



# Derwent Estuary Program

ANNUAL  
REPORT

18  
—  
19





The Derwent Estuary Program is a regional partnership between the Tasmanian State Government, local governments, industry, scientists and the community to share science for the benefit of nature, the economy and the community.

The DEP was established in 1999 and has been nationally recognised for excellence in reducing water pollution, conserving habitats and species, monitoring river health and promoting greater use and enjoyment of the foreshore.



# CONTENTS

Our mission	04	<b>Section 1</b>	
Our vision	04	<b>An overview of the</b>	
Our history	05	<b>Derwent Estuary Program</b>	
		About us	06
		Our supporters	06
		Our people	10
		<b>Section 2</b>	
		<b>Governance</b>	
		Structure & management	13
		Chairperson's report	14
		CEO's report	16
		Our Objectives & Activities	18
		<b>Section 3</b>	
		<b>Our Finances</b>	
		Auditors report	24
		Financial report	29



## **OUR MISSION**

To enable informed decisions to restore, promote and access the Derwent estuary.

## **OUR VISION**

The Derwent Estuary Program is the voice of the Derwent estuary.





## OUR HISTORY

The Derwent estuary lies at the heart of the Hobart metropolitan area and is an integral part of Tasmania's natural, cultural and economic heritage.

Approximately 40% of Tasmania's population – 210,000 people – live around the estuary's margins and the Derwent is widely used for recreation, boating, fishing and marine transportation. The estuary supports several large industries, including paper production, zinc smelting and boat building, and is Tasmania's fourth busiest port. The estuary is an important and productive ecosystem, supporting large areas of wetlands, seagrasses, tidal flats and rocky reefs. These areas support a diversity of species, including internationally protected wading birds, handfish and whales.

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

- severe heavy metal contamination of sediments and biota by mercury, zinc, cadmium, lead, copper and arsenic;
- elevated nutrient concentrations, localised algal growth and, in the upper estuary, seasonally depressed oxygen levels;
- loss and degradation of estuarine habitat and species;
- severe infestation by invasive species, including harmful algal blooms;
- altered environmental flows and physical barriers to fish migration associated with dams;
- intermittent faecal contamination of recreational waters.

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





## ABOUT US

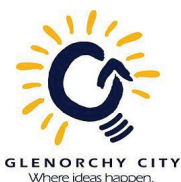
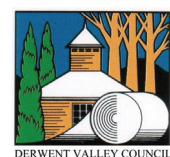
The Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) was established in 1999 as a voluntary partnership between state and local governments, industries, scientists and the community to restore and promote the Derwent estuary. A key role of the DEP is to coordinate and support monitoring activities and scientific investigations,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

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

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

Project support also provided by:

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





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

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

More recently, the DEP has encouraged the enjoyment of the Derwent through the use of foreshore tracks by developing the Greater Hobart Trails website in cooperation with our six Council partners. Education about the Derwent's features has been a focus and the DEP has worked with the Parks and Wildlife Discovery rangers to engage with local primary schools. In 2016 the DEP sponsored the Bookend Trust's adventure program where approximately 3000 school students learned about the value of rivers via Derwent focused online and hands on learning.

The DEP is guided by a Business Plan 2019 – 2024 which informs annual work plans and staff action plans.

## Yearly highlights: 2018/2019



ricegrass, an invasive weed, was observed in  
**2018/19.**

Beach watch:

**17 out of 18**

beaches in Hobart are safe for swimming.

**Over  
300kg**

of litter removed from Prince of Wales Bay by the DEP and volunteers from eight businesses.

45 people attended Water Sensitive Urban Design training in 2018 to improve the planning, implementation and management of assets designed to

**reduce pollution  
in stormwater.**

The condition of 17 saltmarsh sites was assessed with management recommendations provided to landowners.

The Derwent Estuary Program was referenced in the media

**over 60 times**

between January and June promoting awareness of estuarine health including safe swimming.

