



Derwent Estuary
Program

2023/24 Annual Report

Derwent Estuary Program Limited



Acknowledgement of Country

We pay our respects to the traditional and original owners of lutruwita's land, sea, waterways and sky Country, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and to those who have passed before us. We respect all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, their culture and their rights as the first peoples of lutruwita. We recognise and value Aboriginal histories, knowledge and lived experiences and commit to being culturally inclusive and respectful in our working relationships with all Aboriginal people.

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.

- A spotted handfish in the Derwent Estuary observed in 2024. C. Devine, CSIRO.



- Launching the *Ducks of Tasmania* booklet at the Royal Botanic Gardens. L-R: Jason Graham, Ursula Taylor, Karen Dick, Cr Ben Lohberger. Photo: J. Sampson

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

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 in 2023-24 also provided by:

- CSIRO Marine Research
- Derwent Catchment Project
- BirdLife Tasmania
- Pacific Black Duck Conservation Group

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, restore saltmarsh and to preserve iconic species such as the Little Penguin and the endangered spotted handfish.

Our Business Plan 2019–2024, informs annual work plans and staff action plans and in 2023–24 the DEP started the process of updating the strategic direction of the organisation in cooperation with the Board and DEP Partners. 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 to 15 members in 2021.

- Preparing to monitor seagrass in the upper estuary.



- Sampling water bugs with the Catchment Working Group.

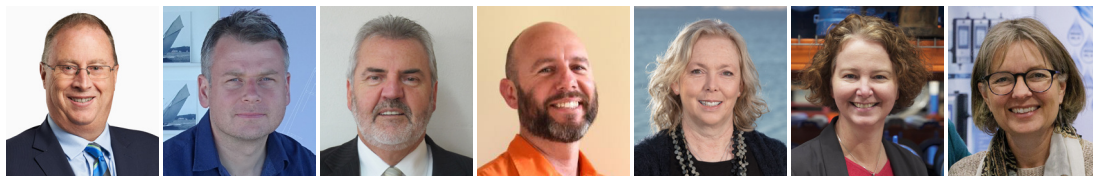
Our supporters



- Sharing our knowledge of saltmarsh with the community.

Our people

BOARD MEMBERS



Nick Heath
Chair

Charles Livesey
Director

Gary Arnold
Director

Todd Milne
Director

Professor Catriona MacLeod
Director

Frances Smith
Director

Ursula Taylor
Company Secretary

EMPLOYEES

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Ursula Taylor	CEO	
Inger Visby	Biodiversity Officer	Completed employment with DEP 30 April 2024
Ellie Green	Biodiversity Officer	Commenced May 2024
Akira Weller-Wong	Estuary Scientist	
Bernadette Proemse	Catchment Scientist	
Michelle Foale	Stormwater Officer	Completed employment with DEP September 2023
Phillip Pennisi	Scientific Officer – Stormwater	Commenced January 2024
Sharon Mayne	Office Support	July 2023–March 2024

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Peter Vertigan	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Jordan Kath	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Madi Riley	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Caitlin Vertigan	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Laura Vermeersch	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Liam van Walsum	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Tina Lee	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	
Sam Deller	Volunteer, Little Penguin monitoring	



- Exploring the Murphys Flat wetland with University of Tasmania staff and students.

STUDENT SUPPORT IN 2023–24

Name	Position
Jessica Kneebone: <i>Pharmaceutical pollution in the Derwent Estuary: occurrence, general practitioner perspectives and possible solutions</i>	PhD candidate, Menzies Centre, UTAS
Le Thuy Duong Ha: Natural Capital Accounting for the Derwent Estuary	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
Noah Menner	IMAS Dean Summer School – sediment survey

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 commitment to families and the community.

Highlights: 2023–24

Daily pollution forecast for Hobart's beaches shared with the public for the first time.

Beach Watch: 18 out of 20 beach sampling sites in Hobart are suitable for swimming and have a Good or Fair long-term water quality rating. Water quality improved at Nutgrove, Tarooma and Howrah Beaches.

Ducks of Tasmania booklet produced in collaboration with councils, BirdLife Tas and the Pacific Black Duck Conservation group.

Derwent River monitoring and restoration project commenced with funding support from the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. Projects include stormwater and rivulet monitoring; saltmarsh restoration; spotted handfish survey and habitat installation; data visualisation.

Joint winner with the Tamar Estuary Esk Rivers Program of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Excellence Award in Asset Management, Innovation or Sustainability for our *Erosion and Sediment Control: The Fundamentals for Development in Tasmania*.

- Announcing the beach watch results with support from Kingborough Council and TasWater



- The new *Ducks of Tasmania* booklet is perfect for budding bird enthusiasts.

Governance

2013/11/27

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 a 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 which are:

- 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.

