



Derwent Estuary Program

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

A 5 Year Voluntary Partnership between the

GOVERNMENT OF TASMANIA

the

**BRIGHTON, CLARENCE CITY, DERWENT VALLEY,
GLENORCHY CITY, HOBART CITY and KINGBOROUGH
COUNCILS**

and

**HYDRO TASMANIA, NORSKE SKOG BOYER, NYRSTAR
HOBART, TASMANIAN PORTS CORPORATION and
TASWATER**

for the

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OF THE DERWENT ESTUARY**

September 2014

1. PREAMBLE

1.1 The Derwent Estuary lies at the heart of the Hobart metropolitan area and is an asset of great natural beauty and diversity. Named for the Celtic word 'clear water' in 1794, the Derwent has always been an integral part of Tasmania's cultural, economic and natural heritage.

1.2 The following Parties - the Government of Tasmania (the 'Government'), the Brighton, Clarence City, Derwent Valley, Glenorchy City, Hobart City and Kingborough Councils ('the Councils'); Hydro Tasmania, Nyrstar Hobart, Norske Skog Paper Mills (Australia) Ltd, the Tasmanian Ports Corporation and TasWater are committed to working together and with other stakeholders to plan, manage and maintain the intrinsic values and public uses of the Derwent through the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP).

The Parties, operating under previous Agreements, established the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP), have also developed cooperative arrangements to coordinate monitoring and communications activities.

1.3 The Parties have developed a long-term Environmental Management Plan (the 'Plan') for the Derwent Estuary in consultation with other stakeholders and the community. The inaugural Plan (2001) was revised and updated in 2009, and will be further updated by March 2015 as part of this agreement.

1.4 The primary area addressed by the DEP comprises the Estuary between New Norfolk and a line between Tinderbox and the Iron Pot. However, these boundaries may be extended as needed to address relevant issues associated with the catchment or nearshore coastal waters.

1.5 The purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate the Plan's implementation by the Parties, stakeholders and the community through the DEP.

1.6 The Parties agree that the contents of this Agreement and the Schedules represent a voluntary partnership for sustainable management in the Estuary to operate from the 23 September 2014 and concluding on the 30th June 2020, or as otherwise determined by the Parties.

2. DEP OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 The Parties agree that the principal objective of the Environmental Management Plan is to ensure that the Derwent Estuary is a healthy and diverse ecosystem that supports a wide range of recreational and commercial uses and is a source of community pride and enjoyment.

2.2 The Parties agree that implementation of the Plan through the DEP will provide the following outcomes:

- improved quality of water, sediments and seafood;
- enhancement and conservation of estuary ecosystems;
- a strong scientific basis to support decision-making and a comprehensive monitoring program;
- good community and stakeholder understanding, awareness and participation in estuary management; and
- optimal and efficient use of resources in the design, development and implementation of best practice management programs.

2.3 The Parties agree that the key strategies in the DEP Plan are to:

- manage and reduce pollution, including sewage and industrial discharges, boat wastes, and urban runoff;
- protect and enhance natural systems, by enhancing estuarine habitats and species, managing marine pests and coastal weeds, and managing river flows;
- enhance human use of and benefits from the estuary, particularly through regional recreation and tourism initiatives;
- improve scientific understanding, develop decision support tools and monitor estuary conditions and trends; and
- promote understanding, awareness and participation in estuary planning and management through reporting, education and celebration of achievements.

2.4 The Parties agree to implement these strategies through an annual action plan presented in Schedule 2, and to review and update this Schedule annually by 31st March each year.

2.5 The Parties agree that additional agreements to implement major strategic projects may be developed, subject to Steering Committee approval.

2.6 The Parties agree to review and update the DEP Plan in Schedule 1, as required, to ensure it provides the long-term direction and strategies for the sustainable management of the Estuary.

3. DEP STRUCTURE

3.1 The Parties, while recognising and maintaining their respective roles and responsibilities, agree to adopt the DEP and the following structure as the principal means to:

- work together and facilitate implementation, review and updating of the Plan and this Agreement;
- provide leadership, coordination and a 'whole of government' strategic approach to estuary management; and
- ensure open and positive communication and consultation, to inform and involve the community and stakeholders in estuary management.

