under a changing climate.

The region's natural resources are described and grouped into five themes in this strategy. These themes are cultural landscapes, water, land, biodiversity, and people. For each theme

an overview of the natural assets is provided, key threats are outlined, and goals and actions proposed over the next 5 years. Progress will be evaluated against measures for success.

Key objectives are to: improve our understanding of cultural landscapes and care for country; improve or maintain the condition of freshwater, estuarine and coastal ecosystems; improve land condition and management outcomes to facilitate long-term sustainability and to maintain and improve biodiversity.

The document recognises the important role that people play in managing natural resources and aims to incorporate regional community wellbeing into agricultural and natural area management programs to improve climate change resilience.

The reader is invited to find out how to get involved, to play a part in looking after our natural resources and help build resilience within the community and the natural environment in which we live.

## GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT &

### CLIMATE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

## What is Natural Resource Management?

Natural resource management (NRM) is about looking after our natural assets, caring for our land, soil and waterways, and our plants and animals, so they stay healthy and productive. It is about people working together to manage our precious resources, now and into the future.

We are all part of our environment and rely on natural resources to survive. Our natural resources support our economy, our health and wellbeing, and our lifestyles.

## Why have a NRM & Climate Resilience Strategy?

Farmers and foresters, schools and government, land managers, businesses, tourists and visitors, community groups and individuals, we all have a role to play in looking after our natural resources.

It is important to have a document as a guide so we can all work together to achieve common goals.

The strategy is the basis for having conversations with community about natural resources in Glamorgan Spring Bay, the influence of climate change and how we can be better prepared. It provides strategic direction to enable Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and other stakeholders to work collaboratively to improve NRM across the municipality.

## Climate change

With climate change, it is forecast there will be an increase in extreme weather events that can result in increased biosecurity risks, flooding, inundation and bushfires. With the increased risks associated with changes in climate, it is more important than ever that we understand the condition of our natural resources and work together to manage our natural systems to improve sustainability and build climate resilience.

## How was the strategy developed?

We reviewed existing documents and information and began talking to community members, groups and stakeholders. The East Coast Catchments Steering Committee was set up to provide community leadership, local expertise, advice and strategic direction.

The strategy is intended to be a living document with actions planned, implemented, then reviewed and adjusted to ensure the desired outcomes are achieved.



## A snapshot of our natural assets

Our natural assets underpin our community, economy and lifestyle



# 263,529

HECTARES  
TOTAL LAND AREA  
227KM Coastline plus  
30 Major Islands



# 1000+

KNOWN ABORIGINAL SITES  
Including shell middens, stone quarries  
and artefact scatters\*<sup>1</sup>



# 2,519

 HECTARES WETLANDS<sup>2</sup>  

# 1,413

 KILOMETERS WATERWAYS<sup>3</sup>

# 82%

  
NATIVE VEGETATION  
COVER<sup>4</sup>

# 78

 DIFFERENT VEGETATION  
COMMUNITIES

16 state listed threatened plant communities  
3 federally listed threatened plant communities<sup>5</sup>



# 39%

 OF GSB IS  
RESERVED  
102,800 Ha

# 11%

 of land is used for  
FOREST  
PRODUCTION

# 7917

  
DIFFERENT FUNGI,  
FLORA AND FAUNA  
SPECIES

4200 Animals

3076 Plants

641 Fungi

Species have been recorded in  
Glamorgan Spring Bay. More still to  
be discovered.<sup>7</sup>



# 245

  
FUNGI, FLORA AND  
FAUNA SPECIES OF  
CONSERVATION  
SIGNIFICANCE

59 Animals

184 Plants

2 Fungi<sup>7</sup>

\*These sites reflect the extent of heritage survey and investigation work that has been carried out within the municipality and do not represent a complete and exhaustive picture of heritage sites or Aboriginal land use in the past

## Climate Risks



### Heat

- New invasive weed, pests and pathogen species causing loss of agricultural production and natural habitats
- Heat related illness and mortality in humans, plants, and animals
- Greater frequency and intensity of bushfires
- Increased water temperatures and ocean acidification causing
  - changes in fish species/diversity
  - impacts on biodiversity
  - possible consequences for the fishing and aquaculture industries
  - impacts on the community and the economy
- Increase in the length of dry periods leading to soil loss and erosion during subsequent high rainfall events
- Decrease in the chill hours impacting fruit and nut trees flowering and production
- Movement of species and plant communities; changes in habitat.