In 2023-24 the board reviewed the DEP's business risk register and implemented more robust reporting to capture key operations for our highest risk which is work, health and safety of staff. A risk appetite statement was prepared to guide the organisation in its operation. The DEP's policies were reviewed by DEP staff and board directors to ensure currency.



- Monitoring of pollution in stormwater commenced in 2024.

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.

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 health.

In 2023 – 24 we refined our risk appetite and continued to assess and monitor the business risks to the DEP. The risk register is a living document that translates to practical action associated with work health and safety, financial security, technical systems and stakeholder engagement. Mitigating risk is critical but there are opportunities for taking considered risks to grow the DEP and in 2023 – 24 we explored new programs and refined our database systems for sharing our science.

The DEP has a big picture view of issues affecting the Derwent Estuary and we have provided feedback and suggestions to various initiatives including the Tasmanian Planning Policy review and the State of the Environment report for Tasmania. Pollution from stormwater is a major concern and has been a focus of our submissions as we continue to work with developers, councils, contractors and the state government to improve stormwater management and ultimately water quality in the Derwent Estuary.

VALUE OF THE DEP PARTNERSHIP

The work of the DEP partnership has again been recognised in supporting businesses and governments to manage pollution. Congratulations to the DEP team and the Tamar Estuary Esk Rivers Program on winning the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Excellence Award in Asset Management, Innovation or Sustainability in 2023-24. This award was for our publication *Erosion and Sediment Control: The Fundamentals for Development in Tasmania*.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The DEP commenced developing the next Strategic and Business Plan in 2023-24. At a workshop facilitated by Sarah Wilcox of Cooe Tunapri the Board confirmed that the DEP vision to 'be the voice of the Derwent' still resonates and provides the right focus for the organisation. I'm delighted to note that we are striving to:

1. Facilitate the improvement of long-term health and water quality at the Derwent Estuary.
2. Continuously explore and improve our research and monitoring programs to manage the health of the Derwent Estuary.
3. Facilitate the improvement and protection of priority habitats and species of the Estuary.
4. Continue to grow, inspire and engage in partnerships and advocacy to manage and invest in a healthy Derwent Estuary.
5. Maintain a strong, well-functioning organisation that cares for its people, partners and community and demonstrates integrity and accountability.

The full plan will be available in 2024 – 25. Its development has been 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 in the coming years. I would also like to thank the DEP Directors again this year for their wisdom and guidance in steering this valued program.



Nick Heath
Chair, Derwent Estuary Program

CEO's report



This year marks the end of our five-year Business Plan and I have enjoyed reflecting on the implementation of projects to meet our goals of science to guide management, facilitation of pollution reduction, species and habitat improvement and engage, inspire and grow the

Derwent Estuary Program. We have achieved a great deal and I'm pleased to highlight some of that work in this annual report.

We continue to work with our partners on our long term monitoring programs to assess heavy metals, nutrients and pathogens. The data we collect contributes to our 20+ year data set which provides valuable insights as to how pollutant levels change over time. The value of this dataset is considerable and demonstrates the effectiveness of management actions, which are summarised in our State of the Derwent Reports.

Water quality at beaches and bays in 2023-24 highlighted that Hobart now has two swimming sites out of 20 with a Poor long-term water quality rating. However, four swimming sites have improved, with Howrah Beach (east), Nutgrove Beach (east and west) and Taroona Beach rising from Fair to Good, which is good news for swimmers.

