

# Derwent Estuary Program e-bulletin



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### Welcome

This is the 21st newsletter from the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP). The newsletter is designed to keep partners and stakeholders informed of the DEP's activities on a quarterly basis. If you are happy to keep receiving the newsletter, great. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list please reply via the link at the bottom of this page.

### New Rain Garden for the University of Tasmania

When it rains, stormwater flows over roads, car parks, sports grounds and other surfaces picking up litter, sediment, fertiliser and other pollutants that can harm wildlife and pollute our waterways. In 2011 - 2012, a 'rain garden' was designed to collect and treat stormwater from the University of Tasmania Student Union car park and surrounding areas using Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles. Stormwater is diverted through a series of channels and vegetated basins where it is filtered through sandy soils and gravel. Plants and soil microorganisms provide additional treatment, and the clean water is then released to the Derwent. Native plants and pools of water provide habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife, as well as an attractive green space that requires little maintenance.



Interested in establishing a rain garden near you, or even in your garden? Find some information on the [DEP website](#) to help you get started.

The University project is an initiative of the Derwent Estuary Program and University of Tasmania, with funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country.

### An updated Conservation Action Plan for the Derwent

What is the best way to use limited resources to achieve the best conservation outcomes for the Derwent estuary? This question has been used to update the Derwent Estuary Program's Conservation Action Plan.



The CAP, as it is known, is based on a framework developed by the US-based conservation group The Nature Conservancy. This framework is used internationally and uses an adaptive management approach.

The first CAP process for the Derwent commenced in 2010 and reinforced the value of the DEP's core business in areas of water quality and pollution management as well as the support of single species conservation such as little penguins and the spotted handfish. In addition to these core

projects the CAP recommended that the DEP concentrate on a broader range of critical habitats such as salt marshes.

The CAP was revisited in 2012 to focus on strategy development; prioritisation and action planning based around five major conservation strategies, 12 objectives and 20 strategic actions. The five conservation strategies include: foreshore protection and restoration; aquatic environment protection and restoration; restoration of aquatic connectivity; improved condition of key species and pests and weeds.

The updated CAP is available on the DEP website and will be used as a basis for further consultation with stakeholders. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments please contact [Luke Einoder](#).

## Background

The Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) is a regional partnership between the Tasmanian State Government, local governments, commercial and industrial enterprises, and community-based groups to restore and promote our estuary.

The DEP was established in 1999 and has been nationally recognised for excellence in coordinating initiatives to reduce water pollution, conserve habitats and species, monitor river health and promote greater use and enjoyment of the foreshore.

Our major sponsors include: the Tasmanian State Government, Brighton, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough councils, Southern Water, TasPorts, Norske Skog Boyer, Hydro Tasmania and Nyrstar Hobart.

We also work collaboratively on projects with CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, University of Tasmania, Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, NRM South, Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania, Veolia Environmental Services and Greenseas (Heinz Australia).



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