



Derwent Estuary
Program

2022/23 Annual Report

Derwent Estuary Program Limited



Acknowledgement of country and the timtumili minanya

We pay our respects to the traditional and original owners of the land, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and to those who have passed before us. We acknowledge and recognise today's Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the custodians of the land and waters of lutruwita (Tasmania).

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's Language Program has carried out extensive linguistics and historical research on the original languages of Tasmania to retrieve and revive Aboriginal language. *Palawa kani* is the language of Tasmanian Aborigines and the name of the River Derwent in *palawa kani* is timtumili minanya.





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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 timtumili minanya/Derwent Estuary lies at the heart of the Hobart metropolitan area and is a valued asset to Tasmania's natural, cultural and economic heritage.

Approximately 228,000 people (about 40 percent of Tasmania's entire population) 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.

As an important and productive ecosystem, the estuary supports extensive areas of wetlands, seagrasses, tidal flats and rocky reefs. These areas support a diversity of species, including internationally protected wading birds, handfish and whales.

Several 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;
- altered environmental flows and physical barriers to fish migration associated with dams;
- intermittent faecal contamination of beaches and bays;
- climate change.



- Murray Powell, GPT assessment training.

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 vital role of the DEP is coordinating and supporting monitoring activities and scientific investigations and compiling and distributing the resulting information in regular reports, including the five-yearly State of the Derwent Report and annual Report Cards. This focus ensures we contribute to informed decision-making in caring for the estuary.



The Derwent Estuary





About us

About us

Established in 1999, the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) is a voluntary partnership between state and local governments, industries, scientists and the community to share science to guide environmental management of the Derwent Estuary. Our key role 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.

We manage monitoring activities, projects and communications valued at over \$1 million annually. 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
- Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)
- EPA Tasmania
- NRM South

Project support is also provided by:

- CSIRO Marine Research
- Derwent Catchment Project
- The Ian Potter Foundation



- Seagrass restoration trial.

- Clarence City Council staff collecting beach water samples.



More than \$200 million has been invested in environmental improvements by the DEP partners since 1999, 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. We have 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.

Encouraging communities to enjoy the Derwent using foreshore tracks through our [Greater Hobart Trails](#) website was a major activity. The refreshed website was developed in cooperation with our six Council partners, Wellington Park Management Trust and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Our Business Plan 2019 – 2024, informs annual work plans and staff action plans. In August 2019, twelve DEP partners renewed their commitment to the Derwent Estuary Program for another five years by signing the voluntary Partnership Agreement 2020 – 2025. This partnership expanded further to 15 members in 2021.

Our supporters



- Clean Up Australia Day 2023.



Our people

BOARD MEMBERS



Nick Heath
Chair

Charles Livesey
Director

Greg Davoren
Director
(completed
tenure Nov
2022)

Gary Arnold
Director

Todd Milne
Director

Professor Catriona MacLeod
Director

Frances Smith
Director
(commenced
Jun 2023)

Ursula Taylor
Company
Secretary

EMPLOYEES

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Ursula Taylor	CEO	
Inger Visby	Biodiversity Officer	
Akira Weller-Wong	Estuary Scientist	
Bernadette Proemse	Catchment Scientist	
Michelle Foale	Stormwater Officer	Commenced 1 Sep 2021
Alice Doyle	Office Support	
Emily Shen	Social Media Support	Dec 2022 – Mar 2023
Justine Latton	Technical Officer	

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Peter Vertigan	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Jordy Monash	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Jordan Kath	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Benjamin Groom	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	Feb 2023
Sam Deller	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	



- Kelsie Fractal, UTAS PhD student.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Name	Position
Kelsie Fractal: <i>Understanding the effects of sediment nutrient loads on seagrass rhizome microbial communities and health (with the aim of identifying seagrass restoration sites)</i>	PhD candidate, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania
Le Thuy Duong Ha: <i>Natural Capital Accounting for the Derwent Estuary</i>	PhD candidate, College of Business and Economics, University of Tasmania
Harrison Stevens: <i>Reconstructing atmospheric deposition, nutrient cycling, and history of Tasmanian Central Highland Lakes</i>	PhD candidate, University of Tasmania

We support our people through our policies and procedures to facilitate quality work, health and safety practices and provide flexible working arrangements to recognise our commitments to families and the community.

Highlights: 2022–23

19 out of 20 beach sampling sites in Hobart are suitable for swimming and have a Good or Fair long-term water quality rating.

Howrah Beach (mid) **water quality improved** from Poor to Fair.

State of the Derwent Report 2022 released demonstrating environmental trends in the estuary.

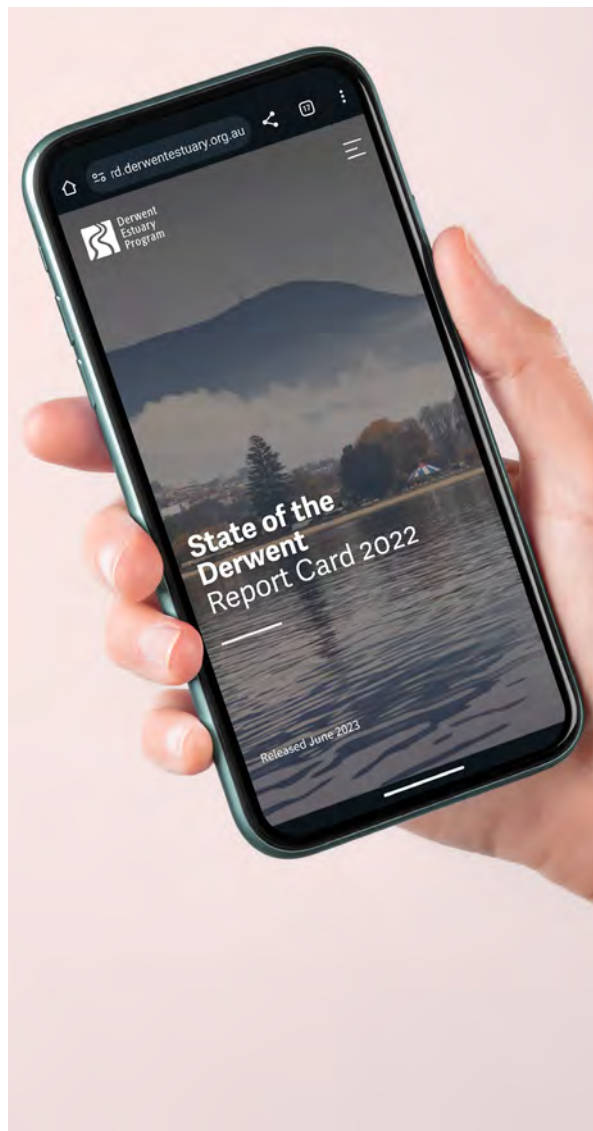
Water Sensitive Urban Design training provided to 35 people from councils and the development industry.

