



Working together for healthy waterways

Beyond 10 years of the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program

About the TEER program

The TEER Program was established in 2008 as a regional partnership between the statutory agencies responsible for waterway management within the kanamaluka/Tamar catchment area. Key partners represented on the TEER Strategy and Partnerships Committee include:

- Tasmanian Government;
- City of Launceston;
- West Tamar Council;
- George Town Council;
- Meander Valley Council;
- Northern Midlands Council;
- Hydro Tasmania;
- TasWater; and
- NRM North.

Additional engagement with industry and research partners occurs through the Scientific and Technical Committee and project working groups. These include the University of Tasmania Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, Bell Bay Aluminium, TEMCO 32 South, Petuna Aquaculture and Dairy Tasmania.

The TEER Program aims to provide a coordinated management approach that guides investment in activities to protect, restore and enhance the kanamaluka/Tamar estuary and Esk rivers systems from 'catchment to coast'. The program focuses on improving the scientific understanding of the issues impacting upon the health of the TEER waterways so that partners can better identify and target priority areas for on-ground works.

The TEER Program fosters collaborative partnerships and works closely with a range of industry, community, government, research and business partners to monitor and report on waterway health and coordinate activities to reduce pollutants entering waterways.



Regional significance

The TEER catchment area includes the North and South Esk, Macquarie, Brumbys-Lake and Meander River sub-catchments and covers approximately 15 per cent of the total land mass of Tasmania. Waters from the South Esk catchment supply one of the most productive agricultural areas in Tasmania, making it a significant economic resource for the region.

The kanamaluka/Tamar estuary is an important environmental, recreational and scenic resource, particularly for the city of Launceston, as well as for numerous smaller communities along its banks. Surface water within the North and South Esk rivers is an important natural resource for many industries, such as Hydro Tasmania and the region's farmers. These rivers also supply regional drinking water to the majority of the urban population.

Key activities

The TEER program works with approximately 20 organisational partners on a number of key activities including:

- monitoring and reporting on estuary health through the Ecosystem Health Assessment Program, which produces Tamar Estuary Report cards every two years;
- collaborative whole of catchment planning and implementation of projects to improve water quality through the Water Quality Improvement Plan;

- facilitating and advocating for improved stormwater management through the Northern Tasmanian Stormwater Program;
- early warning monitoring for blue-green algal blooms in Lake Trevallyn; and
- building community knowledge and awareness through the Tamar Forum and Tamar Discovery events and education campaigns.

Since establishment, the program has demonstrated its capacity to leverage additional investment to fund identified regional priorities, and supports informed decision making based on scientific evidence. The key focus of the TEER Program includes delivering integrated governance, planning and management; understanding and advising on waterway health; and improvement of community knowledge and awareness.

Over more than a decade, the TEER Program has undertaken baseline monitoring to understand water quality in the estuary and used that knowledge to inform whole of catchment planning with program partners to develop the TEER Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). Development of the WQIP has provided a roadmap to improving water quality in the TEER catchment, which is currently being implemented by various partners, including the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce through the River Health Action Plan.



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