



Media Release

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THE FOURTH TAMAR REPORT CARD SHOWS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

The 2015 Tamar estuary report card is being launched today at the QVMAG in Launceston.

The results of the fourth health snapshot for the Tamar River estuary mark an important stage in the continued understanding into the health and function of the estuary.

The ecosystem health report card undertaken by NRM North's Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program shows that there is still room for improvement with the upper estuary near Launceston continuing to show 'poor health'.

The 2015 report card includes new data relating to pressures impacting on the health of the Tamar, including sewage treatment plants, stormwater and silt raking.

NRM North's Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said it was encouraging to see that this year shows a slight improvement in the ecosystem health of the Tamar in comparison to past years but acknowledges there is still room for improvement.

"The fact that the studies show we are not going backwards with the health of the Tamar is an important achievement in the quest to improve the health and amenity of the estuary.

"However, there are a range of environmental impacts on the Tamar estuary, particularly on the upper reaches of the estuary near Launceston, which we hope to see improve over time with a continued focus on reducing pollutants entering the system".

The latest report card reveals the upper estuary near Launceston continues to draw the most unfavourable results, while the mouth of the estuary has consistently shown good health. However it is the mid-estuary from Swan Point to Rowella that has significantly improved since the last report was released in 2012.

The State Government commends the TEER Program for fostering important partnerships such as the Ecosystem Health Assessment Program to monitor and report on the health of the TEER waterways.

The report card provides the community and natural resources managers with the information required to ensure the Tamar River estuary can be effectively managed into the future to support a healthy and diverse ecosystem.

The TEER report card and monitoring partners include the Tasmanian Government, City of Launceston, West Tamar Council, George Town Council, Meander Valley Council, University of Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania, TasWater, BCD Resources, Pacific Aluminium, Van Diemen Aquaculture, South32, Northern Midlands Council, Launceston Flood Authority, Environment Protection Authority and Australian Maritime College.

The Tamar Estuary Report Card 2015 can be downloaded from the NRM North website: www.nrmnorth.org.au.

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