



Media Release

Tuesday, 22nd March, 2016

Funding to Tackle Riverbank Erosion and Improve Tamar Water Quality

A second round of funding is available for eligible applicants to undertake a range of activities and on-ground works to stabilise riverbank erosion and improve the health of the Tamar.

NRM North's Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program secured funding for the grants through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme investment in the Tamar River Recovery Plan.

The grants represent one of the key activities funded through the Tamar River Recovery Plan to reduce the load of sediment delivered to the Tamar estuary through riverbank erosion occurring in the TEER catchment.

The program provides grant funding of up to \$25,000 to community groups, industry groups, local government and individual land managers within the Tamar estuary and Esk rivers catchment area.

Federal Member for Bass, Andrew Nikolic, said this was the second round of grants being offered with funds he had secured during the 2013 Federal Election for the Tamar River Recovery Plan.

"There were 13 riverbank erosion projects funded in round one of this program which are helping to reduce the amount of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants entering the Tamar River," Mr Nikolic said.

"This is a very important part of the Tamar River Recovery Plan and I congratulate NRM North on its work on up-river environmental issues through the National Landcare Programme."

The Tamar River Recovery Plan is managed by the Launceston Flood Authority.

General Manager, Andrew Fullard, said the erosion grants were an important and significant component of the program.

"2016 is the second year of this three year program and continues this essential work," Mr Fullard said.

"This commitment from the Australian Government enables landholders to have the opportunity to provide a matching contribution towards improving the river and its environs."

NRM North Stormwater and Catchment Officer, Jesse Webster, highlighted the importance of undertaking work in the catchment to improve waterway health of the Tamar estuary.

"Riverbank erosion has the potential to generate high loads of sediment in waterways, particularly during floods," Mr Webster said.

“In the past, community groups and landholders have struggled to tackle these issues due to the cost involved and the technical nature of stabilising riverbanks.

“The first round of funding was oversubscribed, which confirms that riverbank erosion is an ongoing issue in the catchment. This second round of funding will assist applicants in stabilising eroding riverbanks, improving riparian vegetation, keeping stock out of the river which will lead to an improvement in water quality in the Tamar estuary.”

Funds will be available for a range of activities including riverbank stabilisation works, riparian revegetating, fencing out stock, installation of off stream water and creation of localised wetland areas or drainage diversions to minimise sediment delivery to waterways.

Round two opened on 21st March 2016 and closes on 20th May 2016 and provides funding to eligible applicants in the Meander Valley, Macquarie, South Esk, North Esk, Brumbys-Lake and Tamar catchments.

For more information, interested applicants can contact Jesse Webster at NRM North 6333 7785 or jwebster@nrmnorth.org.au

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For more information contact:

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