



# **Partnership Agreement**

**NRM191**

**Four-Year Regional Partnership**

Between

**The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North)**

And

**Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment**

**Department of Health**

**Launceston City Council**

**Meander Valley Council**

**George Town Council**

**West Tamar Council**

**Northern Midlands Council**

**Hydro Tasmania**

**TasWater**

**(‘Partners’)**

**Relating to the**

**Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program**

**April 2020**

## **Preamble**

The kanamaluka/Tamar estuary (estuary) is highly valued by the community for a range of social, environmental and economic values. The health of the estuary is closely linked to the health of the waterways in its upper catchments and management of the estuary requires a whole of government and whole of community approach to understanding, planning for and managing the catchment.

The Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program established in 2008 represents a regional partnership between the statutory authorities responsible for management of the estuary and Esk rivers systems. The role of TEER is to improve the scientific understanding of the issues impacting on the health of the TEER waterways to better identify and target priority areas requiring on-ground action. TEER fosters collaborative partnerships and works closely with a range of industry, community, government, research and business partners to monitor and report on waterway health as well as developing strategies and coordinating activities to reduce pollutants entering waterways. The Northern Tasmania Natural Resource Management Association Inc., doing business as NRM North is the regional natural resource management (NRM) body tasked by the state and Australian Governments with developing and implementing a regional NRM strategy for northern Tasmania.

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) is the state government agency tasked with managing Tasmania's natural resources for the benefit of all Tasmanians via providing quality leadership, services and advice, and developing partnerships that are valued by our community.

Department of Health (DoH) is the state government agency tasked with managing Tasmania's health system; it improves, promotes, protects and maintains the health, safety and wellbeing of Tasmanians through service planning, managing, procuring and delivering high quality health services.

The councils are the local government organisations which are responsible for a significant component of the planning control surrounding the use and development of activities occurring in the estuary and Esk rivers catchment.

Hydro Tasmania is a Tasmanian Government business enterprise generating hydropower in Tasmania and trade electricity and energy-related environmental products in the Australian market. Hydro Tasmania works with other organisations to achieve common environmental goals, by funding practical projects, and joint research and sponsorships.

TasWater is Tasmania's local and state government owned water and sewerage utility, providing drinking water and sewerage services to more than 200,000 homes and businesses state-wide. TasWater also manage trade waste for business and industry and offer recycled water in agricultural areas - all with a focus on public and environmental health.

This Agreement represents a voluntary partnership between all parties (NRM North and the Partners) to continue to support and manage a coordinated TEER program to operate from **1 July 2020 to 30 June 2024**.

## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Agreement is to set out the mechanism of how NRM North and the Partners will work together to manage a coordinated TEER program.

## **2. Guiding Principles**

To advance the purpose of this Agreement the parties agree that:

- The parties share a commitment to support and manage a coordinated TEER program.
- The parties share a commitment to achieve the targets set out in the TEER Strategic Framework 2020 - 2024 and associated plans, and the annual TEER Implementation Schedule.
- The term of this Agreement is for four years from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2024, unless otherwise noted.
- The aim of the investment provided via this Agreement is to promote long-term natural resource management outcomes for the estuary and Esk river systems.
- The parties will acknowledge and work with all relevant stakeholders at an appropriate level.
- The collateral and promotion pertaining to the TEER program will encompass all Partners.
- The parties will resolve any issues that arise in connection with this Agreement through negotiations in good faith.

## **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **3.1 NRM North will:**

Manage and support the TEER program including overseeing all financial, contractual and corporate governance responsibilities of the program.

NRM North will work with the Partners and other key stakeholders including industry and the community to develop and implement the, Water Quality Improvement Plan, TEER Science Action Framework, Communications Framework and the associated annual TEER Implementation Plan.

NRM North agrees to commit the time and resources required to implement this Agreement and to work towards cost sharing arrangements with the Partners and other investors to secure and leverage additional resources required to implement the annual TEER Implementation Plan.

NRM North will commit to reviewing the TEER Implementation Plan annually prior to 30 June each year in consultation with the Partners.

### **3.2 The 'Partners' will:**

The Partners will work with NRM North and other key stakeholders including industry and the community to develop and implement the Water Quality Improvement Plan, TEER Science Action Framework, Communications Framework and the associated annual TEER Implementation Plans.

The Partners agree to provide financial support for the TEER program for the 2020/21 financial year as outlined in Schedule 1 and update funding commitments in the Plan annually by 30 June each year.

The Partners agree to cooperate to secure any additional resources that may be required to implement the annual Implementation Plan, associated work plans and priority projects.

