



Derwent  
Estuary  
Program

Annual Report  
2019/20







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## Our mission

To enable informed decisions.

## Our vision

The Derwent Estuary Program is the voice of the Derwent.

## Our history

The Derwent estuary lies at the heart of the Hobart metropolitan area and is an integral part of Tasmania's natural, cultural and economic heritage. Approximately 40% of Tasmania's population – 228,000 people live around the estuary's margins and the Derwent is widely used for recreation, boating, fishing and marine transportation. The estuary supports several large industries, including paper production, zinc smelting and boat building, and is Tasmania's fourth busiest port. The estuary is an important and productive ecosystem, supporting large areas of wetlands, seagrasses, tidal flats and rocky reefs. These areas support a diversity of species, including internationally protected wading birds, handfish and whales.

A number of environmental issues affect the Derwent estuary, in particular:

- Severe heavy metal contamination of sediments and biota by mercury, zinc, cadmium, lead, copper and arsenic;
- elevated nutrient concentrations, localised algal growth and, in the upper estuary, seasonally depressed oxygen levels;

- loss and degradation of estuarine habitat and species;
- severe infestation by invasive species, including harmful algal blooms;
- altered environmental flows and physical barriers to fish migration associated with dams;
- intermittent faecal contamination of recreational waters;
- climate change.

The Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) was established in 1999 as a partnership between state and local governments, industries, scientists and the community to restore and promote the Derwent estuary. In 2017 we became a registered not-for-profit, company limited by guarantee. A key role of the DEP is to coordinate and support monitoring activities and scientific investigations, and to compile and distribute the resulting information in regular reports, including five-yearly State of the Derwent Report and annual Report Cards.



# The Derwent Estuary



New  
Norfolk



SCALE

0 5  
kilometres

Iron  
Pot





SECTION ONE

# Program overview

## About us

The Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) was established in 1999 as a voluntary partnership between state and local governments, industries, scientists and the community to restore and promote the Derwent Estuary. A key role of the DEP is to coordinate and support monitoring activities and scientific investigations, and to compile and distribute the resulting information in regular reports, including five-yearly State of the Derwent Report and annual Report Cards.

The DEP currently manages monitoring activities, projects and communications valued at over \$1 million per year. Our partners and supporters include:

- Tasmanian Government
- Brighton Council
- Clarence City Council
- Derwent Valley Council
- Glenorchy City Council
- Hobart City Council
- Kingborough Council
- TasWater
- Norske Skog Boyer
- Nyrstar Hobart
- Hydro Tasmania
- Tasmanian Ports Corporation

Project support also provided by:

- Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)
- CSIRO Marine Research
- NRM South

Since 1999 more than \$200 million has been invested in environmental improvements by the DEP partners and the Derwent is now showing promising signs of recovery. During the past decade, there have been substantial reductions in discharges of organic matter (greater than 90 percent), heavy metals (greater than 60 percent), and sewage-derived nutrients (10 – 20 percent), as well as improvements in stormwater treatment.

As the condition of the estuary improves, there is growing interest in conserving and enjoying the Derwent's natural features. The DEP has led initiatives to increase the area of protected wetlands by 40 percent and to preserve iconic species such as the little penguin and the endangered spotted handfish.

More recently, the DEP has encouraged the enjoyment of the Derwent through the use of foreshore tracks by developing the *Greater Hobart Trails* website in cooperation with our six Council partners. Education about the Derwent's features has been a focus and the DEP has worked with the Parks and Wildlife Discovery rangers to engage with local primary schools. The DEP sponsored the Bookend Trust's adventure program where approximately 3000 school students learned about the value of rivers via Derwent focussed online and hands on learning.

The DEP is guided by a Business Plan 2019 – 2024 which informs annual work plans and staff action plans. In August 2019, the DEP partners renewed their commitment to the Derwent Estuary Program for another five years by signing the voluntary Partnership Agreement 2020 – 2025.