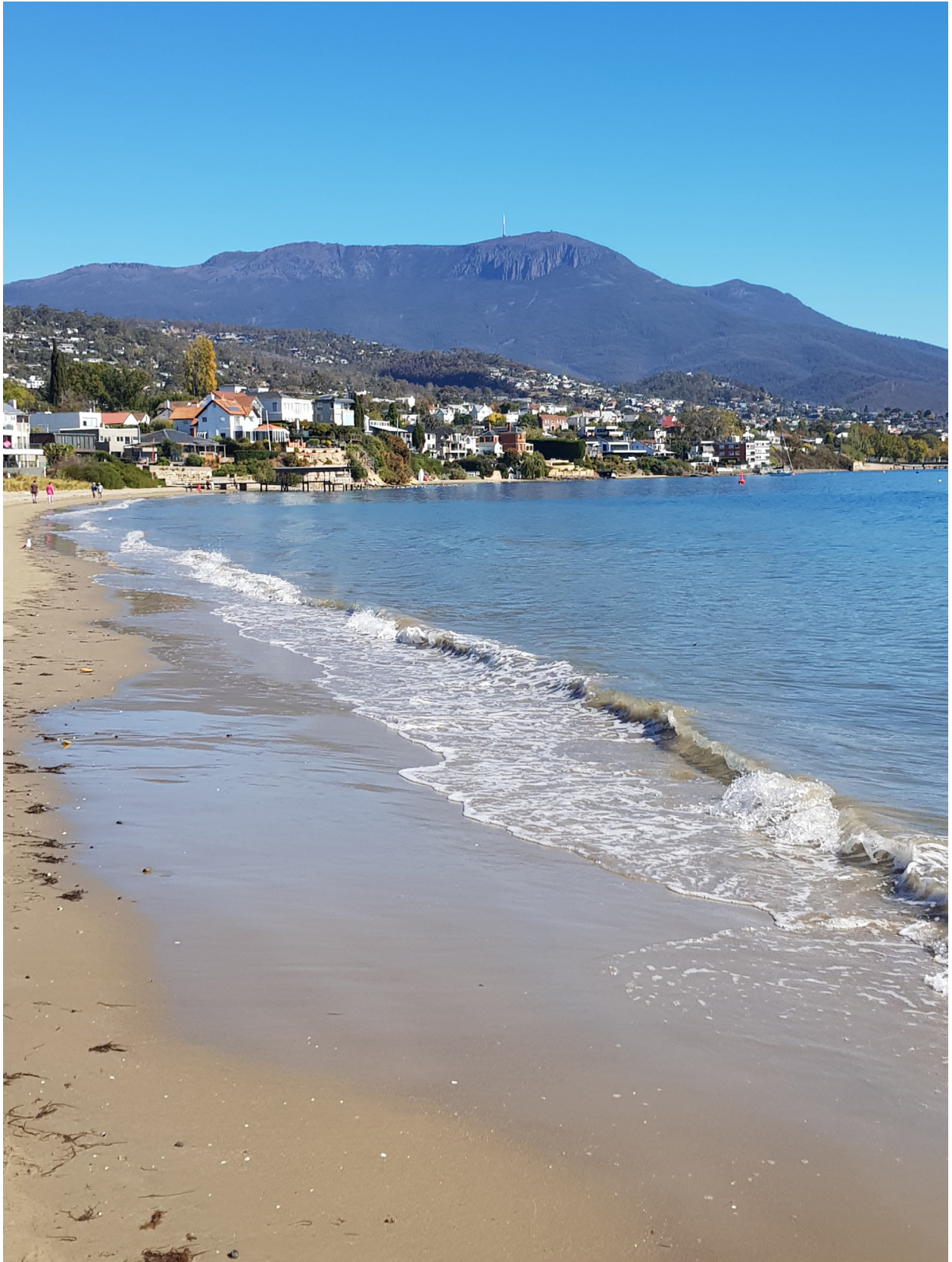
In 2023-24 we trialled a daily pollution forecast for swimming beaches based on rainfall modelling and notified sewer overflow, based on a long-established method used in Sydney. This forecast provided the community with timely advice to help people decide where and when to swim during summer. We look forward to establishing this as a permanent part of our Beach Watch program based on the positive community feedback we received.

This year, we joined a collaborative initiative to develop a booklet on ducks in Tasmania in response to increasing numbers of nuisance feral ducks in the Derwent. This popular little booklet helps people identify native and feral ducks, learn about their diets and antics, and understand how we can all help keep them safe and healthy. Collaborators included our partner councils, BirdLife Tasmania, Pacific Black Duck Conservation Group and WIRES.

Plans for 2024-25 include continued delivery of projects funded by the Australian Government's 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.

In 2023-24 we farewelled several staff including Inger, Michelle and Sharon and I thank them all for their contributions large and small to the DEP and in caring for the Derwent. In their stead we welcomed Phillip, Ellie and the return of Alice to the team. I would like to thank the DEP staff for their enthusiasm and professional approach in navigating these changes and continuing to deliver our core monitoring and reporting programs.

Ursula Taylor
Chief Executive Officer



- Nutgrove Beach.







Our objectives and activities

Our objectives and activities

The following summarises our activities carried out in cooperation with our partner organisations in 2023–24. 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 2023-24 we continued implementing the five-year Business Plan including projects that grants from The Ian Potter Foundation and the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program have generously funded.

OUR PURPOSE

is to enable informed decisions.

OUR VISION

is to be the voice of the Derwent so that when people think of the Derwent, they also think of the Derwent Estuary Program.