At three Clean Up Australia Day events 70 people collected litter including **7,500** pieces of soft plastic.

Joint winner with the Local Government Association of Tasmania of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Excellence Award in Asset Management, Innovation or Sustainability for our *Tasmanian Stormwater Policy Guidance and Standards for Development*.

The **endangered Australasian Bittern** was recorded in Murphys Flat wetland.

- Beach water sampling.





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 objectives of the company to:

- Advance the natural environment connected with the Derwent Estuary through its protection and enhancement.
- Maximise the health and diversity of the Derwent Estuary, support a wide range of recreational, tourism and commercial uses and initiatives, and celebrate it as a source of community pride and enjoyment.
- Coordinate initiatives to reduce water pollution, conserve habitats and species, monitor river health, and to promote greater use and enjoyment of the Derwent Estuary.
- 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.
- Support managing and reducing pollution in the Derwent Estuary, including sewage, contaminated sediments, industrial discharges, marine waste and urban and catchment runoff.
- Support the conservation of estuarine habitats and species and management of marine pests, coastal weeds and river flows.
- Support informed planning, policy and assessment by providing scientific information, guidelines and professional advice.
- Provide information and education about the Derwent Estuary, to improve understanding, awareness of, and participation in, and celebrating achievements.
- Participate in and support other organisations and programs that focus on advancing the natural environment connected with water systems other than the Derwent Estuary.
- Establish and maintain a public fund to be called the Derwent Estuary Fund (or with such other name as the Board determines) to support 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 must comply with subdivision 30-E of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth).
- Deliver fundraising activities to implement the objectives and strategies of the Company in furtherance, or in aid, of the objects above.
- Take other necessary or preferable steps to achieve or further the above objectives.

To make sure we manage and complete 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 working groups including the Monitoring Task Force, Stormwater Task Force, Catchment Working Group, 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



I am delighted to report that the Derwent Estuary Program continues to deliver projects that see us fulfil our purpose of being the voice of the Derwent, and I'd like to share some of the governance highlights of the past financial year.

The Board continues to assess the business risks to the DEP. The risk register is a living document that translates to practical action to mitigate risks associated with work health and safety, financial security, technical systems and stakeholder engagement. This background work helps identify opportunities for the DEP and ensures that the DEP operates soundly from a business perspective.

The Australian Labor Party confirmed their commitment to funding projects through its Urban Water and Catchments Fund. Projects will include a stormwater assessment to improve beach and bay water quality, saltmarsh restoration, spotted handfish monitoring and habitat installation and data visualisation to help share our science. Already the DEP is developing the necessary partnerships to enable these projects to be delivered.

There has been some change to the Board, and I would like to farewell Greg Davoren and thank him for his financial expertise and his considered contribution to the DEP's strategic approach. Greg has supported the DEP since the early 2000s and will be missed. In his stead, we welcome Fran Smith to the Board who brings a wealth of experience in her long career with the water industry. I want to thank all the DEP Board members for their continued support in guiding this trusted organisation.

Financially the DEP remains stable, which means we can continue to provide our core monitoring and reporting services and the additional grants support Business Plan initiatives. Thank you again to all fifteen of our members for being part of this unique partnership that measurably improves the Derwent Estuary's condition.

The work of the DEP has again been recognised in supporting businesses and governments to manage pollution. Congratulations to the team for the DEP and the Local Government Association of Tasmania partnership on winning the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Excellence Award in Asset Management, Innovation or Sustainability. This award was given for our *Tasmanian Stormwater Policy Guidance and Standards for Development*.

With an eye to the future, the DEP will review and develop the next Business Plan. The current plan expires at the end of June 2024, by which time we will have new initiatives to pursue. The development of this plan will be an inclusive process, and the Board Directors and I look forward to working with our partners to address existing and emerging challenges facing the condition of the Derwent Estuary, catchment and connecting waterways.

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

Nick Heath
Chair, Derwent Estuary Program
General Manager, Hobart City Council

CEO's report



Writing an annual report introduction is challenging, but it's an excellent opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the activities of the Derwent Estuary Program over the previous 12 months. We have been building on the work we have been doing for many years, and it

is wonderful to see our connections with our partners leading to tangible benefits for the estuary.

Alarmingly, we revealed up to four truckloads of soil are lost from building sites after heavy rain. This is a situation we are striving to address from multiple angles. We contributed to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Policy to highlight the significance of stormwater management in protecting waterway conditions. In 2022–23 we collaborated with our partners and the Tamar Estuary Esk Rivers Program to update our Erosion and Sediment control resources and provided training for builders, developers, planners and council operations crew. This work will require dedicated effort. Over the next year, we will work with the EPA to deliver compliance training to Authorised Officers in local government to support their efforts in managing sediment runoff on new development sites.

Our catchment water quality project funded by The Ian Potter Foundation to trial real-time in-situ water quality analysers is progressing well. The real-time data has been validated through 12 months of traditional grab samples, analysed by Analytical Services Tasmania. Work continues to improve performance and adaptation of this new technology by industry.

Water quality at beaches and bays in 2022–23 had mixed results. The good news is that Hobart now has only one swimming site out of 19 with a Poor long-term water quality rating. The site at mid-Howrah moved from Poor to Fair in 2022–23 which is excellent news for swimmers. This was due to the concerted effort of Clarence City Council and TasWater investigating the stormwater and sewer network to find and fix damaged infrastructure.