## Highlights: 2019–20

### BEACH WATCH

#### 18/18 beaches

in Hobart are suitable for swimming and have a Good or Fair water quality rating

#### 40 volunteers

from 8 businesses and the community collected **over 50 bags of litter** from Prince of Wales Bay

#### 0 ricegrass

ricegrass found in the Derwent estuary

Heavy metal levels in water, sediment and seafood have **declined in the estuary**

### HOW THE COMMUNITY USE THE ESTUARY

**29%** Fishing

**69%** Walking

**31%** Boating, Rowing, Sailing

**31%** Swimming

## Our supporters



## Our people

### BOARD MEMBERS



**Nick Heath**  
Chair



**Sophie Grace**  
Director



**Greg Davoren**  
Director



**Gary Arnold**  
Director



**Todd Milne**  
Director



**Ursula Taylor**  
Company Secretary

### EMPLOYEES

Name	Position
Ursula Taylor	CEO
Sam Whitehead	Scientist
Inger Visby	Biodiversity Officer
Akira Weller-Wong	Technical Officer
Bernadette Proemse	Catchment Scientist
Alice Doyle	Office Support

### STUDENT/VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Harrison Stevens	Honours student, University of Tasmania	June 2019 – June 2020
Iris van Os	Masters student, University of Tasmania and University of Amsterdam	January – June 2020
Caitlan Geale	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	May – June 2020
Alyce Hennessy	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	May – June 2020



## SECTION TWO

# Governance



## Structure and management

Derwent Estuary Program Limited (DEP) is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and the Register for Environmental Organisations. DEP Limited was registered as Company Limited by Guarantee on 29 March 2017.

An independent Board has responsibility for managing the DEP's governance and is supported by the Members Committee which includes the CEOs and General Managers of the DEP's partners. Guiding the DEP is its constitution which outlines the following objects of the company:

- to advance the natural environment connected with the Derwent estuary through its protection and enhancement;
- to maximise the health and diversity of the Derwent estuary, such that it supports a wide range of recreational, tourism and commercial uses and initiatives and is a source of community pride and enjoyment;
- to coordinate initiatives to reduce water pollution, conserve habitats and species, monitor river health, and to promote greater use and enjoyment of the Derwent estuary;
- to support monitoring activities and scientific investigations, and to compile and distribute relevant information in internal and public reports, in each case connected with the Derwent estuary;
- to support the management and reduction of pollution in the Derwent estuary, including sewage, contaminated sediments, industrial discharges, marine waste and urban and catchment runoff;
- to support the conservation of estuarine habitats and species, and management of marine pests, coastal weeds and river flows;
- to support informed planning, policy and assessment by providing scientific information, guidelines and professional advice;
- to provide information and education about the Derwent estuary, so as to improve understanding, awareness of, and participation in, the Derwent estuary, as well as celebrating achievements;
- to participate in and support other organisations and programs whose focus is the advancement of the natural environment connected with water systems other than the Derwent estuary;
- to establish and maintain a public fund to be called the Derwent Estuary Fund (or with such other name as the Board determines) (Fund) for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objects and purposes of the Company. The Fund is established to receive all gifts of money or property for this purpose and any money received because of such gifts must be credited to its bank account. The Fund must not receive any other money or property into its account and it must comply with subdivision 30-E of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth);
- to undertake fundraising activities for the purposes of implementing the objectives and strategies of the Company in furtherance, or in aid, of the objects above; and
- to take such other steps which are necessary or preferable to achieve or further the objects above.

To ensure the DEP manages and completes tasks at a project level we have the generous support of our partner organisations with their representatives on a Review and Planning Committee, a Communications Advisory Group and topic specific task forces including the Monitoring Task Force, Stormwater Task Force, Penguin Advisory Group and Tracks and Paths Working Group. These groups typically meet two to four times per year. The commitment to cooperative arrangements to coordinate monitoring and communications activities of the DEP is formalised in a five-year voluntary partnership agreement.

## Chairperson's report



2019 – 20 started well with DEP Members and the State Government committing to the Derwent Estuary Program for another five years by signing a voluntary Partnership Agreement.

I would like to thank and

acknowledge our partners for their ongoing commitment. Specifically – Hobart, Kingborough, Glenorchy, Clarence, Derwent Valley and Brighton Councils, Nyrstar Hobart, Norske Skog, Hydro Tasmania, TasWater, TasPorts and the Tasmanian State Government. Together we are making a positive difference to the health of the Derwent, an estuary on which we all rely and benefit from.

This year has presented us all with great challenges because of Covid-19. I would like to acknowledge the DEP staff in adapting so quickly and well to changed working conditions during this time and for continuing the work of the DEP in these difficult circumstances. It is pleasing to note the achievements of the DEP despite these disruptions.

Highlights include:

- A remarkable year of beach water quality which was in stark contrast to the previous season. The DEP facilitated working groups to develop a source tracking field kit and a communications protocol to assist operational staff identify sources of contamination in stormwater and provide guidance on how to communicate effectively with other infrastructure managers.
- A study involving a UTAS/Uni of Amsterdam student expanded on the use of isotopes to differentiate sources of nitrogen used by seaweed and showed that this technique is useful in identifying marine and anthropogenic sources. This tool can be used for future monitoring, especially in light of intensification of industries and activities around the Derwent estuary.