### Opportunities

- Potential to reduce emissions and develop carbon sinks
- Increase in people and businesses setting up in Tasmania
- To be a leader in preparing for climate change.



### Rainfall

- Increased storm frequency and/or intensity causing
  - flood inundation in low lying areas
  - storm damage
- Inability of stormwater and water storage infrastructure to cope with high rainfall events
- More frequent inundation creating human health risks
- Increased freshwater input and siltation in estuarine areas
- Storm water runoff lowering water quality on local beaches
- Increased rainfall and temperature variability leading to potential
  - changes in variety of crops and crop varieties
  - changes in agricultural management practices
  - impacts on the economy and health and wellbeing
- Potential for detrimental environmental impacts associated with rapid changes in primary production practice
- Increased movement of weeds across the landscape
- Primary production losses.

Increases in the frequency and intensity of fire and flood events associated with climate change will increase the risk of erosion and land degradation, as well as facilitating the spread of weeds.

## Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge



- Communities and businesses cut off during inundation events
- Damage and degradation of infrastructure – low lying roads, tracks and walkways, stormwater assets, bridges, buildings and facilities, residential accommodation, fencing and farm infrastructure
- Inundation affecting vulnerable natural areas - shore bird feeding and nesting areas, wetlands, salt marshes, estuarine and adjacent vegetation communities
- Changes in coastal processes such as sand accretion and erosion cycles leading to changes in river mouths and/or loss of beaches and habitat
- Shoreline retreat caused by erosion and slumping of shorelines and sea cliffs.

## Business



- Need for businesses to change practices to remain viable
- Increased demand for processes and products that reduce CO2 emissions.

## Bushfire



- Increased likelihood and intensity of bushfire events
- Impacts on infrastructure – maintenance and replacement
- Changes in vegetation communities and habitat – loss of biodiversity with changes in intensity and frequency
- Loss of vegetation cover and connectivity and an increase in bare areas for weeds to establish
- Potential loss of orchards, vineyards, stock and crops.

## Principles for Managing our Natural Assets



According to Vulnerability of Tasmania's Natural Environment to Climate Change: An Overview, the following principles should be applied for managing natural assets against the impacts of climate change:

- Manage and protect well-functioning ecosystems
- Increase protection of habitat – including protecting and restoring terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems
- Reduce the impacts of current threats
- Maintain viable, connected and genetically diverse populations
- Enact active interventions such as restoration and revegetation activities.

## GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT &

### CLIMATE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

#### Themes for taking action

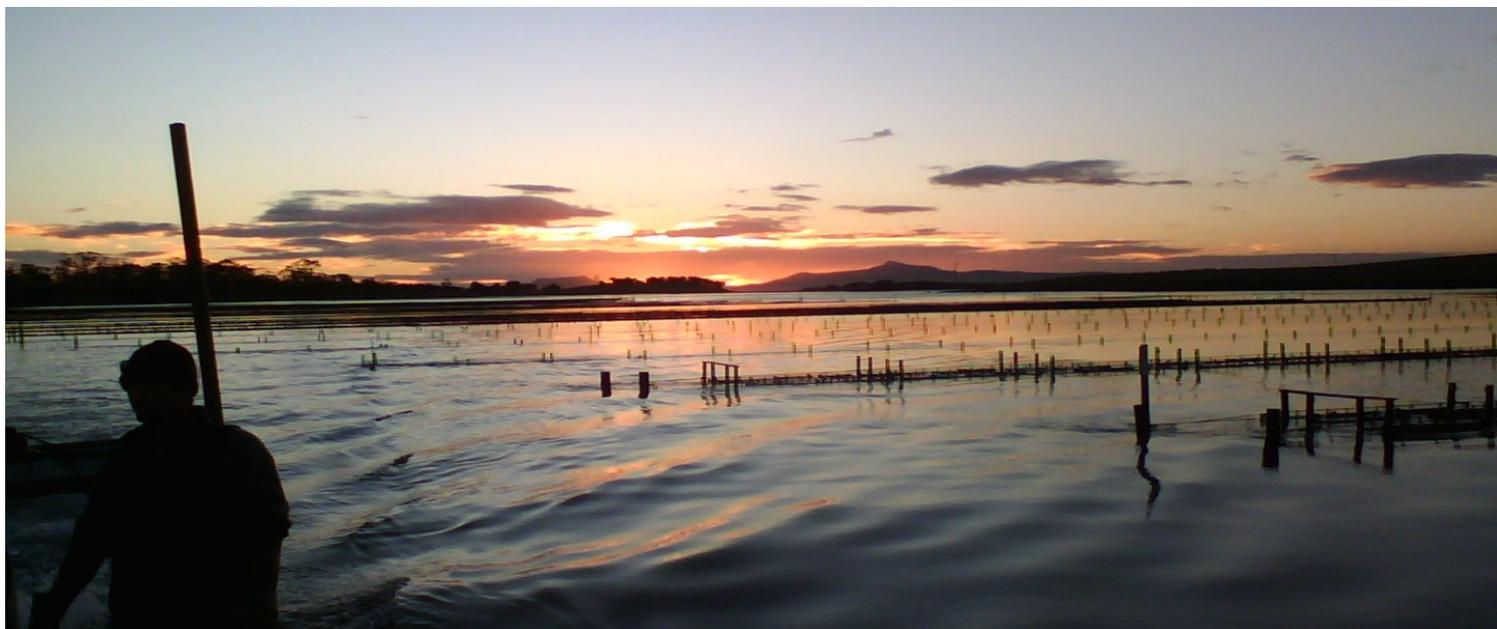
The strategy describes natural resources under 5 themes for undertaking action.