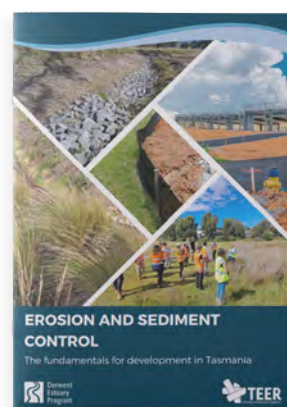
Plans for 2023–24 include delivering projects funded by the Australian Government through the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program including an assessment of stormwater to improve beach and bay water quality, saltmarsh restoration, spotted handfish monitoring and habitat installation and data visualisation to help share our science. Pollution from stormwater continues to be significant so education support for sediment and erosion control will also be a focus.

Communicating our science is an important part of what we do. Further details of our projects and the environmental monitoring can be found in our most recent State of the Derwent Report Card, released in June 2023. This showcases environmental trends, community projects, industry initiatives and provides an insight into some of the Derwent's wonderful plants and animals.

Finally, I would like to thank the DEP staff for their enthusiasm and professional approach to helping us achieve our goals through field work, managing and supporting the DEP working groups, analysing and sharing data. I'd like to congratulate DEP Estuary Scientist Akira Weller-Wong for his Tasmanian Young Water Professional of the Year award from the Australian Water Association.

Thanks also to the Board and Partners for their continued support and commitment in building on our successes and embarking on new projects that will benefit the estuary for years to come.

Ursula Taylor
Chief Executive Officer





- Windermere Bay, 2022. Photo: Kelvin Ball.







Our objectives and activities

Our objectives and activities

The following summarises our activities carried out in cooperation with our partner organisations in 2022–23. These objectives and actions also align with our charitable purpose, which can be found in the DEP Constitution.

CORE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The DEP provides executive support to the Members Committee and Board. In doing so the DEP prepares annual work plans, administers the finances, and supports staff and sub-programs. In 2022–23 we continued implementing the five-year Business Plan and have embarked on new projects that grants from the State Government of Tasmania and The Ian Potter Foundation have generously funded.

GOALS

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

More at: <https://reportcard.derwentestuary.org.au/2022/>



• Australasian Bittern © Richard Hall.

- Meeting Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Environment and Water.



At a Glance

Working to meet DEP Business Plan Objectives and related UN Sustainable Development Goals

OBJECTIVE 1: Operate the DEP so that it is legally compliant and financially sound.

Measures of Success	Performance Indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2022–23
All DEP partners continue to support the DEP through the Partnership Agreement – financially and in-kind.	DEP continues to be funded.	Previous Partnership Agreements.	Partnership Agreement – current to 30 June 2025. 100% compliant with ACNC, ASIC, ATO.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Target 17.17 	We maintain effective government, industry, science and community partnerships – through evidence-based, apolitical, transparent communication. Our 15 partners across industry, state and local government, research and community organisations contribute financial and in-kind support to further our objectives, guided by the principles in the Partnership Agreement.		
Targets: 16.6, 16.7, 16.10 	We are committed to accountable, effective and transparent operations. All financial and science program outcomes are shared publicly through Annual Reports and Report Cards which are available online www.derwentestuary.org.au/publications .		
Target 13.2 	A decision was made to change financial institutions to divest from fossil fuel investments in 2020.		

1. Science to guide management

Highlights for 2022–23 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 State of the Derwent 2022 update.

Along with our partners, we 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.
- Seagrass health and dissolved oxygen levels in the upper estuary.

1.1 Recreational water quality (RWQ)

The summer recreation water quality program started on 1 December 2022 and finished on 31 March 2023. This summer, the water quality at almost all of the 19 swimming sites was significantly better than the last monitoring season, with less than half the number of failures, which occurs when the enterococci results exceed the prescribed trigger level of 140 MPN 100 mL⁻¹ set by the Tasmanian Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007 (DoH, 2007), thus requiring retesting.

This season saw 22 exceedances, compared with 49 last summer. At the end of this season, five swimming sites were graded as Good, nine as Fair, and one as Poor, with four sites yet to be classified. The sites that improved their rating were Bellerive Beach (west), from Fair to Good, and Howrah Beach (mid), from Poor to Fair.

The water quality at the 19 environmental sites was similar to the previous season.

There are now seven environmental sites with Good long-term ratings, two as Fair, and nine as Poor. Two sites dropped their ratings, i.e. Prince of Wales Bay (from Good to Fair) and Victoria Dock (from Fair to Poor).

The Department of Health gave the go-ahead for us, together with Estuary councils, to conduct a forecasting trial during the 2022–23 RWQ season. While the results were not shared during the trial, we aim to work towards providing a daily forecast of the likelihood of pollution at recreational beaches across the Derwent Estuary for swimmers in 2023–24. This trial will use the forecasting methodology which NSW has used for the last 20 years. This is based mainly on a correlation between enterococci

and rainfall, forecasting pollution levels as Unlikely, Possible or Likely. The method involves developing threshold levels for each site to reveal how long it takes for a beach to recover from a certain amount of rain.

The full Recreational Water Quality report for 2022–23 can be found on the DEP website:

www.derwentestuary.org.au/publications

1.2 Ambient water quality monitoring

Along with Nyrstar Hobart, Norske Skog Boyer and the Environment Protection Authority, we sample water quality indicators from multiple depths at 31 sites throughout the Derwent each month for indicators such as temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, suspended solids, nutrients, organic carbon, chlorophyll and heavy metals. This information documents conditions and trends over time and provides data for estuarine modelling and process studies. Data is submitted to us for quality assurance, storage, analysis, public release on request and reporting. At 23 years, our program is now one of the longest running and most cost-effective waterway monitoring programs in Australia. The *State of the Derwent Report 2020 Update* (www.derwentestuary.org.au/assets/State_of_the_Derwent_Estuary_2020_Update.pdf) provides an overview of the monitoring and water quality trends.

