



# Media Release

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

## Grant recipients for riverbank stabilisation activities announced

Key activities to stabilise riverbank erosion and improve parts of the Tamar Estuary and Esk River catchments will get underway early next year, after an overwhelming response from applicants.

Funding secured through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme investment in the Tamar River Recovery Plan and delivered by NRM North's Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program on behalf of the City of Launceston will enable 13 successful applicants to undertake riverbank erosion mitigation activities aimed at reducing the loads of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants from entering the Tamar River estuary.

Riverbank Erosion Grant funding to the value of \$208,000 will go towards a range of activities including riverbank stabilisation works, revegetating eroding riverbanks, weed removal and fencing out stock from waterways in the Meander Valley, City of Launceston and Northern Midlands Council areas.

Federal Member for Bass, Andrew Nikolic, said NRM North's Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program was a critical part of the work that is helping to end decades of neglect of our waterways.

"It is pleasing to see the \$3 million in funding I secured during the 2013 Federal Election for the Tamar River Recovery Plan providing real and practical environmental outcomes.

"I'd like to congratulate the grant recipients and look forward to the improvements their work will mean to our local environment," Mr Nikolic said.

Launceston Flood Authority General Manager Andrew Fullard said the activities undertaken by grant recipients are a great initiative toward addressing the sediment entering the Tamar.

"These initiatives and the other activities undertaken by the Flood Authority and TasWater in the Tamar River Recovery Plan are making a difference by reducing to the pollution and sediment levels," Mr Fullard said.

NRM North's TEER Program Coordinator, Amanda Locatelli, said undertaking works to improve the health of the catchments is critical.

"Riverbank erosion has the potential to generate high loads of sediment in waterways, particularly during floods. This funding will assist applicants in stabilising eroding riverbanks and lead to an improvement in water quality in the Tamar River estuary," Ms Locatelli said.

**Andrew Nikolic will announce the recipients of the 2015 Riverbank Erosion Grants at the Royal Park boat ramp in Launceston at 10:30am on November 18.**

Riverbank Erosion Grants will again be offered in 2016.

Ends