OPERATING PHILOSOPHIES

- An apolitical perspective
- Transparency
- Evidence based

GOALS

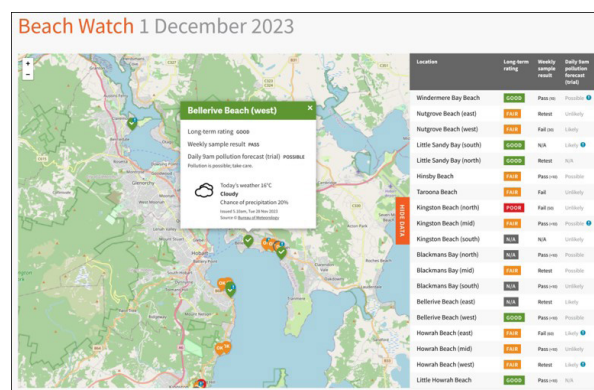
- 1 Science to guide management
- 2 Facilitate pollution reduction
- 3 Facilitate nature protection
- 4 Engage, inspire and grow the DEP

VALUE PROPOSITION

The Derwent Estuary Program offers good value to its partners including:

- well-respected monitoring and scientific programs,
- technical advice,
- positive media and a strong brand that can be used to leverage funding
- grant funding to support investigations, on-ground works, communication tools.

The DEP continues to survey and investigate environmental condition in the estuary and catchment, support education projects and provide reliable, science-based information to the public as to the health of the Derwent and connected waterways.



- A daily beach water quality forecast was made public for the first time in 2023-24.



- Bernadette from the Derwent Estuary Program and Andrew and Phil from Eco Detection with a real-time water quality analyser at the River Ouse.

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 2023–24
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. DEP is 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 and constitution.		
Targets: 16.6, 16.7, 16.10 	We are committed to accountable, effective and transparent operations. All audited financial and peer reviewed 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 2023-24 include coordination and reporting on the recreational water quality program in cooperation with our council partners and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and ambient monitoring program in cooperation with industry and the EPA.

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)

This summer, the number of enterococci results that exceed the prescribed trigger level of 140 MPN 100 mL⁻¹ set by the Tasmanian Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007 (DoH, 2007) was significantly lower than last season. The water quality at most swimming sites was overall better than the last two sampling periods.

At the end of the 2023-24 season, eleven swimming sites were graded as Good, six sites graded as Fair, and two as Poor. Four sites improved their rating: Howrah Beach (east), Nutgrove Beach (east + west) and Taroona Beach from Fair to Good.

Water quality at the 19 environmental sites also significantly improved from the previous season. There are now six environmental sites with Good long-term ratings, eight Fair, and five Poor. Four sites improved their rating including Victoria Dock, New Town Bay, Marieville Esplanade and Regatta Pavilion, all from Poor to Fair. The mid-river Derwent sampling location continues to be the environmental site with the consistently best water quality, followed by Montagu Bay, Elwick Bay and now Old Beach and Sullivans Cove.

The big change to this year's RWQ season, was the addition of a forecasting trial. In many cities around the world, including Melbourne and Sydney the swimming public is provided with daily forecasts in addition to the weekly sampling results. The daily forecast is a prediction of pollution at popular swimming sites. This is new to Tasmania, and it was an exciting project that was well received by our stakeholders and the swimming public. We are planning to incorporate forecasting to the recreational water quality program on an ongoing basis.

The full Recreational Water Quality report for 2023-24 can be found on the DEP website:

www.derwentestuary.org.au/publications



- Collecting beach water samples

1.2 Ambient water quality monitoring

Along with Nyrstar Hobart, Norske Skog Boyer and the Environment Protection Authority, we sample water quality from multiple depths at 31 sites throughout the Derwent each month and record temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, suspended solids, nutrients, organic carbon, chlorophyll and heavy metal levels. 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 25 years, our program is now one of the longest running and most cost-effective waterway monitoring programs in Australia. Our State of the Derwent Reports provides an overview of the monitoring and water quality trends.

www.derwentestuary.org.au/state-of-the-derwent



- Akira Weller-Wong conducting seagrass monitoring.



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, with data analysed by the DEP. The sampling program has sampled flathead fish (*Platycephalus bassensis*) since 1984, wild oysters and mussels since 1992 and deployed caged oysters since 2004. In 2023-24 a review of the monitoring program commenced which will inform future effort.

For a full report see [Metal Contamination in Fish and Shellfish of the Derwent Estuary 2020](#) 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/seafood-safety

1.4 Upper estuary monitoring and special studies


Seagrass

In 2023 seagrass cover was plentiful and generally consistent between sites, with greatest cover at Granton Bank followed by Dromedary Marsh. Lowest cover was observed at Jordan River followed by Murphys Flat sites. Algal cover and resultant dieback appears to be the most acute at Murphys Flat.

Rocky reef survey

In 2023-24 the DEP engaged scientists from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies to repeat a rocky reef survey first undertaken in 2010. Information from the survey will provide us with an understanding of species abundance and distribution and the condition of rocky reefs compared to fourteen years ago. Results of this survey will be made available in 2024-25 providing us with a window into the underwater world of the estuary.

