



Media Release

Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015

Dairy Funding to Support 'Clean Rivers' in the Tamar

Dairy farmers in the Tamar estuary and Esk rivers catchment areas are eligible for new funding to undertake a range of activities and on-ground works to support clean rivers.

DairyTas and the Tamar River Recovery Plan partners - NRM North, Launceston Flood Authority, Launceston City Council, TasWater and the Australian Government, have announced funds of up to \$5,000 to individual dairy farm businesses to invest in sustainable practices with a focus on 'Clean Rivers'.

Round one will be delivered by the DairyTas IntoDairy Clean Rivers Sustainability Program through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme to implement the Tamar River Recovery Plan, which is being delivered by the Launceston Flood Authority.

Launceston Flood Authority General Manager, Andrew Fullard, has welcomed this new partnership and investment in dairy businesses which will assist the environment.

"The Tamar River Recovery Plan is aimed at improving the health and amenity of the Tamar River estuary. Funding dairy farms in the catchment draining to the Tamar estuary to manage farm runoff will result in good outcomes for the health of the Tamar, particularly improvements to water quality."

NRM North is the project manager for the funds and will coordinate delivery of the grants in conjunction with DairyTas.

NRM North Water Theme Manager, Amanda Locatelli, highlighted the importance of undertaking work in the catchment to improve outcomes for the health of the Tamar estuary.

"Our current work in developing a Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Tamar estuary and Esk rivers area, has highlighted that the growth in dairies in the region has the potential to impact water quality in the future as more intensive land use occurs and higher loads of nutrients, pathogens and sediments are generated," Ms Locatelli said.

"As dairy farmers grow their businesses and production base, it is important that the farm infrastructure is suitable to handle this increase in a sustainable way. This Clean Rivers funding will assist farmers to undertake the on-ground works and planning necessary to ensure that water quality is not compromised."

The IntoDairy Clean Rivers funding will be offered over two rounds. Round one, announced today and closing on February 27th, 2015, will provide funding to existing dairy farm businesses in the Meander Valley, Macquarie, South Esk, North Esk, Brumbys and Tamar catchments.

The funding can support a range of activities to improve effluent management, irrigation and drainage and farm layout.

Round two will open on March 1st and close on March 27th 2015 and will be available to farms statewide (excluding the Round one area).

For more information interested applicants can contact DairyTas or access funding details via the DairyTas website www.dairytas.com.au

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