1.3 Seafood safety monitoring

Seafood species that recreational fishers commonly target in the Derwent Estuary are contaminated with toxic metals derived principally from historical operations at the Hobart zinc smelter site and the Boyer paper mill. Metal concentrations in Derwent Estuary seafood have been assessed periodically since the early 1970s when high concentrations of zinc, cadmium, lead and mercury were detected in oysters from Ralphs Bay. The most comprehensive and continuous seafood monitoring program in the Derwent is that conducted by the current and previous owners of the Hobart zinc smelter, which we analyse. The sampling program has sampled flathead fish (*Platycephalus bassensis*) since 1984, wild oysters and mussels since 1992 and deployed caged oysters since 2004.

For a full report see *Metal Contamination in Fish and Shellfish of the Derwent Estuary 2020* (www.derwentestuary.org.au/assets/Metals_in_fish_FINAL_24Sept2021.pdf) which summarises all metals in fish data up to summer 2019–20.

Generally, there does not appear to be a difference in metal accumulated by fish collected from mid versus lower-Derwent sites, so health advice applies throughout the Derwent Estuary as far as Tinderbox and the Iron Pot, including Ralphs Bay. Consumption advice for Derwent

Estuary seafood provided by the Department of Health remains so that the consumption of shellfish and bream from the Derwent is not recommended but all other species can be consumed with limits.

www.derwentestuary.org.au/fishing-and-seafood-safety

1.4 Upper estuary monitoring and special studies

Seagrass


We are delighted to see the completion of two seagrass studies with IMAS:

- *Understanding the effects of sediment nutrient loads on seagrass rhizome microbial communities and health* – Kelsie Fractal
- *Assessing the ecological importance of seagrass beds in south-east Tasmania* – Caillin Wise.

A future research project will involve an Honours or Masters student analysing our seagrass data to understand the drivers of algal blooms in the upper estuary. A PhD student will use seagrass data to assess the economic value of seagrass as part of a natural capital accounting study.



OBJECTIVE 2: Continue and improve monitoring methods of water, sediments, seafood and habitats.

Measures of Success	Performance Indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2022–23
Monitoring programs reviewed and consensus with partners on DEP monitoring aims, based on asset/threat risk assessment.	Monitoring results used by partners for adaptive management.	If monitoring is modified, it is still comparable to existing long-term data sets.	Special studies e.g. seagrass, hypoxia included in program. Data analysed and shared with partners annually. Data shared with academics and consultants for Derwent related research.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Target 14b 	Investigations/research to increase knowledge of the estuary including effect of pollution on estuarine condition – seagrass monitoring, hypoxia studies, rapid visual assessment of rocky reefs. Continuation of regular monitoring programs – Ambient and Recreational Water Quality.		

2. Facilitate pollution reduction

2.1 Sewage

- We will continue to provide monitoring data to TasWater and EPA.
- Process changes at wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in the Derwent show reduced nutrient output.
- Wastewater reuse is an activity that reduces nutrients to the estuary and is an area that continues to be a focus.

2.2 Industry

- Nyrstar has completed installing an underground grout curtain along the foreshore to prevent contaminated groundwater reaching the Derwent Estuary. In 2022 – 23 approximately 125 tonnes of zinc were extracted from groundwater from this system and existing horizontal bores at the site.
- We provided feedback on four applications relevant to the Derwent in consultation with council planners particularly on topics relating to stormwater, saltmarshes and wetlands.
- We provided scientific assistance to the Bridgewater Bridge project and associated consultants.

2.3 Stormwater and litter

- New resource for councils and developers updated in cooperation with the Tamar Estuary Esk Rivers Program: *Erosion and Sediment Control – The Fundamentals for Development in Tasmania*.
- Two sediment and erosion control training sessions were held for council operations staff and planners.
- We organised three Clean Up Australia Day events across the estuary with 70 people attending.

2.4 Catchment

The application to The Ian Potter Foundation for a grant for a three-year trial of in-situ water quality analysers in the River Derwent was successful. From May 2022, six EcoDetection analysers have been operating in the River Derwent catchment. The six sites include two outfall locations (TasWater's sewage treatment plant Turriff Lodge at New Norfolk, and Norske Skog outfall), as well as three tributaries (Clyde, Ouse, and Florentine rivers), and the River Derwent below Meadowbank Dam. We also inherited an additional Eco Detection unit from the University of Tasmania located at Westerway (Tyenna river). This is the first water quality monitoring network on a catchment scale using this technology.

To validate the data generated by the analysers, traditional grab samples were collected as part of a 12 month assessment with nutrients analysed at Analytical Services Tasmania. Once the analyser validation is complete, we will investigate nutrient loads at each site. With this high frequency data, we will gain an understanding of daily nutrient variability and rainfall-runoff dynamics, which is not possible with traditional monthly monitoring programs.

2.5 Storm Bay


Several research projects are underway and near completion in Storm Bay to better understand and characterise water quality in this area. The research is centred around three core projects that aim to:

1. strengthen understanding of the spatial extent of aquaculture inputs to Storm Bay, the capacity of the environment to assimilate nutrient loads associated with aquaculture operations;
2. develop a biogeochemical model for Storm Bay; and
3. develop decision support tools for use by regulators and industry to monitor and manage nutrient loads and environmental management.


Further research details are available on the Fisheries Research and Development website (<https://www.frdc.com.au/storm-bay-research-program>). The DEP is a member of the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Group.




OBJECTIVE 3: Facilitate the reduction of nutrients entering the estuary from point and diffuse sources.

Measures of Success	Performance Indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2022–23
Scientific results used by managers so that nutrients from anthropogenic sources are reduced in the estuary.	Industries report a reduction in nutrients to the estuary and monitoring results reflect this reduction.	Long term data reveals a decrease in nutrients in water and key habitats maintain/improve ecosystem function.	An increase in nutrients in the upper estuary observed. Reuse was lower due to high rainfall resulting in decreased irrigation demand. Process optimisation at TasWater operated wastewater treatment plants has reduced nutrient outputs to the mid and lower estuary.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Targets 6.3, 6.5, 6b 	Pollution monitoring and management including nutrients, pathogens, metals, litter, emerging contaminants in the estuary is ongoing and having a demonstrable positive effect on water and sediment quality. We will continue to work with our partners to help them manage point and diffuse (e.g. stormwater) pollution sources.		

