



# Our River. Our Future.

Revitalising kanamaluka/Tamar estuary

## Community Update December 2023

As part of the Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan (TERHAP), we're delivering new sewerage infrastructure for the city of Launceston to improve the health of kanamaluka/Tamar estuary and the environment that surrounds it.

### Improving Launceston's Combined Sewerage and Stormwater System

Launceston's combined system means there are single pipelines that carry both sewage and stormwater. After high rainfall the network receives a significant increase in flows, which can result in occasional overflows into our waterways.

We're delivering a package of projects under TERHAP to deliver upgrades and improvements to increase our capacity to transfer sewage and stormwater. These will help reduce overflow events and pathogens into our waterways.

## Construction Updates

### New Sewer Pipeline Project

In August, major construction works began on one of the largest infrastructure projects of its type in the southern hemisphere.

Our key construction sites are now set up at West Tamar Highway (foreshore area) and Valley Street, Trevallyn as well as near Kings Park, Launceston.

The New Sewer Pipeline Project involves installing a new 3 kilometre pipeline between our Margaret Street Pump Station, along the western foreshore (Trevallyn area) to our Ti Tree Bend Sewage Treatment Plant at Invermay.

Construction involves two river crossings where the new pipeline will be installed up to 40 metres under the riverbed, through a two-stage construction method known as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). First a pilot bore is drilled along the required path and then the bore is enlarged to accommodate the pipe diameter.

During the past few months, we've completed important drilling activities at our sites in Invermay and Trevallyn, installing large steel casings that will contain the new pipe. We've also commenced drilling of the pilot bores for the river crossing between Invermay and Valley Street, Trevallyn.

Alongside the Silt Ponds on the West Tamar we have successfully installed 400m of trenched pipeline. This section of pipeline will connect the two river crossings.

In late December, we'll be preparing our site at Kings Park - double stacking shipping containers to provide important and effective noise barriers during our steel casing installation and bore pilot drilling, commencing January 2024.

Major construction work on the pipeline is planned to be completed late 2024.

### Margaret Street Sewage Pump Station

In September we completed construction of a new underground diversion chamber at our Margaret Street Sewage Pump Station. The chamber will help divert sewage and stormwater flows from Old Margaret Street Pump Station to New Margaret Street Pump Station.

The diversion chamber was constructed by sinking a new concrete structure (Caisson) deep into the ground. The Caisson was formed from large precast concrete rings which were sunk into

the ground as material was excavated from within the rings and made watertight with a bottom plug and roof structure.

This was the ideal construction method for a site such as this where there's very limited space for open excavation. Using this method also meant we minimised the impacts of our construction on nearby neighbours and the surrounding parkland.

Now that we have the new diversion chamber in place, we're shifting our focus to construction works that are upgrading the pump station.

This upgrade includes installing new and larger pumps, upgraded electrical supply and controls to help cater for the increased flows we can expect to be pumping through the new pipeline to Ti Tree Bend during rain events.

### Ti Tree Bend Sewage Treatment Plant

We're constructing a new 10 megalitre covered storage facility to increase the storage capacity of Launceston's combined sewerage and stormwater system. It's being designed to capture and store the first flush and peak flows from the combined system prior to treatment at our Ti Tree Bend Sewage Treatment Plant.

During the early months of 2024, we'll begin works to prepare the site and create space for the new covered storage facility to be built.

Construction of the new storage facility is planned to begin between late December and the early months of 2024 and take around 12 months to complete.



Construction site near Ti Tree Bend Sewage Treatment Plant

# What our partners are doing to improve the health of our waterways

## NRM North Catchment Works Program

NRM North has been delivering Tamar Action Grants since 2019 to support eligible farmers in the Tamar estuary and Esk rivers catchments to reduce pathogens from entering waterways, by reducing effluent runoff and excluding stock from waterways. These grants are part of the River Health Action Plan – Catchment Works Program intended to improve water quality in the kanamaluka/Tamar estuary.

For dairy farmers who have participated, the Tamar Action Grant funding has assisted them with effluent management system upgrades such as updating effluent management plans, increasing storage capacity, and increasing application area through improved infrastructure.

There are over 20 dairy farmers involved in the Tamar Action Grants program which has helped to fund stock fencing along waterways, stock crossings, new water troughs and some revegetation works. This is helping farmers invest in significant effluent management upgrades on dairy farms within the catchment.

The Tamar Action Grants program is supported with funding from the Tasmanian and Australian Governments through the Launceston City Deal 'working together for healthy waterways'.

For more information visit [nrmnorth.org.au](http://nrmnorth.org.au) / NRM North



## What's making news

On Monday, 9 October 2023 Tasmania's Deputy Premier and representatives from the Australian Government and City of Launceston joined us to mark the start of the Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan New Sewer Pipeline Project.

Eight Tasmanian contractors are supporting the delivery of this new pipeline, one of the most ambitious drilling projects undertaken in the state.

This exciting project is the next big step towards a healthier kanamaluka/Tamar estuary.

On Saturday, 9 September 2023 we held a community information drop-in session for the New Sewer Pipeline Project.

The drop-in information session provided an opportunity for the Launceston community to directly engage with key project team members, pose questions, and gain deeper insights into the project.



The Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan (TERHAP or the Plan) is an initiative of the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) and the Launceston City Deal.

A total of \$129 million is being invested to improve the health of kanamaluka/Tamar estuary. TERHAP is jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian governments, the City of Launceston and TasWater.



Scan for more information about the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce



Scan for more information about Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan Projects

TasWater proudly acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of lutruwita - Aboriginal land, sea and waterways. We pay our deep respects to the Elders past and present and acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

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After over 20 years of campaigning, it's fantastic to see the work being done to improve the health of the kanamaluka/Tamar estuary.  
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- Community Member