- The history of nutrient concentrations and their sources in Derwent sediments revealed in a UTAS Honours study showed that nutrients have been increasing in the mid-estuary.
- Heavy metals in a variety of fish and shellfish species have declined but health advice to limit consumption of Derwent caught fish remains and to avoid eating shellfish from the estuary.
- A thorough assessment of the Derwent's saltmarsh in cooperation with UTAS provides practical advice to private and public land managers to help this critical habitat survive and thrive.

Sharing our science is critical to assist organisations in their environmental management as well as informing individual action. A Communications Strategy for the Derwent Estuary Program was prepared by Leigh Arnold Consulting for the DEP and this alongside information from the 2019 Community Survey will assist the DEP in sharing our science effectively.

Financially the DEP remains stable which means we can continue to provide our core monitoring and reporting services. Partnerships continue to provide excellent opportunities for collaborative work and the DEP Working Groups involving Members and other stakeholders are producing valuable products. In 2020 – 21 we will see the publication of a five yearly State of the Derwent Report; a stormwater communications campaign to kick off the start of our BeachWatch program; and a Healthy River Action Plan to guide management of the Derwent River, one of Tasmania's most important natural assets. The Board and I look forward to continuing to support the DEP in their endeavours.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N. Heath'.

**Nick Heath**

*Chair, Derwent Estuary Program  
General Manager, Hobart City Council*





## CEO's report



2019 – 20 will forever be remembered because of the challenges of Covid-19 impacting on both our professional and personal lives. The Derwent Estuary Program, as a small organisation, was able to

respond to lockdown quickly by moving our operation to our homes. We learnt to work remotely while still maintaining our connections. There have been difficulties, but we have been creative in remaining connected with each other as well as our partners with some good outcomes. People who work far from the city have felt more connected to the DEP as they can participate in meetings using digital platforms, saving a long commute. Some staff have discovered that a combination of working from home and in the office is a great benefit both to their work life and for their families. Communication is so important to our organisation, in sharing our science, but also with each other and particularly during the experience of lockdown, this has helped deepen our connections. It has fostered an appreciation of the work we do and the people we work with. Caring for people and open communication have been the principles that have underpinned our response to this major disruption so that the work of the DEP continues with good humour and dedication.

Enabling informed decisions is our mission and it has been reflected well in the projects we have completed this year. The development of a source tracking tool kit and a communications protocol to assist our local government and TasWater members tackle pollution coming from stormwater is one such example. Simple methods tested in the field are now being rolled out to find, then address infrastructure problems across catchments.

The results are fantastic, and monitoring has revealed that these efforts are helping to improve water quality at our beaches. The 2019 – 20 swimming season was in stark contrast to the previous year with only five exceedances of enterococci (a faecal indicator) compared with 52 in 2018 – 19. The combination of infrastructure repairs, a low flow diversion at Blackmans Bay and a season of low rainfall contributed to the improved water quality conditions across the estuary.

This year we were pleased to support students from UTAS and the University of Amsterdam in undertaking research in the estuary. Their research was excellent and adds to our understanding of heavy metals in sediments as well as monitoring techniques to assess nitrogen sources. We are particularly delighted that Harrison Stevens will continue his sediment work in the catchment and congratulate him on receiving a PhD scholarship at UTAS to do this.

In the coming year we will continue to build on our research and monitoring with a focus on catchment science, upper estuary studies and working with local councils on improving rivulet health. Our five-yearly State of the Derwent Report has been a major task for DEP staff and will be published in later 2020. Thank you to our partners for contributing to our monitoring, providing expert advice and peer review of our science again this year. It gives me, and the DEP team confidence that the information we do produce is of a high scientific standard, so valuable for informing environmental management.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'U Taylor'.

**Ursula Taylor**

*Chief Executive Officer*

## Our objectives and activities

The following summarises the activities undertaken by the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) in cooperation with its partner organisations in 2019 – 20. These objectives and actions also align with our charitable purpose which can be found in the DEP Constitution.

### CORE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

In August 2019 the DEP renewed its five-year Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the State Government and its 11 members comprising of six local councils and five industries. The term of this agreement is from 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2025.

The DEP provides executive support to the Members Committee and Board. In doing so the DEP prepares annual work plans, administers the finances, supports staff and sub-programs.