OBJECTIVE 4: Facilitate the reduction of heavy metal levels in the estuary from point and diffuse sources.

Measures of Success	Performance Indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2022–23
Scientific results used by managers so that heavy metals in the estuary are reduced.	Industries report a reduction in heavy metals to the estuary and monitoring results reflect this reduction.	Data reveals a decrease in heavy metal in water, sediments and seafood and key habitats maintain/improve ecosystem function.	Ambient data has revealed a decrease in metal levels in water and sediments. Levels in seafood are relatively static with no change to health advice.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Targets 6.3, 6.5, 6b 	Pollution monitoring and management including nutrients, pathogens, metals, litter, emerging contaminants in the estuary is ongoing and having demonstrable positive effect on water and sediment quality. In 2022 – 23 Nyrstar extracted 125 tonnes of zinc from groundwater at the smelter.		

OBJECTIVE 5: Facilitate the improvement of water quality at beaches and bays.

Measures of Success	Performance Indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2022–23
Beaches – good water quality at all sites by 2024 Bays – no poor water quality ratings at bay sites by 2024	Monitoring during 1 December and 31 March reveals acceptable enterococci levels so that by 2024 beaches record good long-term water quality and bays good or fair water quality.	Five-year 95th hazen percentile results show good water quality at beaches, and good or fair water quality at bays.	In 2022–23 one site has a Poor water quality advisory (based on five years of data). One site moved from Poor to Fair after improvements to the stormwater system.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Targets 6.3, 6.5, 6b 	Pollution monitoring and managing pathogens at beaches and bays in the estuary is ongoing. We are working with partners to support investigations to repair the stormwater and sewer network that is a source of faecal contamination at popular beaches. Over 60 stormwater network problems were fixed in Clarence and Kingborough in 2022–23.		

3. Facilitate nature protection


- Little penguins: Monthly monitoring continues, and data supports land managers in their efforts to protect the Derwent’s urban population of little penguins.
- Spotted handfish: We continue to support the National Handfish Recovery Team in their efforts to increase the populations of endangered handfish.
- Saltmarsh trial: Restoration of the saltmarsh trial at Windermere Bay is proving successful with saltmarsh returning to areas that are no longer mowed.
- Weed control:
 - We continue to provide technical support and some funding to a regional project to manage karamu in the upper estuary.
 - No rice grass was found in the most recent survey conducted in October 2022.




• © Perviz Marker.



OBJECTIVE 6: Grow, maintain and enhance the function of high priority habitats.

Measures of Success	Performance Indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2022–23
The Conservation Action Plan is updated and implemented.	Management of priority habitats undertaken by land managers.	The Conservation Action Plan first developed in 2011 is updated and informs management of priority habitats.	Saltmarsh management recommendations being implemented including consolidation of access and installation of signs about saltmarsh values.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Targets 15.5, 15.8, 15.9 	Monitor condition of saltmarsh and foreshore habitats. Recommend and implement management. Integrate natural values into planning and development. Reduce invasive species e.g the weeds rice grass and Karamu		

OBJECTIVE 7: Facilitate an increase in the numbers of iconic species.

Measures of Success	Performance Indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2022–23
All native species of plants and animals have viable populations in the Derwent.	Actions of stakeholders involved in the National Handfish Recovery Team and the Penguin Advisory Group increase population of these species through habitat improvement. Native oysters survive and form reefs.	Endangered and vulnerable species populations increase including the spotted handfish, little penguins and native oysters.	DEP continues to coordinate little penguin monitoring and support the National Handfish Recovery Team to find research and management funding. DEP supports native oyster reef establishment and saltmarsh restoration.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Target 17.17 	Maintain effective government, industry, science and community partnership to advance species management e.g. Little penguins and the spotted handfish. Support partners in restoration projects e.g. native oyster reefs, saltmarsh rehabilitation.		

4. Communications and engagement

Awards:

- Joint winner with the Local Government Association of Tasmania of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Excellence Award in Asset Management, Innovation or Sustainability. Award given for our *Tasmanian Stormwater Policy Guidance and Standards for Development*.
- Akira Weller-Wong, Estuary Scientist. Winner of the Australian Water Association's Tasmanian Young Water Professional of the Year.
- Dr Bernadette Proemse, Catchment Scientist: Jigsaw Farms Scholarship recipient and Peter Cullen Trust Fellowship for the Peter Cullen Trust Women in Water Leadership Program.

Media:

- State of the Derwent Report Card 2022 – The Mercury, Seven News, social media. AWA newsletter.
- Beach Watch results – media event hosted at Howrah beach to announce the report and celebrate the change from Poor to Fair.
- Clean up Australia day – Win TV, articles in the Glenorchy Gazette, Eastern Shore Sun and Kingborough Chronicle.
- Start of the Beach Watch season December 2022 – ABC radio, the Mercury.
- Inside Water Magazine article on catchment water quality program using in-situ real-time technology (<https://insidewater.com.au/derwent-estuary-program-backs-female-scientist-as-women-in-water>)

Facebook

- Sharing of DEP science and reporting was boosted through social media in 2022–23.

Publications

- DEP Newsletter: August 2022
- State of the Derwent Report Card 2022 – released June 2023
- Annual Report for 2021–22
- Annual Technical Report (internal)

www.derwentestuary.org.au/publications

Conferences/events – including DEP presentations:



- Meet the Derwent Estuary Program scientists – National Science Week event 2022.
- Catchment Scientist Bernadette Proemse presented at the Australian Freshwater Sciences conference in Brisbane as part of her Early Career Excellence Award won in 2019.
- Estuary Scientist Akira Weller-Wong won the opportunity to attend the Australian Water Associations national conference in May 2022 recipient of the Tasmanian Young Water Professional of the Year award.

