



Media Release

Friday, April 8th, 2011

NEW GRANTS TO REDUCE SEDIMENT INPUT TO WATERWAYS

A new grants program has been launched aiming to reduce the amount of sediment entering the Tamar estuary.

NRM North, through the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program, is offering grants from one thousand dollars to 20 thousand dollars to landholders, community and industry groups and local government.

The grants have been introduced in response to the TEER Program's sediment modelling report which was released last year.

The model predicted the sediment load to be generated in the Tamar catchment and showed the upper South Esk, North Esk and Meander catchments appeared to be generating the most sediment.

The grants have been funded through the TEER Program which is a partnership between NRM North, the Tasmanian Government, Launceston City Council, West Tamar Council, George Town Council, Meander Valley Council, Northern Midlands Council, Ben Lomond Water and Hydro Tasmania.

The Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, Brian Wightman, said the State Government was committed to the health of the Tamar and Esk Rivers.

"The TEER program is testament to how a collaborative approach between local and state government, the community and industry can help find sustainable solutions for issues facing these important but complex river systems." Mr Wightman said.

"The grants are an important part of the wider work that the TEER Program is doing to educate the community, investigate solutions and to carry out on-ground actions that have a positive benefit across the catchment."

The TEER Program Manager, Amanda Locatelli, said the grants targeted works in those catchments highlighted in the sediment modelling report – the South Esk, North Esk and Meander.

"The projects must aim to reduce the amount of sediment entering the waterways, demonstrate effective and innovative methods and must be completed within a year." Ms Locatelli said.

"Once completed, the projects will be showcased and promoted in the community to encourage others to undertake on-ground works to reduce sediment input to waterways."

Some example activities may include:

- Stabilising riverbank erosion;
- In-stream works to minimise sediment transportation or use of sediment traps;
- The creation of streamside buffers and revegetation activities;
- Works to reduce sediment run off from roads and tracks;
- Excluding stock from waterways and trialling new or innovative methods of stock crossings.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said the grants were an important step towards improving the health of the waterways.

“Sediment has been identified as a key input which can affect waterway health. Too much sediment entering waterways can have adverse impacts on aquatic life as well as contribute towards issues such as the current sedimentation of the Tamar estuary.

“These grants put the focus on sediment management and aim to encourage land managers to adopt best practice to reduce sediment entering our waterways.” Mr McKee said.

The grants are open from today and close June 10th. Applicants will be notified in September.

Guidelines and applications can be found on the TEER website: www.nrmnorth.org.au/teer. For more information contact NRM North on 6333 7777.

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