3.2 The Parties agree to arrange meetings of the Premier, relevant Ministers, Council Mayors and industry leaders, as required, in the course of the implementation of the DEP to formally review and resolve key elements of the Plan.

3.3 The Parties agree to continue the operation of the DEP Steering Committee, comprising the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, the State Manager of Environmental Health Services, the General Managers of the Councils and the CEOs of industry partners to:

- ensure the DEP Plan and its objectives and strategies are integrated into the respective policy and planning documents of the Parties and other stakeholders;
- oversee and coordinate implementation of the Plan, including its review and revision, on the advice of the Technical Working Group;
- engage other representatives of the Parties or stakeholders to assist the Committee, as required;
- develop further agreements and/or form special purpose task forces or working groups, where necessary, to ensure the implementation of the Plan's strategies and actions;
- review the results achieved by the implementation of the Plan and this Agreement;
- arrange DEP meetings and provide periodic reports and information for the Premier, State Government Ministers, Council Mayors and industry leaders; and

- oversee the provision of information and consultation, as required, on the DEP Plan and this Agreement with stakeholders and the community.

3.4 The Parties agree to coordinate the provision of advice to the DEP Steering Committee through the continued operation of the Technical Working Group, comprising representatives of Government Agencies, the Councils and key stakeholders, as determined by the DEP Steering Committee.

3.5 The Parties agree to maintain support for the DEP Management Team whose role is to provide executive, scientific, technical and administrative support, to assist the DEP Steering Committee and Technical Working Group, and to undertake other tasks as directed by the Steering Committee.

3.6 The Parties agree that the DEP Steering Committee will liaise with and, where required, resolve agreements and joint working arrangements with other stakeholders and the community to ensure effective implementation of the Plan.

3.7 The Parties agree to consult widely with the community, industry and all stakeholders on Estuary issues, the Plan and its implementation.

4. DEP RESOURCES

4.1 The Parties agree to commit the time and resources needed to implement this Agreement and to jointly provide the resources needed to progressively implement the Plan and support the Management Team.

4.2 The Parties agree to commit funds for the 2014/15 financial year as outlined in Schedule 2 and to develop and agree to longer-term funding arrangements by March 2015.

4.3 The Parties agree to cooperate to secure additional resources that may be required to implement the Environmental Management Plan and priority projects.

5. DEP COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTING AND REVIEW

5.1 The Parties agree that communications will be coordinated through a representative Communications Advisory Group, and that all media releases will be circulated to the Steering Committee in advance.

5.2 The Parties agree that an annual report on the DEP for the financial year will be prepared and presented to the Steering Committee by 30th October each year.

5.3 The Parties agree to review the performance of this Agreement annually before 31st March and where agreed make appropriate amendments for the subsequent financial year.

5.4 The Parties agree to complete a major review of the Agreement before the end of the 5-year period and determine whether the DEP should be continued and, if so, under what terms, conditions and arrangements.

Signed by:

The Honourable Matthew Groom, MP
Minister for the Environment, Parks and Heritage

Signature: _____

Alderman Ron Christie
Deputy Lord Mayor of Hobart City Council

Signature: _____

Councillor Tony Foster
Mayor of Brighton Council

Signature: _____

Alderman Doug Chipman
Mayor of Clarence City Council

Signature: _____

Councillor Martyn Evans
Mayor of Derwent Valley Council

Signature: _____

Alderman Stuart Slade
Mayor of Glenorchy City Council

Signature: _____

Councillor Dr Graham Bury
Mayor of Kingborough Council

Signature: _____

Mr Mike Brewster
TasWater

Signature: _____

Mr Rod Bender
Norske Skog Paper Mills (Australia) Ltd

Signature: _____

Mr. Richard Curtis
Nyrstar Hobart Smelter

Signature: _____

Mr Kevin Moore
Tasmanian Ports Corporation

Signature: _____

Mr Wilhelm Suessenbach
Hydro Tasmania

Signature: _____

SCHEDULE 1

DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009

(New EMP to be revised and endorsed by March 2015)

SCHEDULE 2

DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM

2014/15 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND BUDGET

***(Longer-term budget arrangements to be developed by
March 2015)***