1. Cultural landscapes
2. Water
3. Land
4. Biodiversity
5. People

#### Key threats

The biggest threats to our natural resources are outlined in the strategy. Threats include:

- Clearance of native vegetation, inappropriate fire and slashing, vehicle access and trampling impact our native vegetation and affect important habitat
- Climate change drives temperature changes, rainfall, and extreme weather events that result in flooding and bushfires which affect us all
- Encroachment from increased development puts pressure on our natural areas and the cultural landscape
- Feral and unmanaged domestic animals impact our native wildlife
- Flood and wind erosion can result in loss of soil from agricultural areas as well as damage to natural areas and infrastructure
- Runoff, rubbish, erosion and over extraction affect water quality and water flows
- Weeds, pests and diseases impact biodiversity, farming and horticultural practices



## What are our objectives?

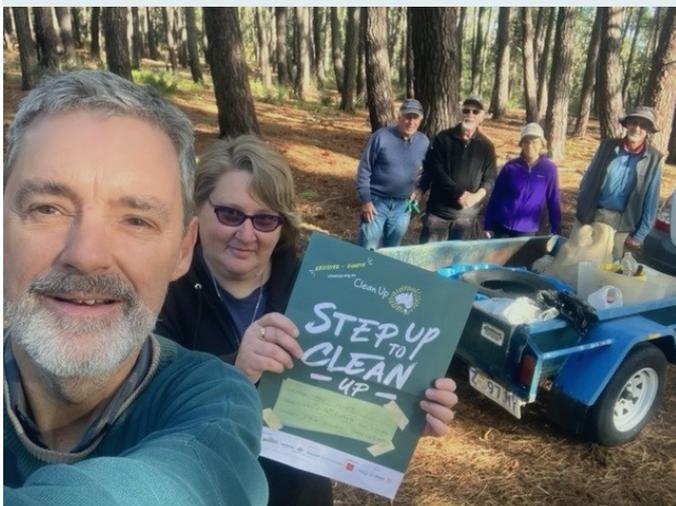
Under each theme, the strategy states the objective and provides goals for what we are trying to achieve, management actions for how we will achieve the goals, and measures of success to help us measure and evaluate our progress.

Our objectives are to:

1. Understand and maintain the diversity of Glamorgan Spring Bay's cultural landscapes
2. Improve and maintain the condition of freshwater, estuarine and coastal ecosystems
3. Improve land condition and management outcomes to facilitate long-term sustainability
4. Maintain and improve biodiversity
5. Improve community resilience by incorporating regional community wellbeing into agricultural and natural area management programs