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

Measures of success	Performance indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2023-24
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 Industry activity

- Nyrstar Completed their annual deployed oyster survey testing zinc levels and extracted 104 tonnes of zinc from groundwater at the site.
- Norske Skog Boyer installed an ammonia and chemical oxygen demand (COD) analyser at their treatment plant to better understand how influent changes so the dosing of nutrients can be adjusted to improve the treatment of waste.
- TasWater worked with DEP on the Recreational Water Quality forecasting trial, to provide up to date spill information. A 12 month water quality sampling program at Turriff Lodge wastewater treatment plant at New Norfolk commenced in 2023-24 to monitor the new outfall.
- TasPorts undertake five yearly environmental surveys at marine ports. Hobart was last surveyed in 2022-23 and includes rain event water quality sampling, sediment, particle size, marine species, bathymetry, and other observations. As part of an awareness campaign, TasPorts have created invasive marine species posters which will be printed to A1 metal signs and placed on TasPorts wharves. TasPorts is supporting a PhD project to develop bespoke eco-engineering strategies to mitigate invasive species colonisation in the Port of Hobart in cooperation with IMAS.
- Hydro Tasmania completed servicing Meadowbank dam.

2.2 Stormwater

- A stormwater quality monitoring project supported with funding from the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program commenced in June 2024. Water samples will be taken from thirty-one rivulet sites across the estuary for 12 months to help prioritise catchment management to reduce pollution.
- Gross Pollutant Trap maintenance training complete and well received by participants.
- Erosion and Sediment Control information session provided to members of the Master Builders Association.

2.3 Catchment

Real-time water quality analyser trial

The Ian Potter Foundation grant for a three-year trial of in-situ water quality analysers in the River Derwent continued in 2023-24. 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 developed at the University of Tasmania and commercialised by Eco Detection.

To validate the data generated by the analysers, traditional grab samples were collected as part of a 12 monthly assessment with nutrients analysed at Analytical Services Tasmania with good alignment between sampling methods. With the analyser validation complete, we investigated nutrient loads at each site. Overall, calculated nutrient loads are comparable to the 2015-2017 monitoring results, with elevated nutrient loads found for the Tyenna River. Further analysis of the data will be presented in future State of the Derwent reports.

Watertrust Australia


In September 2023, the Derwent Estuary Program's Catchment Working Group and other representatives met to share ideas with Watertrust Australia, an independent group dedicated to improving water decision-making processes, with a particular focus on identifying opportunities for government, First Nations, and stakeholders to collaborate on improving the management of River Derwent water quality.

There was unanimity in the importance of finding better ways to engage Aboriginal Tasmanians in water management and the group agreed that they would be interested in collaborating on managing the cumulative impacts of new and existing developments on the Derwent catchment and estuary.


DEP will also explore options for advancing decisions that affect the Derwent catchment particularly addressing the question: 'How can we enhance water quality to safeguard food sources?' by engaging with Aboriginal Tasmanians, as well as DEP partners in developing the next strategic and business plan.




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

Measures of success	Performance indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2023–24
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.
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. We will continue to work with our partners to help them manage point and diffuse pollution sources. The Ian Potter Foundation project provides real-time water quality data to point source wastewater treatment and industry outfall managers. The stormwater rivulet monitoring program funded by the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program commenced in 2023-24.		

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 2023–24
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. www.derwentestuary.org.au/seafood-safety
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 2023 Nyrstar extracted 104 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 2023–24
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 2023-24 two sites have a Poor water quality advisory (based on five years of data). Improvements to water quality were observed at four beaches.
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. Investigative work in 2023-24 focussed on stormwater infrastructure in catchments reaching Blackmans Bay south, Tarroona and Marieville Esplanade beaches. Our project to monitor stormwater pollution through the Urban Rivers and Catchments Project will identify priorities for on-ground action.		

3. Facilitate nature protection


- Spotted handfish: We continue to support the National Handfish Recovery Team in their efforts to increase the populations of endangered handfish. In 2023-24 the DEP provided CSIRO with funding from the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program to commence a survey of spotted handfish and the installation of artificial spawning substrate in the Derwent Estuary.
- Further restoration of the saltmarsh at Windermere Bay commenced with funding from the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.
- Little Penguins: Monthly monitoring continues, and data supports land managers in their efforts to protect the Derwent's urban population of Little Penguins.
- 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 2023.