In 2019-20 we continued implementing the five-year Business Plan. This Business Plan was developed through facilitated workshops with the DEP Board and Review and Planning Committee. The Business Plan is a working draft and informs the DEP's Annual Work Plans for the Board and Members. Initiatives outlined in the Business Plan have been linked to staff action plans.

A business risk assessment was conducted by Wise, Lord and Fergusson which identified several risks for the DEP to manage. Risks include stating the value proposition of the DEP to partners and the public, clarity of role/purpose, stakeholder engagement and effective communication. Work, health and safety and cyber security were identified as the largest threat to the DEP and measures are in place to mitigate them.

A Communications Strategy was also prepared in 2020 to clarify and target DEP communications. This involved DEP staff, the Board, the Review and Planning Committee and the Communications Advisory Group with a consultant preparing the final document.

### GOALS

- 1 Science to guide management
- 2 Facilitate pollution reduction
- 3 Facilitate nature protection
- 4 Engage, inspire and grow the DEP



## 1 SCIENCE TO GUIDE MANAGEMENT

Highlights for 2019–20 include coordination and reporting on the recreational water quality program in cooperation with our council partners and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), ambient monitoring program in cooperation with industry and the EPA, and publication of the internal Annual Technical Report summarising the monitoring conducted in 2018–19. Data for 2019 will be summarised in the five-yearly State of the Derwent Report due later in 2020.

Each year the DEP and its partners monitor:

- Summer recreational water quality each week from December until the end of March
- Whole of estuary ambient water quality each month including nutrients and heavy metals
- Heavy metal levels in recreationally targeted seafood.

Monitoring seagrass health and dissolved oxygen levels in the upper estuary continued in 2019–20.

A survey of a variety of recreationally targeted fish species was repeated in 2019–20 and results revealed a reduction in heavy metal levels in some species. The survey was funded by the Department of Health and the DEP. Results will be published in the five-yearly State of the Derwent Report in 2020. Health advice regarding consumption of seafood from the Derwent is unaffected by this survey as metal levels remain above health guidelines.

Use of stable isotopes to estimate the percentage of Nitrogen from sewage and marine sources was trialled in 2019 and the study expanded in cooperation with a student from UTAS.

### 1.1 Recreational water quality (RWQ)

The DEP summer recreation water quality program commenced 1 December 2019 and concluded on 31 March 2020. The program included 21 'BeachWatch' swimming sites and 21 'BayWatch' environmental sites. Public reporting was provided on the DEP website and Facebook page.

The water quality at Swimming Sites was significantly better than the previous season, with only five exceedances of the enterococci trigger level of 140 MPN 100 mL<sup>-1</sup>, compared to the previous season with its record number of 52 exceedances. At the end of the 2019/20 summer, the long-term classification was updated and there were 10 Swimming Sites graded as Good, six sites graded as Fair, none as Poor, and five sites not yet rated (all sites require five years of sampling data to calculate a long-term rating).

This season saw the inclusion of four new swimming sampling sites; two new sites Blackmans Bay Beach (north), Bellerive Beach (east) and two sites that had been moved from positions by stormwater outfalls at Blackmans Bay Beach (south) and Kingston Beach (south). The movement of sites complies with Department of Health (DoH) advice of not swimming near outfalls.

The water quality at the 22 Environmental Sites (including one new site at New Norfolk) was also an improvement on the previous season. On 18 occasions results of over 140 MPN 100 mL<sup>-1</sup> were recorded, compared to 51 times last season. The season results led to three sites upgraded from Fair to Good: Elwick Bay, Geilston Bay and MONA jetty, and one decline from Good to Fair for Lindisfarne Bay. The 2019–20 Recreational Water Quality Monitoring report prepared by the DEP is publicly available [https://www.derwentestuary.org.au/assets/2019-20\\_RWQ\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://www.derwentestuary.org.au/assets/2019-20_RWQ_Annual_Report.pdf)

Outcome of recommendations from the 2018–19 RWQ season:

- Source tracking tool kit prepared for Council use. Already the ammonia test kit has been used effectively to trace damaged infrastructure in the stormwater system.
- A communications protocol for Environmental Health Officers to assist them with the process of managing water samples returning high enterococci readings.
- Department of Health have provided some funding for the development of a stormwater communications campaign in 2020–21.



### 1.2 Ambient water quality monitoring

Monthly monitoring continues with support from our industry partners and the EPA. Our program is now one of the longest running (over 20 years) and most cost-effective waterway monitoring programs in Australia. There were reductions in both metal levels and nutrients in the estuary. Nutrients from wastewater treatment plants including Prince of Wales Bay, Blackmans Bay and Cameron Bay decreased due to process optimisation.