Briefings about the Derwent Estuary Program were provided to managers of the following organisations in 2022–23:

- 21 February Brighton Council
- 6 March Hydro
- 8 March Derwent Valley Council
- 14 March Glenorchy City Council
- 23 March TasPorts
- 28 March Marine Resources, Dept. Natural Resources and Environment
- 4 April Norske Skog
- 21 April Dept. Natural Resources and Environment Deputy Secretary
- 26 April TasWater Board
- 8 May Rebecca White, Leader of the Tasmanian Labor party
- 15 June TasTAFE – guest lecture to conservation management students
- 19 June Clarence Ladies Probus



OBJECTIVE 8: Increase awareness of DEP and its programs.

Measures of Success	Performance Indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2022–23
50% increase in community recognition of DEP.	The Derwent Estuary Program messages are regularly disseminated to partners and the public (many methods).	Results from 5 yearly community surveys show increase in awareness of DEP and our key messages compared with 2013 survey.	257% increase in the DEP Facebook Page reach in 2022–23, due to Beach Watch posts.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Targets 17.7 	The voluntary DEP partnership has been in existence since 1999 highlighting the services we provide are valued by our partners and the community. Our funding partners increased from 12 to 15 in 2021–22.		
Targets 16.6, 16.7, 16.10 	We publicly share science to promote inclusive societies for sustainable development e.g. Annual State of the Derwent Report Cards, Beach Watch, Greater Hobart Trails website, technical publications and newsletters.		

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 some volunteering suggestions:

- Conservation Volunteers Australia (www.conservationvolunteers.com.au)
- Wildcare Friends of the Derwent and Channel Penguins (<https://wildcaretas.org.au/branches/wildcare-friends-of-the-derwent-and-channel-penguins>)
- Coastcare – Southern Tasmania (www.landcaretas.org.au/coastcare)
- Clean Up Australia Day (www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/)
- Invasive Seastar Clean Up (www.facebook.com/groups/1318246581861063)
- Your local council – Bushcare or nature based community program

MAKE A DONATION

Tax deductible financial contributions can be made via our Donate Now facility on the DEP Home Page (www.derwentestuary.org.au/donate).

Donations received will help us with our science and restoration including restoration of little penguin and spotted handfish habitat, restoration of saltmarsh, wetlands, and rocky reefs, monitoring of heavy metals in water and seafood, monitoring of bacteria levels at beaches, to name a few of our initiatives to improve this wonderful waterway.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

www.derwentestuary.org.au/contact





Looking to the future

For 2023–24 – Implement the Business Plan 2019–2024, monitor the estuary, identify gaps, deliver externally funded projects, seek funding for Business Plan priorities and communicate with partners and the public.

GOVERNANCE

- Board and Members meetings.
- Financial audit.
- Compliance with ASIC, ACNC, ATO.
- Participate in and build on relevant state, regional, national and international initiatives.
- Manage business risks.
- Support the professional development of staff.
- Review and update the Business Plan.

SCIENCE TO GUIDE MANAGEMENT

- Survey the biodiversity, including marine pests, of the Derwent Estuary's rocky reefs.
- Review Beach Watch season and implement recommendations.
- Work with councils, state government and industry to adopt best practice stormwater management.
- Continue project to monitor water quality using real-time in-situ nutrient analysers in the River Derwent catchment (final year).
- Support University of Tasmania students researching the Derwent.
- Host scientific forums with partners to share and discuss challenges e.g. data management, monitoring methods.

FACILITATE POLLUTION REDUCTION

- Devise rivulet monitoring program in cooperation with councils.
- Implement stormwater communications campaign to prevent sediment pollution from construction sites.
- Litter awareness and clean-ups.
- Share science with partners to enable them to make informed decisions to reduce pollution.

FACILITATE NATURE PROTECTION

- Maintain species working groups – Little Penguins and Spotted Handfish.
- Little Penguin monitoring.
- Expand the rice grass survey to include other foreshore values.
- Saltmarsh condition management.
- Seagrass restoration projects.
- Determine sites to measure foreshore erosion in the estuary.

ENGAGE, INSPIRE, GROW THE DEP

- Regular Roadshows – partners, politicians.
- Prepare internal Annual Technical Report and external Annual State of the Derwent Report Card.
- Add DEP data to digital visualisation platforms.
- Share our science with the public via a variety of media channels.
- Maintain regular presence on social media.







Our finances



Audit closing letter



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31 August 2023

Derwent Estuary Program Limited
Level 4, 24 Davey Street
Hobart
TAS 7000

Dear Directors

Audit Closing Letter

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2023 and bring the attached matters to your attention.

You will appreciate the matters dealt with in this letter were noted during the conduct of audit procedures designed to enable us to express an opinion on the financial statements. Consequently, our work does not encompass a detailed review of all aspects of accounting systems and procedures and cannot necessarily be relied upon to disclose defalcations or other irregularities or to include all possible improvements to internal control, which a more extensive, special examination might develop. It includes a discussion of matters which we consider appropriate for consideration by the Directors and is intended solely for the use of the Directors.

This report is aimed at communicating to the Board significant matters identified during the course of our audit. The report aims to provide:

- An understanding of the audit process; and
- Information to assist the Directors in discharging their duties.

We would like to thank your management team for their courtesy, professionalism and co-operation in completing our audit procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries in respect of the above report.

Yours sincerely

Mike Derbyshire
Director



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- Advisors
- Accountants
- Auditors



DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LTD

REPORT OF AUDIT FINDINGS

30 JUNE 2023





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We have conducted our audit of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards in order to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

To assist the Directors in understanding our role as external auditor, our audit responsibilities and the scope of the work to be performed to meet those responsibilities was detailed in our engagement letter.

As part of our audit process, we aim to advise our clients of any areas in which we believe further improvements could be made, where such possible improvements come to our attention in the ordinary course of our audit testing.

Our audit methodology is determined with a view to achieving the most efficient and cost-effective outcome to reduce audit risk and formulate an opinion on the financial statements. For Derwent Estuary Program this comprises a substantive approach involving sample testing and extensive analytical review.

We do not express an opinion on the adequacy of the internal control structure, as this is beyond the scope of an audit of the financial report. We mention this to make you aware that weakness in internal controls may exist, which were not uncovered by our audit of the financial report. Should you wish us to extend our testing to enable us to report on the adequacy of, and provide recommendations for the improvement of, internal controls, please feel free to contact us.