• Spotted handfish guard their eggs laid around a ceramic artificial spawning substrate. Photo: C. Devine, CSIRO



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

Measures of success	Performance indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2023–24
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.	Project to restore saltmarsh at Windermere Bay funded by the URCP commenced in 2023-24.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Targets 15.5, 15.8, 15.9 	In cooperation with our partners we monitor condition of saltmarsh and foreshore habitats, recommend and implement management, and integrate natural values into planning and development. We also 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 2023–24
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. DEP providing CSIRO with URCP funding to support spotted handfish conservation.
DEP contribution to SDGs			
Target 17.17 	We maintain effective government, industry, science and community partnerships 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 Tamar Estuary Esk Rivers Program of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Excellence Award in Asset Management, Innovation or Sustainability for our *Erosion and Sediment Control: The Fundamentals for Development in Tasmania*.

Media:

- Beach Watch results June 2024 – media event hosted at Blackmans Bay beach to announce the report.
- Launch of Ducks of Tasmania booklet January 2024.
- Start of the Beach Watch season December 2023.

Facebook

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

Publications

- DEP Newsletter: January, April 2024
- Recreational Water Quality report for 2023-24 released June 2024.
- Annual Report for 2022-23.
- Annual Technical Report (internal).

www.derwentestuary.org.au/publications

Conferences/events – including DEP presentations:



- Australian Water Association conference and technical events.

Briefings about the Derwent Estuary Program were provided to the following organisations in 2023-24:

- 7 July 2023 – Montrose Bay High School
- 14 August 2023 – Browns River Historical Society
- 4 September 2023 – Clarence City Council
- October 2023 – Kingborough Council
- 10 October 2023 – City of Hobart, City Water portfolio
- 10 October 2023 – IMAS workshop for Masters students
- 20 December 2023 – NRM South Board
- 5 March 2024 – Briefed Indonesian water professionals – invitation from AWA
- 19 March 2024 – Salamanca Rotary Club
- 10 April 2024 – Claremont Rotary Club
- 7 May 2024 – Collegiate High School
- 13 May 2024 – City of Hobart – new CEO Michael Stretton
- 16 May 2024 – TasTAFE – conservation students
- 17 May 2024 – IMAS – new Director Nicole Webster
- 12 June 2024 – Briefed State Environment Minister Nick Duigan MP



OBJECTIVE 8: Increase awareness of DEP and its programs.

Measures of success	Performance indicator	Basis for comparison	Status 2023–24
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 2019 survey.	28% increase in the DEP Facebook Page reach in 2023-24.
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 webpage, 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