### 1.3 Seafood safety monitoring

A seafood survey to determine heavy metal levels in a range of fish species commenced in 2018–19 with further samples being collected in 2019–20. This is a repeat of a survey from 2007 – 2012. The suite of metals measured included total mercury, cadmium, copper, lead, zinc, arsenic, chromium, iron, manganese, nickel, selenium. Mercury is the most toxic and these results will be important to share with the Department of Health and the public. Results indicate that metal levels are still above accepted health guidelines so consumption advice provided by the Department of Health will not change. Some levels have decreased which in part mirrors declines in heavy metal levels in ambient water. This report is presently with the Department of Health for review.

### 1.4 Sediment study

A UTAS Honours student, Harrison Stevens investigated nutrients in Derwent sediments with support from our Catchment Scientist. The study considered past nutrient loads and sources to different parts of the estuary. The upper estuary occasionally experiences low dissolved oxygen levels and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values indicate that the nutrient sources to the upper estuary are predominantly riverine inputs and paper mill effluent. The middle estuary was found to have increasing nutrient (C, N, and P) concentrations for the past 65 years and peaks in nutrient mass accumulation rates over the past ~35 years.  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values indicate that this increase is associated with nearby waste-water treatment plants. The semi-enclosed Ralphs Bay is partially sheltered from the major anthropogenic sources of nutrients and nutrient concentrations are low as a result.

### 1.5 Tracing nutrient sources in the Derwent estuary using stable isotope techniques

A nitrogen isotope analyses project was extended in 2019–20 with assistance from a UTAS volunteer who collected macroalgae (*Ulva*) at approx. 30 different rocky reef sites across the estuary. Results show that different sample locations were affected by different nitrogen sources. The two major sources of nitrogen in the estuary were sewage and marine nitrogen. The results demonstrate that the nitrogen isotopic composition in *Ulva spp.* reflects the contribution of these sources in the ecosystem and is a useful tool for future monitoring, especially in light of intensification of industries and activities around the Derwent estuary.

### 1.6 Upper estuary monitoring and special studies

The upper estuary between New Norfolk and Dogshear Point is a marine conservation area of high ecological value, principally due to the seagrass meadows that support fish and large populations of waterbirds including black swans. This area also provides an important nutrient and sediment removal service that improves the water quality of the Derwent estuary. Tens of thousands of juvenile barracoota washed up on the banks of this conservation area in February and March 2015. This event coincided with a period of low dissolved oxygen and severe algal blooms that smothered the seagrass meadows. As a result, the DEP established targeted monitoring programs aiming to better understand whether human activities were a factor in these conditions. We now have a robust dataset encompassing four summer seasons. We have learned that high river discharge will increase oxygen levels in the upper estuary. This also can occur during very low flows as this allows the salt water to move further upstream which provides a boost to oxygen levels. Data has been provided to Hydro Tas which helped inform their Tarraleah upgrade and the timing of altered flow to minimise the impact to the upper estuary.



## 2 FACILITATE POLLUTION REDUCTION

### 2.1 Sewage

- Low-flow diversion of stormwater to sewer at Blackmans Bay now online and water quality is better this season at Blackmans Bay beach (south).
- DEP to continue to provide monitoring data to TasWater and EPA.
- Process changes at wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in the Derwent show reduced nutrient output.

### 2.2 Industry

- DEP providing scientific assistance to the Bridgewater Bridge project and associated consultants.
- DEP provides comment on development applications relevant to the Derwent if valued by council planners i.e. relevant DEP partners contacted prior to DEP providing information.

### 2.3 Stormwater and litter

- Stormwater Taskforce developing priorities for stormwater quality management. DEP worked with Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and taskforce to develop framework to assist local government with Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) in planning provisions.
- Sediment and erosion control training to be arranged for council operations staff and possibly planners – on hold.

### 2.4 Catchment

The DEP is preparing a Healthy River Action Plan in cooperation with the Catchment Working Group to provide recommendations for water quality monitoring and management in the River Derwent.

DEP will provide in-kind support to the *Heavy metal detection system for water quality monitoring*, a project designed by Grey Innovation Technology Commercialisation. They were unsuccessful in their first application for grant funding through the Cooperative Research Centre – Projects (CRC-P) but they have been asked to resubmit their application in the next round in October 2020.

### 2.5 D’Entrecasteaux Channel – Lower Huon Estuary Collaboration

The DEP continued to support this partnership in 2019–20 (with Kingborough and Huon Valley councils, NRM South, TasWater, Tassal and Huon Aquaculture), which seeks to compile and distribute scientific information about the Channel/Huon and implement collaborative projects.