INDEPENDENCE

The independence of the auditor is considered by the audit profession and the regulators as one of the most important professional standards that auditors must comply with. Our audit services are subject to independence requirements of the following legislation and professional standards:

- Corporations Act 2001
- APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants
- APES 320 Quality Control for Firms
- Bentleys National Policy on Independence

We enforce these rules and policies in order to maintain objectivity and to be free of conflicts of interest when conducting our audit each year.

For the benefit of the Board we confirm that other services that we have provided during the year do not compromise our independence.



How we have maintained independence?

Bentleys Tasmania Audit ensures its independence by:

- Conducting regular training on threats to audit independence;
- Annual reviews of our audit client base to identify any potential conflicts of independence;
- Obtain confirmation from all of our audit staff as to their independence from our audit clients;
- Obtain confirmation from all of the partners as to their independence from our audit clients.

Our independence

We confirm that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, we are independent having regard to Bentleys policies, professional rules and relevant statutory requirements regarding our independence.

OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

Accounting Administration

We would like to acknowledge the co-operation and competence of the management staff of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd. Our experience as auditors over the last two years is that minimal accounting adjustments are required each year and any audit issues can be dealt with and resolved without having to raise any audit differences.

On this basis, while we have not performed any detailed testing of internal controls, our general assessment is that the internal control environment is efficient and effective. Board oversight compensates for any unavoidable weaknesses resulting from inadequate segregation of duties and we have not encountered any area where there is a material risk.

MATERIALITY

It is normal practice for auditors to determine a materiality threshold for the audit of a Company. This threshold is determined based on a number of quantitative and qualitative factors.

By their very definition, any items identified during our audit under this materiality threshold are not normally considered and accordingly not communicated to the Directors.

However, it is our policy to discuss any such items with management and resolve differences before completing our audit. Consequently, there are no material unadjusted differences resulting from our audit for 2023.



ADJUSTED AMOUNTS

No material adjustments were required to be recorded and processed by management, when finalising the financial statements, as a result of our audit findings.

UNADJUSTED AMOUNTS

Our auditing standards require us to bring to the attention of the Directors, omissions in the reported accounts determined during the audit, even though they had been assessed as immaterial to the Company or later adjusted by the Company.

There were no unadjusted differences in respect of the year ended 30 June 2023.

EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

As part of our audit, we did not note any events after the reporting date that would appear to impact on the 2023 financial statements.

AUDIT OPINION

Following the adoption of the financial statements by the Directors we will issue an unqualified audit opinion.

MATTERS FOR THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

Fraud

Whilst fraud is not the primary consideration when conducting an external audit, we always consider potential areas where the company is susceptible to fraud during our audit. We do not have any reason to believe that there is currently a material risk of company and financial reporting fraud, or individual employee fraud.

We believe it is important for the Board to continually consider and assess the control environment of the entity to identify areas where fraud can occur and ensure that those opportunities are removed and or monitored to reduce the risk and impact of fraud. If you should require our assistance in this regard, please contact us.

Legal compliance

Through our audit procedures have not become aware of any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

*Financial reporting and accounting policies*

We believe the accounting policies elected for Derwent Estuary Program Ltd are reasonable and their application provides sufficient information for use of the decision makers and have been consistently applied throughout the reporting period.

Going Concern

As part of our assessment, we considered the appropriateness of the going concern assumption concluded by the directors and management. Our procedures indicate that this assumption is fair and that the going concern convention is appropriate.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**Current Year:**

There are no matters arising from the 2023 audit that we wish to bring to the attention of the Board.

31 August 2023

Representation letter

28 July 2023

Mr M.J. Derbyshire
Bentleys Tasmania Audit Pty Ltd
39 Sandy Bay Road
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Mike

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 2023 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report is presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012.

We acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that the financial report is in accordance with Accounting Standards and relevant statutory and other requirements and confirm that the financial report is free of material misstatements, including omissions.

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

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement dated 22 July 2023 for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012.
2. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
3. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.
4. 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.
5. The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial report as a whole.

Information Provided

1. We have provided you with:
 - 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;
 - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and

- Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
2. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial report.
 3. 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.
 4. 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:
 - Management;
 - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial report.
 5. 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.
 6. 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.
 7. 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.
 8. We have provided you with all requested information, explanations and assistance for the purposes of the audit.

Yours faithfully,



Director

28 July 2023

Profit and loss

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE			
Grants	225,570.00	336,800.00	191,409.00
Interest Income	5,707.37	1,717.25	1,358.24
Member Contribution	428,743.00	418,228.00	339,085.00
Other Revenue	6,095.45	700.00	22.73
Training Income	13,960.23	18,999.18	-
Total Revenue	680,076.05	776,444.43	531,874.97
OTHER DEP INCOME			
Cash Flow Boost (ATO)	-	-	57,216.00
In-Kind Contributions – IPF Grant	75,000.00	18,000.00	-
In-Kind Contributions – Partners	415,577.00	381,360.00	-
Donations Received	500.00	5,950.00	4.00
Total Other Income	491,077.00	405,310.00	57,220.00
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Advertising	3,000.00	-	-
Annual Leave Provision	(3,135.90)	(5,083.30)	(1,570.69)
Bank Fees	16.28	42.64	0.43
Computer Support	7,377.00	6,141.00	2,225.00
Consulting & Accounting	37,987.85	95,024.00	24,189.42
Depreciation	66,000.00	17,358.90	-
Equipment Purchases under \$10,000	1,416.45	4,901.00	2,933.27
Events – DEP	2,566.81	-	-
Field Expenses	1,669.41	5,598.65	232.70
Freight & Courier	259.57	-	60.00
Grant IPF Expenses	20,817.60	22,059.39	-
In-Kind Contributions – Consulting Support	75,000.00	18,000.00	-
In-Kind Contributions – Partner Support	415,577.00	381,360.00	-
Insurance	18,835.21	9,634.04	5,946.99
Legal expenses	405.00	970.00	518.00
Long Service Leave Provision	9,290.61	8,971.16	20,181.48
Meeting Costs	2,496.21	1,725.13	509.61
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,155.91	606.67	1,143.50
Office Expenses	1,453.40	936.60	2,464.71
Printing, Graphics and Website	10,733.45	11,840.36	16,615.05
Professional Development/Training	423.44	2,836.32	1,505.00
Protective workwear	182.73	309.09	-
Rent	20,599.91	20,600.01	20,600.04
Repairs and Maintenance	5,210.00	-	10.00
Subscriptions/Registrations	3,173.34	15,286.28	11,836.08
Superannuation	42,404.50	39,908.90	37,187.57
Sponsorships	1,500.00	1,020.45	-
Telephone & Internet	3,962.19	4,249.71	4,376.90
Travel – National	1,506.69	2,573.23	1,391.44
Wages and Salaries	404,185.67	399,727.95	373,485.12
Total Operating Expenses	1,156,070.33	1,066,598.18	525,841.62
NET INCOME (DEP OPERATIONS)	15,082.72	115,156.25	63,253.35
OTHER NON-OPERATING INCOME			
Equipment Donation – IPF Grant	-	190,000.00	-
COMPREHENSIVE NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	15,082.72	305,156.25	63,253.35