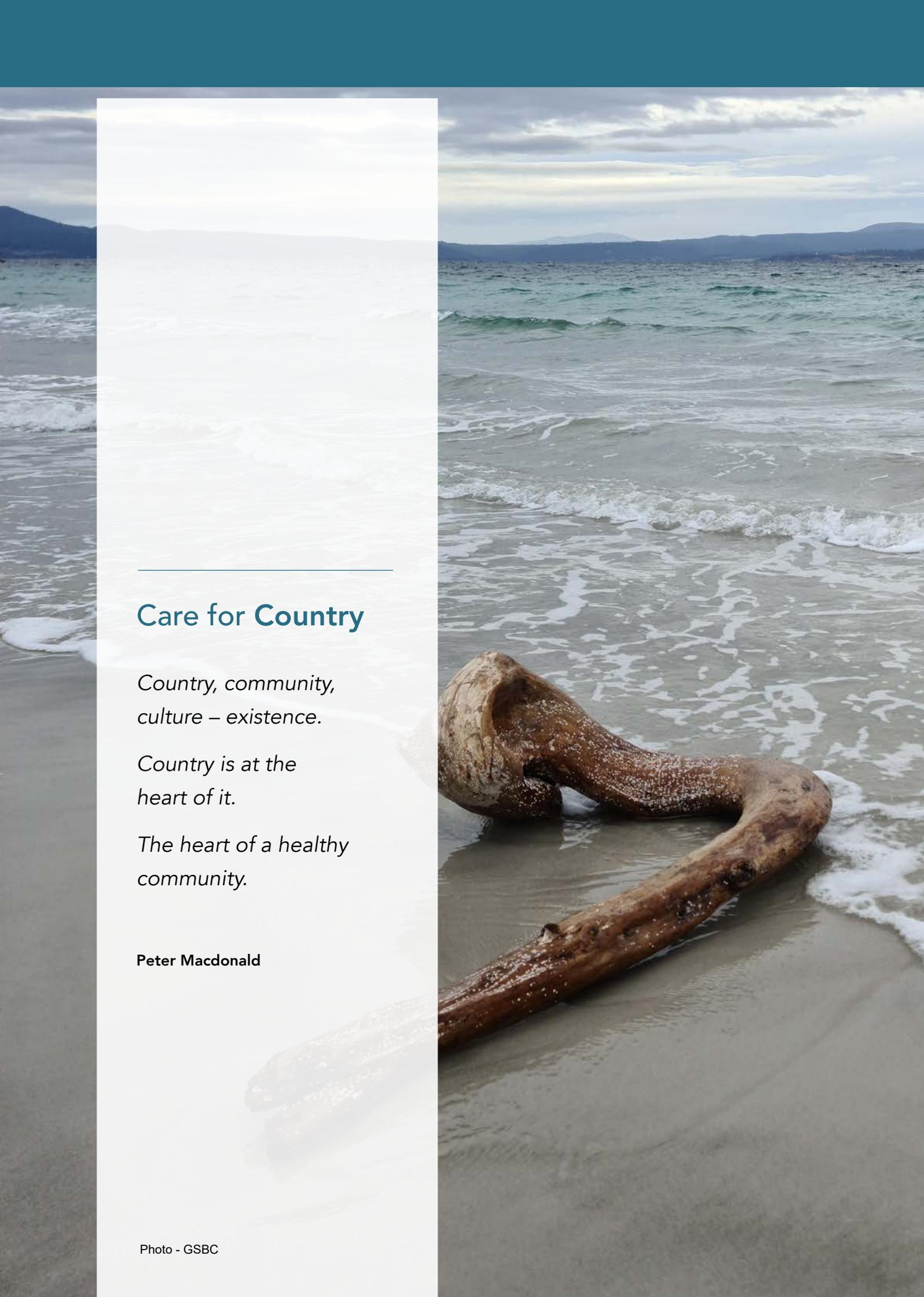
## How can you help?

- Provide feedback and get involved in the implementation of this plan—tell us about the issues that affect you
- Adopt practices that help sustain our natural resources
- Volunteer to be part of a community group
- Work with your neighbours to improve management of weeds and native vegetation
- Find out about weeds and how you can manage them on your property and/or prevent plants escaping from your back yard
- Apply for a grant to undertake works that enhance our natural assets
- Provide a letter of support for funding applications
- Join programs such as the Land for Wildlife or Gardens for Wildlife or join a Landcare group and contribute to the conservation of local plants and animals
- Look at options for protecting and managing remnant vegetation on your property