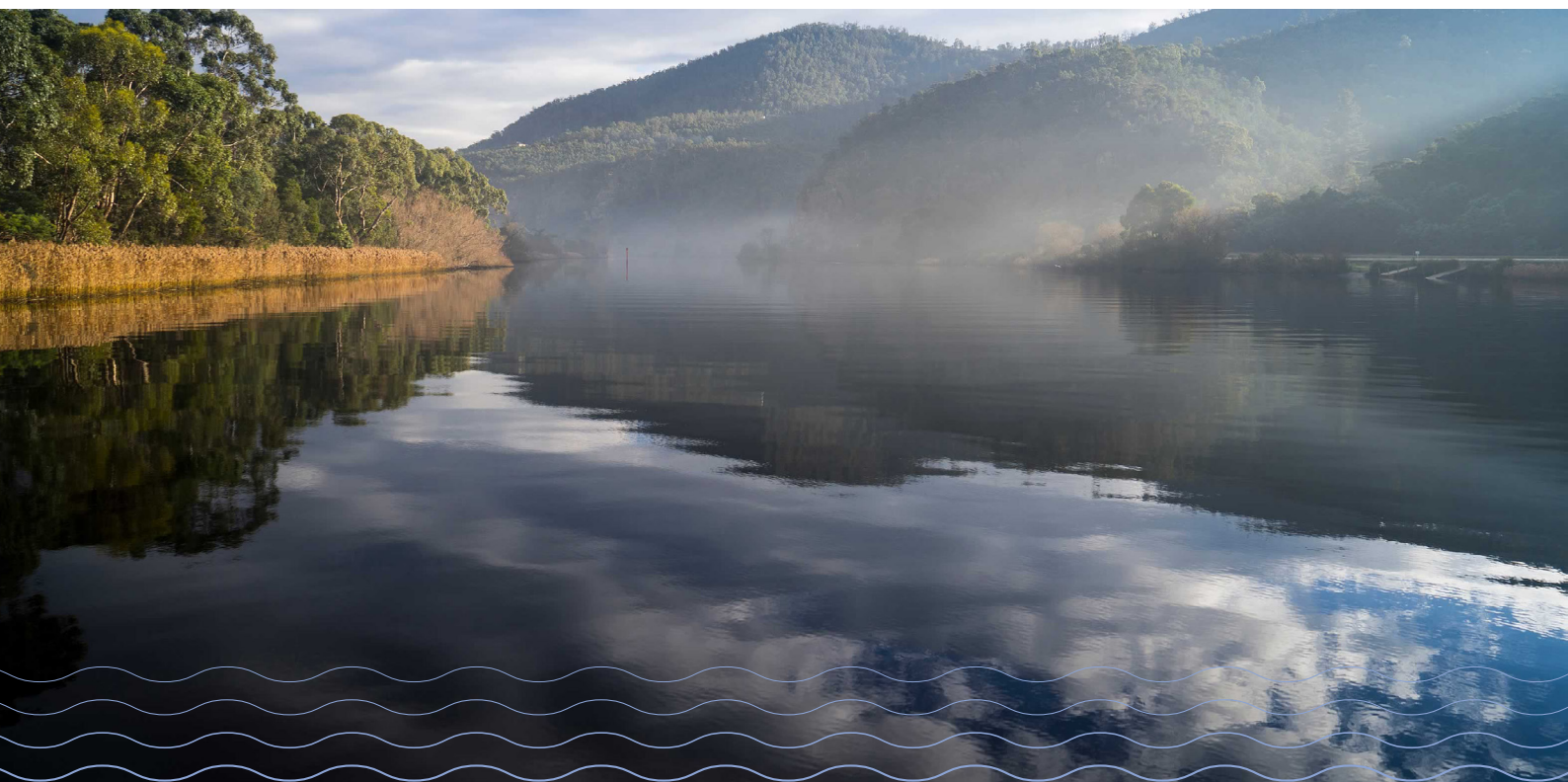
MAKE A DONATION

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/get-involved





Looking to the future

For 2024-25 – Implement the Strategic and Business Plan 2025–2030, 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

- Share the results of the rocky reef biodiversity, including marine pest survey.
- Review Beach Watch season and implement recommendations.
- Work with councils, state government and industry to adopt best practice stormwater management.
- Conduct stormwater rivulet monitoring project.
- Seasonal surveys of seagrass in the upper estuary.
- Refine hypoxia monitoring in cooperation with key partners.
- 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

- 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.
- Support scientists investigating emerging contaminants with the UTAS collaboration with Hytech.

FACILITATE NATURE PROTECTION

- Work with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to understand cultural landscapes.
- Maintain species working groups – Little Penguins and Spotted Handfish.
- Work with the CSIRO to survey Spotted Handfish and install artificial spawning habitat.
- Monthly Little Penguin monitoring.
- Saltmarsh restoration at Windermere Bay.
- Support seagrass restoration projects.

ENGAGE, INSPIRE, GROW THE DEP

- Audit and update DEP website content including education resources.
- Regular Roadshows – partners, politicians, community.
- Prepare next five year State of the Derwent Report.
- 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



**Bentleys Tasmania Audit
Pty Ltd**

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Hobart 7000

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bentleys.com.au

10 October 2024

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 2024 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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Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

- Advisors
- Accountants
- Auditors



**DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM
LTD**

REPORT OF AUDIT FINDINGS

30 JUNE 2024





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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 2024.



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 2024.

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 2024 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 2024 audit that we wish to bring to the attention of the Board.

10 October 2024



Representation letter

25 September 2024

Mr M.I.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 2024 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

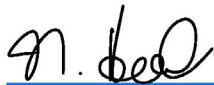
1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the signed audit engagement letter for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012.
2. Significant assumptions used 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,



Nick Heath (Oct 2, 2024 17:17 GMT+10)