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

as at 30 June 2023

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS			
Bank			
DEP – Public Management Fund CBA	-	-	4.57
DEP Ltd Operations – CBA	-	-	241,080.28
Derwent Estuary Program Ltd CBA	-	-	220,990.78
DEP Public Management Fund (MyState)	596.14	96.14	-
DEP Primary Acct (MyState)	252,023.92	210,870.05	-
DEP Operations Acct (MyState)	10,245.08	5,018.93	-
Total Bank	262,865.14	215,985.12	462,075.63
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable	27,277.80	-	-
Term Deposit	452,925.00	450,000.00	210,942.60
TFN Withholding Tax	-	-	-
Total Current Assets	480,202.80	450,000.00	210,942.60
Non-Current Assets			
Field equipment – IPF Project	330,000.00	330,000.00	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(83,358.90)	(17,358.90)	-
Total Non-Current Assets	246,641.10	312,641.10	-
Total Assets	989,709.04	978,626.22	673,018.23
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	4,626.86	1,358.64	-
Annual Leave liability	16,582.47	19,718.37	24,801.67
GST	2,355.09	(3,238.45)	3,763.36
PAYG Withholdings Payable	-	7,320.00	6,468.00
Rounding	(1.11)	(0.60)	(0.30)
Superannuation Payable	-	11,695.86	10,340.51
Total Current Liabilities	23,563.31	36,853.82	45,373.24
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Service Leave liability	46,952.89	37,662.28	28,691.12
Total Non-Current Liabilities	46,952.89	37,662.28	28,691.12
Total Liabilities	70,516.20	74,516.10	74,064.36
NET ASSETS	919,192.84	904,110.12	598,953.87
EQUITY			
Current Year Earnings	15,082.72	305,156.25	63,253.35
Retained Earnings	904,110.12	598,953.87	535,700.52
Total Equity	919,192.84	904,110.12	598,953.87

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Movements in equity for the year ended June 2023

	2023	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$
EQUITY			
Opening Balance	904,110.12	598,953.87	535,700.52
Current Year Earnings	15,082.72	305,156.25	63,253.35
Total Equity	919,192.84	904,110.12	598,953.87

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows for the year ended June 2023

	2023	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers	714,935.12	823,269.11	628,945.24
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,044,172.34)	(1,058,712.27)	(513,962.35)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	393,650.51	561,286.30	24,990.30
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	64,413.29	325,843.14	139,973.19
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment	-	(330,000.00)	-
Other cash items from investing activities	-	210,942.60	(1,358.24)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	-	(119,057.40)	(1,358.24)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Other cash items from financing activities	(14,608.27)	(2,876.25)	(5,958.68)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	(14,608.27)	(2,876.25)	(5,958.68)
NET CASH FLOWS	49,805.02	203,909.49	132,656.27
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	665,985.12	462,075.63	329,419.36
Net change in cash for period	49,805.02	203,909.49	132,656.27
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	715,790.14	665,985.12	462,075.63

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended June 2023

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.

b) In-Kind Support

In September 2021, DEP was successfully awarded a significant 3 year funding grant from The Ian Potter Foundation. The grant includes cash and in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions received were primarily equipment donations of water quality analyser units from Eco Detection. These assets are recorded in the Balance Sheet. Eco Detection are also providing remote support which is recorded in the Profit and Loss statement.

As part of our Annual Workplan each year, we estimate a value of in-kind support provided by our partners. This year, we have incorporated this in-kind value into our Profit and Loss statement. This has been done to provide a clearer, more transparent representation of the value of the DEP, both in cash contributions received and in-kind support.



Board statement for the year ended June 2023

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 Derwent Estuary Program Ltd as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023;
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

COMPANY SECRETARY

Dated at Hobart this 23rd day of August 2023



Auditor's Independence Declaration



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AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LTD

A.B.N. 14 618 265 571

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023 there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities And Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Bentleys Tasmania Audit Pty Ltd
 Authorised Audit Company

Hobart

Date: 23 August 2023

Michael Ian Derbyshire
 Director



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- ▶ Advisors
- ▶ Accountants
- ▶ Auditors

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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
OF DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LTD
ABN: 14 618 265 571*****Opinion***

We have audited the special purpose financial report of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd (the Company), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2023, the profit and loss statement, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the members of the Board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the registered Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023, and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

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 Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards 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 special purpose financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the responsible entities' financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



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- Advisors
- Accountants
- Auditors

***Responsibility of the Board for the Financial Report***

The Board of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities 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 that an audit conducted in accordance with the 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 this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board.



- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bentleys Tasmania Audit".

Bentleys Tasmania Audit Pty Ltd
Authorised Audit Company

Hobart

23 August 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Michael Ian Derbyshire".

Michael Ian Derbyshire
Director



Derwent Estuary Program

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