



Media Release

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FINAL RESULTS OF TAMAR SEDIMENT MODELLING PROJECT

NRM North has released the final results of a sediment modelling project for the Tamar catchment undertaken as part of the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program.

The model predicts the sediment load *estimated* to be generated in the Tamar catchment and identifies where in the catchment this is originating from.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said the results estimated that between 58,000 and 80,000 tonnes of sediment was generated in the Tamar catchment area each year.

"The high slopes and rainfall zones of the upper South Esk and North Esk rivers appeared to be generating more sediment than the Macquarie, Lake and Brumbys River catchments.

"While urban and some agricultural land users are not discharging high overall loads due to the small catchment area they occupy, their load per unit area can be much higher than other land users." Mr McKee said.

NRM North, through the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) program, awarded the tender for the sediment modelling project to the consortium BMT WBM and Hydro Tasmania Consulting.

Catchment modeller, Tony Weber, from consultants BMT WBM, said the final report had been through a rigorous peer review process.

"This process supported both the methodology and the results obtained and provided several recommendations which were adopted in the final report.

"In addition to the peer review process, we also completed one of the most detailed analyses of the modelling that we have ever done to ensure the answers provided are the best possible.

"It is critical now that all stakeholders realise the value of this work in terms of future catchment planning in the Tamar and Esk Rivers.

"What we have is a tool that shows us where we need to start in reducing the amount of sediment coming into the Tamar Estuary. It's not the ultimate answer, no model ever is, but it provides the information that is needed to plan the management of the catchment effectively." Mr Weber said.

TEER Program Manager, Amanda Locatelli, said the project was one of a number of on-going studies and initiatives of the TEER Program and its partners to investigate and address sedimentation of the Tamar estuary.

"Identifying the area in the catchment that sediments and nutrients are sourced from enables the TEER Program and its partners to target on-ground works in the upper catchment area.

“Our next step will include working together with industry groups and landholders to provide incentives for planting riparian buffers and mitigating erosion in the catchment as well as targeting the delivery of Property Management Plans through NRM North to minimise sediment and nutrient inputs into the river systems.” Ms Locatelli said.

The final report is available to download from the NRM North website www.nrmnorth.org.au.

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