



Media Release

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Riverbank erosion grants to improve water quality in the Tamar

Eligible applicants in the Tamar estuary and Esk rivers catchment areas can apply for new funding to undertake a range of activities and on-ground works to stabilise riverbank erosion and improve the health of the Tamar.

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 as part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme investment in the 'Tamar River Recovery Plan'.

'Riverbank Erosion Grants' represent one of the key activities funded under the Tamar River Recovery Plan to reduce the load of sediment delivered to the Tamar estuary through riverbank erosion occurring in the TEER catchment.

Grant funding of up to \$25,000 will be available to community groups, industry groups, local government and individual land managers to enable them to undertake projects that will help reduce sediment delivery to waterways within the TEER area.

Federal MP for Bass, Andrew Nikolic, said the \$3 million in federal funding for the Tamar River Recovery Plan is a key commitment, which is helping to restore the health of the Tamar River.

"NRM North's Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program is a critical part of the work that is helping to end decades of neglect of our rivers.

"Reducing sediment entering our river systems is vital to improving water quality in Launceston's water catchments and ultimately the Tamar River.

"I'm delighted that the funding I've been able to secure is helping our River's health.

"The Tamar River is very important to our community, both economically and environmentally, and we are already seeing the benefits of the Tamar River Recovery Plan with new tourist developments.

"I congratulate NRM North and the Launceston Flood Authority for the important work they are doing on the Tamar River Recovery Plan."

Launceston Flood Authority General Manager, Andrew Fullard, has welcomed the new investment in the Tamar catchment which will reduce the loads of sediment entering the Tamar and contributing to sedimentation in the upper Tamar.

"Sediment in the Tamar has been a major source of community discontent for generations and these grants will assist in reducing the sediment loads entering the Tamar and improve the health of Launceston's iconic rivers."

NRM North's TEER Program Coordinator, Amanda Locatelli, highlighted the importance of undertaking work in the catchment.

"Riverbank erosion has the potential to generate high loads of sediment in waterways, particularly during floods. In the past, community groups and landholders have struggled to tackle these issues due to the cost involved and the technical nature of stabilising riverbanks." Ms Locatelli said.

"This funding will assist applicants in stabilising eroding riverbanks and lead to an improvement in water quality in the Tamar Estuary."

Funds will be available for a range of activities including riverbank stabilisation works, revegetating eroding riverbanks and fencing out stock, and the creation of localised wetland areas or drainage diversions to minimise sediment delivery to waterways.

The Riverbank Erosion Grants will be offered in 2015 and 2016. Round one is open between 4 May 2015 and 15 June 2015 and will provide funding to eligible applicants in the Meander Valley, Macquarie, South Esk, North Esk, Brumbys-Lake and Tamar catchments.

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