



# Media Release

Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

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## Public Meetings Seek Input into Water Quality Improvement Plan

Public meetings will be held in Launceston, Westbury and Campbell Town next week to gain input into the development of a Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the Tamar catchment.

This catchment to coast long-term plan will become a blueprint for how water quality in the Tamar catchment is managed.

It is being developed by NRM North's Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) program which is a partnership between state and local government and industry.

TEER Program Coordinator, Amanda Locatelli, said a Water Quality Improvement Plan provided an ecosystem-based approach to integrated water management, underpinned and supported by science.

"It includes the identification of environmental values and water quality objectives, predictive modelling for the catchments and receiving waters, and the integration of Water Sensitive Urban Design," Ms Locatelli said.

"It aims to inform agricultural best management practices including riparian revegetation and protection."

The plan will cover the following areas:

- Tamar Estuary catchment
- North Esk catchment
- South Esk catchment
- Meander catchment
- Macquarie catchment
- Brumbys Lake catchment

"Extensive consultation with the community is a crucial part of the plan's development and we would like to hear from those who value the river systems and the Tamar estuary and want to have a say into how they are managed for water quality.

"We are using a combination of group facilitated workshops and one-on-one consultation with industry, landholders and government stakeholders."

From the plan, a Decision Support System (DSS) is generated to allow users to analyse various scenarios such as: the costs and benefits of upgrading Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in key catchments to meet nutrient load reduction targets; strategic riparian revegetation scenarios in key catchments to work towards sediment reduction targets; and understanding the potential impacts on water quality due to climate change or land use change in the catchment. These are just a few of the potential scenarios water managers may be interested in testing.

It is expected the plan and the DSS will be developed over the next 18 months, with consultation to continue throughout the project.

**Public Meetings:**

- Launceston: 7 October 2013, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Tamar Yacht Club, 7 Park Street Launceston
- Westbury: 8 October 2013, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Westbury Town Hall, 26 Lyall Street Westbury
- Campbell Town: 9 October 2013, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Campbell Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Road Campbell Town

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For more information contact:

Melissa Lewarn, Manager – Community Engagement & Communications, NRM North,  
6333 7776 or 0427 354 058