### 2.6 Storm Bay

The DEP participated in the Storm Bay Technical and Steering Committees in 2019–20 regarding research in Storm Bay to understand the possible impact of salmon farming. The DEP has a particular interest in understanding whether the expansion of aquaculture will elevate nutrients in the estuary.

### 2.7 Rocky reef surveys

The first of two rapid visualisation rocky reef surveys at 6 sites in the estuary by the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) is complete. This will provide baseline information about these ecosystems which may reflect changes in ambient water condition e.g. nutrients from urban and/or aquaculture sources. The survey method is comparable to the monitoring of rocky reefs in Storm Bay.

### 3 FACILITATE NATURE PROTECTION

- Little penguins: DEP now has its own permit for monitoring. Monthly monitoring recommenced in May 2020.
- Spotted handfish: DEP continues to support the National Handfish Recovery Team in their efforts to increase the populations of the endangered handfish.
- Restoration of saltmarsh trial at Windermere Bay is proving successful with saltmarsh returning to areas that are no longer mowed.
- Weed control:
  - The DEP continues to provide technical support and some funding to a regional project to manage karamu in the upper estuary.
  - A Derwent Foreshore Weed Strategy was developed in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. This document will inform priority weed management and provide a good basis for funding applications.
  - No rice grass was found in the most recent survey conducted in October 2019.

### 4 COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Leigh Arnold, a communications consultant, hosted a workshop with staff and will develop a new communications plan for the DEP. CEO consulted with Review and Planning Committee about suggested changes and their communication needs. The DEP now has an up-to-date Communications Strategy.

Media and events:

- WSUD media on ABC TV (January 2020)
- World Wetlands Day (2 February 2020)
- Clean Up Australia Day (25 February 2020)
- DEP Newsletter (May 2020)
- End of season Beach Watch results (June 2020)

Websites:

- Greater Hobart Trails was created in 2013 and needs an upgrade — project brief to be prepared
- DEP website requires maintenance

Publications

- 2019 Annual Technical Report for DEP Partners
- 2019–20 Recreational Water Quality Report
- Source Tracking Tool Kit
- Community Survey 2019
- Five Year State of the Derwent Reporting due later in 2020 — major project for DEP staff.

Conferences/ events – including DEP presentations:

- Sediment and Erosion workshops — Hobart, Launceston (July 2019)
- Australian Water Association State conference — Hobart (July 2019)
- Conferences and training planned for 2020 were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions

Roadshows and briefings: the following have been held:

- TasWater — communications team (22 July 2019)
- TasWater Board (28 January 2020)
- Hydro Tas mgt team (3 February 2020)
- Southern Tas Anglers (5 February 2020)
- Analytical Services Tas (5 March 2020)
- Environment Minister — Roger Jaensch (11 March 2020)
- Storm Bay Governance Committee (20 April 2020)
- Lindisfarne Rotary Club (3 June 2020)



# How you can help

## VOLUNTEERING

There are big and small things we can all do to make a difference to the Derwent and the places we live. It could be as simple as cleaning up after your dog or collecting litter from your local beach. For those looking for something more there are many opportunities to connect with the community through Coastcare or Landcare. Every little bit counts and lots of little actions add up to a healthier river.

Here are a few volunteering suggestions:

- Wildcare Friends of the Derwent and Channel Penguins
- Coastcare — Southern Tasmania
- Clean Up Australia Day

## MAKE A DONATION

**Tax deductible financial contributions can now be made via our Donate Now facility on the DEP Home Page.**

Donations received will help us with our science and restoration including rocky reef and marine pest surveys, monitoring of heavy metals in water and seafood, monitoring of bacteria levels at beaches, restoration of saltmarsh and weed control in wetlands, to name a few of our initiatives to improve this wonderful waterway.

## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

[www.derwentestuary.org.au/get-involved](http://www.derwentestuary.org.au/get-involved)



## Looking to the future

**Themes for 2020–21 – Implement the Business Plan 2019–2024, monitor the estuary, identify gaps, seek project funding and communicate with partners and public.**

### GOVERNANCE

- Board and Members meetings
- Financial audit
- Compliance with ASIC, ACNC

### SCIENCE TO GUIDE MANAGEMENT

- Seek funding for Catchment WQIP/ Healthy River Action Plan
- Review Beach Watch season and implement recommendations
- Work with councils on rivulet monitoring
- Rocky reef and intertidal surveys
- Devise a monitoring program for the catchment

### FACILITATE POLLUTION REDUCTION

- Stormwater management priorities identified in cooperation with Stormwater Taskforce
- Develop stormwater communications campaign
- Litter awareness and clean-ups

### FACILITATE NATURE PROTECTION

- Maintain species working groups – Little Penguins and Spotted Handfish
- Little Penguin monitoring
- Rice grass and Karamu surveys
- Regional foreshore weed plan
- Saltmarsh condition monitoring and management recommendations

### ENGAGE, INSPIRE, GROW THE DEP

- Regular Roadshows – partners, politicians
- Prepare internal Annual Technical Report and external Annual State of the Derwent Report Card
- Maps for assets, threats, community interest
- Share our science with the public via a variety of media channels
- Seek funding to update websites



## SECTION THREE

# Finances



## Auditor's report



9 October 2020

The Members  
DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LTD  
Level 4 24 Davey St  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Members

### **RE: Audit for the Year Ended 30 June 2020**

Please find enclosed two copies of the financial statements prepared and audited by our firm.

Would you please arrange for the Committee Statement to be signed. Also, can you please complete the Management Representation Letter and Related Party Disclosures, and return all documents to our office, following which we will sign the Auditor's Report and return the copies to you.

We wish to remind you that after we have signed the Auditor's Report the original copy needs to be lodged with the ACNC along with a list of committee members.

### **Matters for Consideration:**

- + Accru has made the decision to cease the audit arm of the business from June 2021. Accordingly, we have entered into an arrangement with Bentleys for our clients to have a seamless transition for their 2021 audit. Mike Derbyshire is the partner-in-charge and if you decide to appoint Bentleys at your AGM we will provide relevant information to them as they prepare for your next audit.

Should you wish to discuss any matters further please do not hesitate to give myself a call. We wish the organisation the best of luck in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burnett", written over a light blue circular stamp.

**Michael Burnett** B.Com.F.C.A.  
Registered Company Auditor  
Partner

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## Management Representation Letter

Accru Hobart Pty Ltd  
C/- Mr Michael Burnett, Partner  
PO Box 28  
ROSNY PARK TAS 7018

Dear Michael

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial report of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd, for the year ended 30 June 2020, for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report is presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

We confirm that (*to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such enquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves*):

### Financial Report

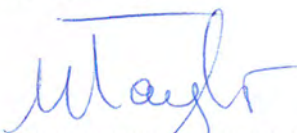
- + We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; in particular, the financial report is fairly presented (or gives a true and fair view) in accordance therewith.
- + Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable (ASA 540).
- + Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards (ASA 550).
- + All events subsequent to the date of the financial report and for which Australian Accounting Standards require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. (ASA 560).
- + The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial report as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to the representation letter (ASA 450).

### Information Provided

- + We have provided you with:
  - o Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial report such as records, documentation and other matters;
  - o Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit, and
  - o Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- + All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial report.
- + We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial report may be materially misstated as a result of fraud (ASA 240).
- + We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the entity and involves:
  - o Management;
  - o Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - o Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial report (ASA 240).

- + We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial report communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others (ASA 240).
- + We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report (ASA 250).
- + We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware (ASA 550).

Yours sincerely



CEO

Name

Ursula Taylor

Title

9 October 2020

Date



## Profit and loss for the year ended 30 June 2020

<b>TRADING INCOME</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Grants	151,449	188,481	0
Interest Income	4,089	4,398	2,068
Member Contribution	455,188	148,750	537,125
Other Revenue	434	0	202,692
Training Income	0	20,732	0
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>611,160</b>	<b>362,361</b>	<b>741,886</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>611,160</b>	<b>362,361</b>	<b>741,886</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Cash Flow Boost (ATO)	42,020	0	0
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>42,020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Advertising	136	0	36
Annual Leave Provision	26,372	0	0
Bank Fees	75	193	0
Computer Support	1,570	2,320	0
Consulting & Accounting	81,272	26,812	41,499
Contribution to Channel Project	10,000	10,000	10,000
Entertainment	0	0	1,037
Equipment Purchases under \$10,000	4,768	27,480	5,849
Field Expenses	895	3,614	665
Freight & Courier	83	166	0
General Expenses	0	0	1,666
Insurance	5,514	4,459	0
Legal expenses	1,981	4,500	0
Long Service Leave Provision	8,510	0	0
Meeting Costs	851	3,577	913
Motor Vehicle Expenses	2,055	3,002	346
Office Expenses	1,280	631	544
Printing, Graphics and Website	20,465	20,029	8,265
Prior year adjustment	0	(1)	0
Professional Development/Training	2,913	3,742	1,618
Protective workwear	657	91	0
Rent	20,600	18,633	51,621
Repairs and Maintenance	50	0	0
Subscriptions/Registrations	11,072	9,859	0
Superannuation	40,172	34,257	31,871
Telephone & Internet	6,300	4,202	3,190
Travel - National	813	615	2,478
Wages and Salaries	401,725	357,168	318,708
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>650,128</b>	<b>535,348</b>	<b>480,305</b>
<b>NET PROFIT</b>	<b>3,052</b>	<b>(172,987)</b>	<b>261,581</b>

