



## Media Release

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015

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#### **Stormwater Innovation Grants to improve water quality in the Tamar**

Launceston locals can now apply for new funding to undertake a range of activities to improve the health of the Tamar River estuary and reduce pollutant runoff in times of heavy rainfall.

NRM North's Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program has secured funding to undertake catchment management activities aimed at reducing the loads of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants from entering the Tamar estuary through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme investment in the 'Tamar River Recovery Plan'.

Federal Member for Bass, Andrew Nikolic, said the Abbott Government is providing \$9 million for the Tamar River Recovery Plan which is addressing a wide range issues affecting our rivers.

"We're delivering on our promise to clean up Launceston's rivers and I encourage eligible groups to apply for this funding."

The Stormwater Innovation Grants are one of the key activities funded through the Tamar River Recovery Plan to reduce pollutant loads delivered to the Tamar River estuary.

Eligible community groups, industry groups and local government can apply for grants up to \$3,000 while eligible individuals can secure up to \$500 for innovative projects that reduce sediment, nutrients and heavy metals from entering the stormwater system.

Launceston Flood Authority General Manager, Andrew Fullard, has welcomed the investment.

"This initiative is another important contribution toward improving the health of Launceston's rivers by raising the community's awareness of how their involvement can provide a positive impact upon our environment."

NRM North Stormwater and Catchment Officer, Jesse Webster, highlighted the importance of reducing the volume of stormwater in Launceston to improve the health of the Tamar estuary.

"By installing Water Sensitive Urban Design infrastructure such as a raingarden, water tank, small swale or bioretention system, we can reduce 'peak flows' during high rainfall events to reduce the pressure placed on the combined sewage and stormwater system in Launceston." Mr Webster said.

Funds will be available for a range of activities including developing innovative ways of stormwater capture or re-use, implementing community education and awareness directly linked to water quality improvement and reducing 'peak flows' during high rainfall events.

The Stormwater Innovation Grants open on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 and close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 and will provide funding to eligible applicants in the Launceston area. A detailed map can be found on the NRM North website under Stormwater Innovation Grants.

For information, application guidelines and application form go to [www.nrmnorth.org.au](http://www.nrmnorth.org.au) or call Jesse Webster on 03 6333 7785 or E: [jwebster@nrmnorth.org.au](mailto:jwebster@nrmnorth.org.au)

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For more information or interviews, please contact:  
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Natural Resource Management in Northern Tasmania