Director

25 September 2024

Profit and loss

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$
REVENUE			
Grants	276,721.00	225,570.00	336,800.00
Interest Income	17,761.67	5,707.37	1,717.25
Member Contribution	411,623.00	428,743.00	418,228.00
Other Revenue	20,523.83	6,095.45	700.00
Training Income	6,000.00	13,960.23	18,999.18
Total Revenue	732,629.50	680,076.05	776,444.43
OTHER DEP INCOME			
In-Kind Contributions - IPF Grant	24,000.00	75,000.00	18,000.00
In-Kind Contributions - Partners	448,129.00	415,577.00	381,360.00
Donations Received	9.51	500.00	5,950.00
Total Other Income	472,138.51	491,077.00	405,310.00
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Advertising	20.89	3,000.00	-
Annual Leave Provision	1,668.47	(3,135.90)	(5,083.30)
Bank Fees	267.30	16.28	42.64
Computer Support	7,234.00	7,377.00	6,141.00
Consulting and Accounting	125,613.07	37,987.85	95,024.00
Depreciation	66,000.00	66,000.00	17,358.90
Equipment Purchases under \$10,000	6,130.82	1,416.45	4,901.00
Events - DEP	1,205.68	2,566.81	-
Field Expenses	755.86	1,669.41	5,598.65
Freight & Courier	85.41	259.57	-
Grant IPF Expenses	49,703.83	20,817.60	22,059.39
In-Kind Contributions – Consulting Support	24,000.00	75,000.00	18,000.00
In-Kind Contributions – Partner Support	448,129.00	415,577.00	381,360.00
Insurance	20,199.34	18,835.21	9,634.04
Legal expenses	4,744.00	405.00	970.00
Long Service Leave Provision	(18,969.91)	9,290.61	8,971.16
Meeting Costs	2,298.89	2,496.21	1,725.13
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,520.99	1,155.91	606.67
Office Expenses	2,441.56	1,453.40	936.60
Printing, Graphics and Website	21,972.33	10,733.45	11,840.36
Professional Development/Training	10,507.27	423.44	2,836.32
Protective workwear	355.05	182.73	309.09
Rent	22,316.58	20,599.91	20,600.01
Repairs and Maintenance	-	5,210.00	-
Subscriptions/Registrations	4,254.47	3,173.34	15,286.28
Superannuation	47,773.87	42,404.50	39,908.90
Sponsorships	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,020.45
Telephone & Internet	4,180.07	3,962.19	4,249.71
Travel – National	1,795.57	1,506.69	2,573.23
Wages and Salaries	439,990.02	404,185.67	399,727.95
Total Operating Expenses	1,297,694.43	1,156,070.33	1,066,598.18
NET INCOME (DEP OPERATIONS)	(92,926.42)	15,082.72	115,156.25
OTHER NON-OPERATING INCOME			
Equipment Donation – IPF Grant	-		190,000.00
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(92,926.42)	15,082.72	305,156.25

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2024

	30 June 2024	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS			
Bank			
DEP Public Management Fund (MyState)	605.65	596.14	96.14
DEP Primary Acct (MyState)	225,140.00	252,023.92	210,870.05
DEP Operations Acct (MyState)	5,456.61	10,245.08	5,018.93
Total Bank	231,202.26	262,865.14	215,985.12
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable	-	27,277.80	-
Term Deposit	467,630.17	452,925.00	450,000.00
Total Current Assets	467,630.17	480,202.80	450,000.00
Non-Current Assets			
Field equipment – IPF Project	330,000.00	330,000.00	330,000.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(149,358.90)	(83,358.90)	(17,358.90)
Total Non-Current Assets	180,641.10	246,641.10	312,641.10
Total Assets	879,473.53	989,709.04	978,626.22
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	7,782.41	4,626.86	1,358.64
Annual Leave liability	18,250.94	16,582.47	19,718.37
GST	(810.17)	2,355.09	(3,238.45)
PAYG Withholdings Payable	-	-	7,320.00
Rounding	0.95	(1.11)	(0.60)
Superannuation Payable	-	-	11,695.86
Total Current Liabilities	25,224.13	23,563.31	36,853.82
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Service Leave liability	27,982.98	46,952.89	37,662.28
Total Non-Current Liabilities	27,982.98	46,952.89	37,662.28
Total Liabilities	53,207.11	70,516.20	74,516.10
NET ASSETS	826,266.42	919,192.84	904,110.12
EQUITY			
Current Year Earnings/(Deficit)	(92,926.42)	15,082.72	305,156.25
Retained Earnings	919,192.84	904,110.12	598,953.87
Total Equity	826,266.42	919,192.84	904,110.12

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Movements in equity for the year ended June 2024

	2024	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$
EQUITY			
Opening Balance	919,192.84	904,110.12	598,953.87
Current Year Earnings	(92,926.42)	15,082.72	305,156.25
Total Equity	826,266.42	919,192.84	904,110.12

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows for the year ended June 2024

	2024	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers	826,420.99	714,935.12	823,269.11
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,347,711.75)	(1,044,172.34)	(1,058,712.27)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	501,580.51	393,650.51	561,286.30
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(19,710.25)	64,413.29	325,843.14
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment	-	-	(330,000.00)
Other cash items from investing activities	-	-	210,942.60
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	-	-	(119,057.40)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Other cash items from financing activities	2,752.54	(14,608.27)	(2,876.25)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	2,752.54	(14,608.27)	(2,876.25)
NET CASH FLOWS	(16,957.71)	49,805.02	203,909.49
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	715,790.14	665,985.12	462,075.63
Net change in cash for period	(16,957.71)	49,805.02	203,909.49
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	698,832.43	715,790.14	665,985.12

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended June 2024

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 2024

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 2024 and its performance for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024;
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 10th day of August 2024



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 2024 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

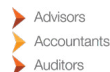
Hobart

Date: 9 October 2024

Michael Ian Derbyshire
Director



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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 2024, 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 2024, 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 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.

Bentleys Tasmania Audit Pty Ltd
Authorised Audit Company

Hobart

9 October 2024

Michael Ian Derbyshire
Director

• Andrew Fuller



Derwent
Estuary
Program

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