*The strategy was prepared for Glamorgan Spring Bay Council by the Landscape Recovery Foundation—a not-for-profit organisation established to protect and restore biodiversity and ecological processes on a landscape scale.*

Contact us to get involved  
[info@landscaperecovery.org](mailto:info@landscaperecovery.org)



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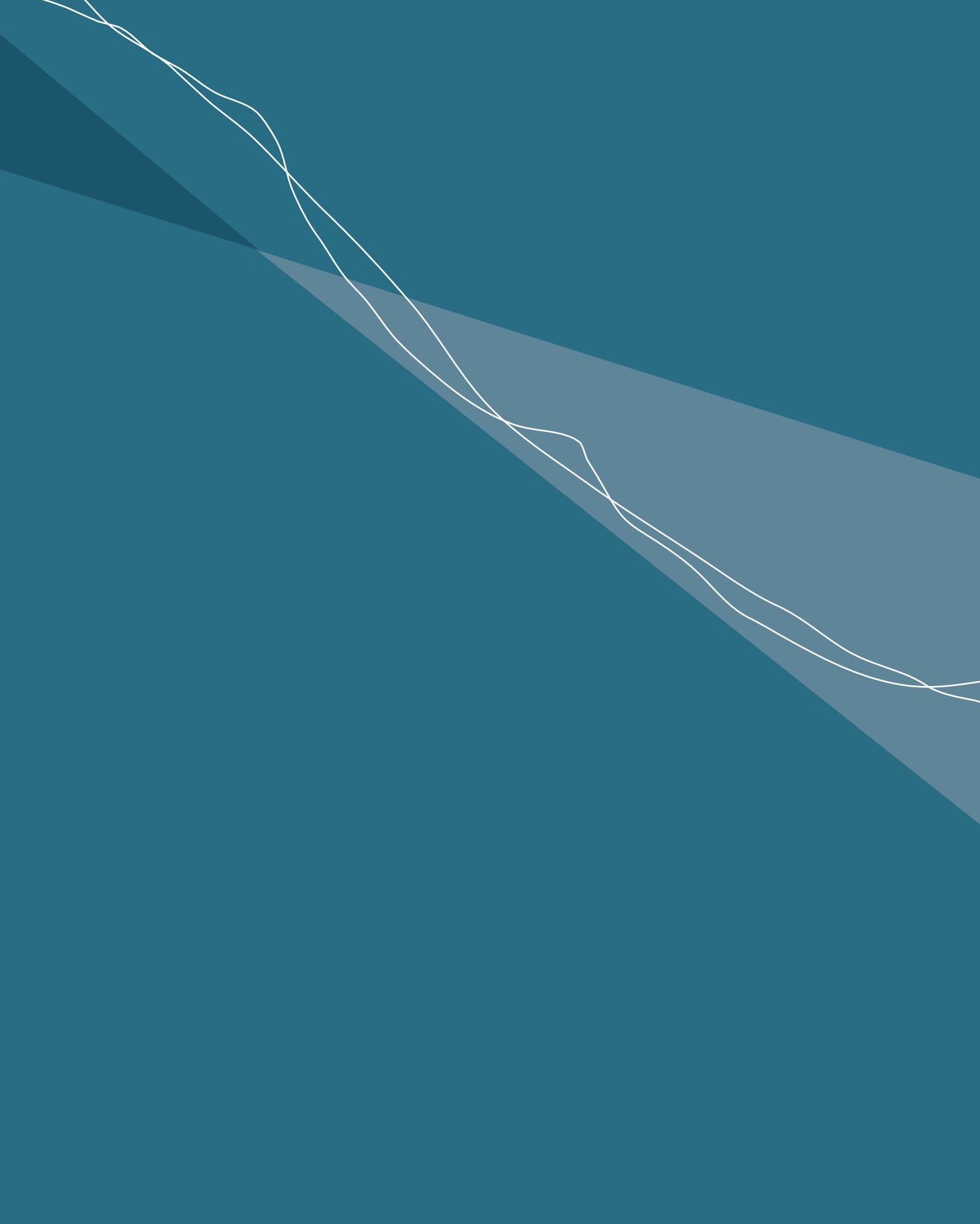
## Care for Country

*Country, community,  
culture – existence.*

*Country is at the  
heart of it.*

*The heart of a healthy  
community.*

**Peter Macdonald**



LANDSCAPE  
RECOVERY FOUNDATION