## Balance sheet as at 30 June 2020

	30 June 2020	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Bank			
DEP - Public Management Fund	1	1	0
DEP Ltd Operations	103,211	71,648	33,840
Derwent Estuary Program Ltd	226,207	272,244	380,199
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>329,419</b>	<b>343,893</b>	<b>414,039</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Accounts Receivable	59,164	22,000	148,619
Term Deposit	209,584	205,495	201,097
TFN Withholding Tax	0	971	971
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>268,748</b>	<b>228,466</b>	<b>350,687</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>598,167</b>	<b>572,359</b>	<b>764,726</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Annual Leave liability	26,372	0	0
GST	6,389	3,934	30,891
PAYG Withholdings Payable	7,598	25,716	23,388
Superannuation Payable	13,598	10,060	4,811
Total Current Liabilities	53,957	39,710	59,090
Non-current Liabilities			
Long Service Leave liability	8,510	0	0
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>8,510</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>62,467</b>	<b>39,710</b>	<b>59,090</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>535,701</b>	<b>532,649</b>	<b>705,636</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Current Year Earnings	3,052	(172,987)	261,581
Retained Earnings	532,649	705,636	444,056
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>535,701</b>	<b>532,649</b>	<b>705,636</b>

## Movements in equity for the year ended June 2020

	2020	2019	2018
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Opening Balance	532,649	705,636	444,056
Current Year Earnings	3,052	(172,987)	261,581
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>535,701</b>	<b>532,649</b>	<b>705,636</b>

## Statement of cash flows for the year ended June 2020

	2020	2019	2018
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from customers	619,515	509,928	709,666
Payments to suppliers and employees	(680,997)	(541,341)	(462,475)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	15,245	(34,335)	(43,727)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(46,237)</b>	<b>(65,749)</b>	<b>203,464</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Other cash items from investing activities	(3,119)	(4,397)	(202,068)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>(3,119)</b>	<b>(4,397)</b>	<b>(202,068)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Other cash items from financing activities</b>			
Annual Leave liability	26,372	0	0
Long Service Leave liability	8,510	0	0
<b>Total Other cash items from financing activities</b>	<b>34,882</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>34,882</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS</b>	<b>(14,474)</b>	<b>(70,146)</b>	<b>1,395</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	343,893	414,039	412,643
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	329,419	343,893	414,039
<b>Net change in cash for period</b>	<b>(14,474)</b>	<b>(70,146)</b>	<b>1,395</b>



## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended June 2020

### Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. These financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the board has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with those of previous periods unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

### Significant Accounting Policies:

#### a) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

### Note 2: Change in Member Income Invoicing

It was agreed by the Derwent Estuary Program Board at their meeting on 6 June 2018 that invoices to Members will be issued at the start of each financial year (July), with the exception of Nyrstar as they operate their finances on a calendar year. This will remedy the inconsistencies in income noted in the 2019 financial year which showed that income was significantly lower. The majority of Member income for the 2018/19 financial year was received in May 2018 resulting in the member income varying significantly from \$537,125 in 2018 to \$148,750 in 2019 and \$455,188 in 2020.

## Board statement for the year ended June 2020

The board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.


In the opinion of the Board, the attached financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Derwent Estuary Program Ltd, as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020;
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Derwent Estuary Program Ltd, will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



**DIRECTOR**



**SECRETARY**

Dated at Hobart this **14th day of October 2020**

## Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd (the Entity), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2020, the profit and loss statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act).

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standard Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Derwent Estuary Program Ltd to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.



### Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee. An audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



.....  
Michael J Burnett B.Com. FCA  
Registered Company Auditor  
Partner, Accru+ Hobart  
Lvl 1, 18 Ross Avenue  
ROSNY PARK TAS 7018

16 October 2020

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Date











Level 4, 24 Davey St  
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