The Partners will commit to reviewing the TEER Implementation Plan annually prior to 30 June each year.

## **4. Variation**

In the instance where an Addendum to the existing Agreement is required recognising the continuation of contributions post 30 June 2021 by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment, the Addendum shall be prepared by NRM North and circulated to all

Parties. The Addendum shall be signed by the authorised signatories of NRM North and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment.

No other terms or conditions of the Agreement shall be negated or changed as a result of the Addendum unless otherwise agreed to in writing by all parties.

#### **5. Annual TEER Implementation Plan**

The implementation plan for each financial year of the multi-year Agreement will be reviewed and endorsed by the Strategy and Partnerships Committee at the meeting scheduled to occur before June 30 of each year, as per clause 3 Roles and Responsibilities. Annual contributions by the parties will be subject to the endorsement of the annual TEER Implementation Plan.

Signed for **The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North) ABN 86 015 680 466** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment ABN 58 259 330 901** by its authorised representative **for a 12 month period only, to 30 June 2021**, with contributions from July 2021 to June 2024 to be confirmed by 30 June 2021:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North) ABN 86 015 680 466** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **Department of Health and Human Services ABN 11 255 872 006** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North) ABN 86 015 680 466** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **Launceston City Council ABN 73 149 070 625** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North) ABN 86 015 680 466** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **Meander Valley Council ABN 65 904 844 993** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....



Signed for **The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North) ABN 86 015 680 466** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **George Town Council ABN 68 300 116 092** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North) ABN 86 015 680 466** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **West Tamar Council ABN 21 731 249 084** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North) ABN 86 015 680 466** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **Northern Midlands Council ABN 70 695 934 223** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North) ABN 86 015 680 466** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **Hydro-Electric Corporation (Hydro Tasmania) ABN 48 072 377 158** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (NRM North) ABN 86 015 680 466** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

Signed for **Tasmanian Water & Sewerage Corporation Pty Ltd (TasWater) ABN 47 162 220 653** by its authorised representative:

Signed: .....

Print Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

## SCHEDULE 1 - FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TEER STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE PARTNERS 2020-2024

Table 1 below provides detail of the financial cash contributions committed to the TEER program from Partners from 2020-2024 and Table 2 provides details of the in-kind commitments to the TEER program from Partners.

Payments will be made annually by Partners upon receipt of an invoice from NRM North at the start of each financial year subject to endorsement of annual implementation plans by the TEER Strategy and Partnerships Committee.

*It should be noted that additional funds managed by the TEER program are not shown here, full details of the TEER program's financial status can be found in the annual TEER partnership reports.*

**TABLE 1: Financial cash contributions from TEER Partners 2020-2024** (2021 to 2024 are estimates only)

<i>Partner</i>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
<i>Depart. Of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment</i>	\$60,000	\$65,000 To be confirmed	\$65,000 To be confirmed	\$65,000 To be confirmed
<i>City of Launceston</i>	\$62,000	\$63,240	\$64,505	\$65,795
<i>Meander Valley Council</i>	\$26,000	\$26,520	\$27,050	\$27,591
<i>West Tamar Council</i>	\$26,000	\$26,520	\$27,050	\$27,591
<i>Northern Midlands Council</i>	\$15,500	\$15,810	\$16,126	\$16,449
<i>George Town Council</i>	\$10,000	\$10,200	\$10,404	\$10,612
<i>Hydro Tasmania</i>	\$20,500	\$20,910	\$21,328	\$21,755
<i>TasWater</i>	\$48,500	\$49,470	\$50,459	\$51,469
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$268,500</b>	<b>\$277,670</b>	<b>\$281,923</b>	<b>\$286,262</b>

*Note to Table 1: CPI will be applied (estimates noted above) to the base funding request in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/2024 for all partners except for the Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.*

**TABLE 2: Financial in-kind contributions from TEER Partners 2020-2024**

<i>Partner</i>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
<i>Tasmanian Government-AST Laboratory Support</i>	\$50,000	\$50,000 To be confirmed	\$50,000 To be confirmed	\$50,000 To be confirmed
<i>NRM North</i>	\$80,000	\$81,600	\$83,232	\$84,897
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>	<b>\$131,600</b>	<b>\$133,232</b>	<b>\$134,897</b>

*Note to Table 2: In-kind contributions are provided from the Tasmanian Government through Analytical Services Tasmania for laboratory services to support the Tamar estuary monthly monitoring program and through NRM North to provide hosting, administrative support, vehicle use and program management support. All Partners contribute in-kind hours to the program through their involvement in committees and working groups.*