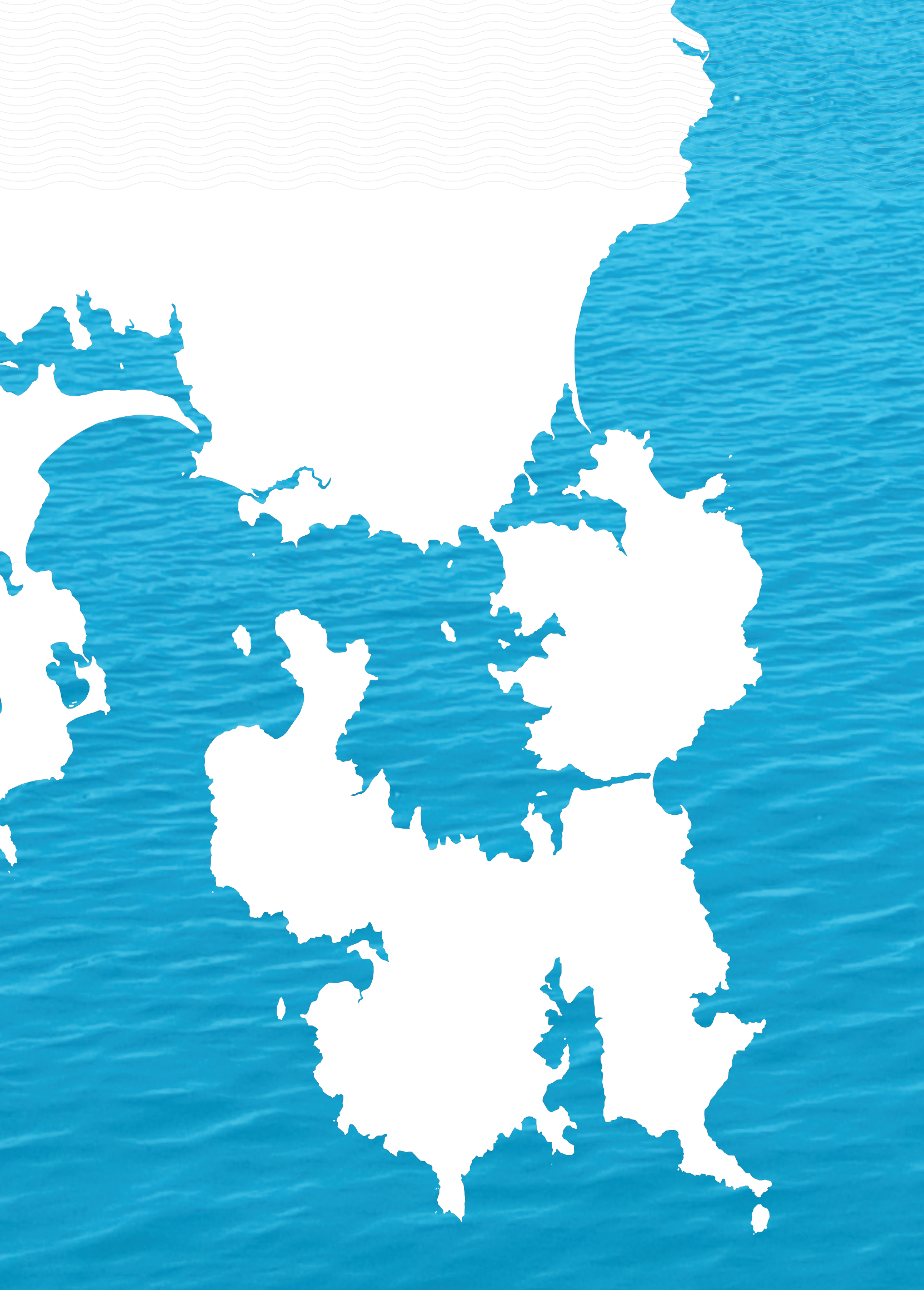
**Seagrass health in  
the upper estuary  
improved over the  
last year.**













BOARD  
MEMBERS/  
TRUSTEES

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Nick Heath	Chair	
Sophie Grace	Director	
Greg Davoren	Director	
Gary Arnold	Director	
Todd Milne	Director	
Ursula Taylor	Company Secretary	

EMPLOYEES

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Ursula Taylor	CEO	
Sam Whitehead	Scientist	
Inger Visby	Biodiversity Officer	
Akira Weller-Wong	Technical Officer	
Bernadette Proemse	Catchment Scientist	Started 2 February 2019
Alice Doyle	Office Support	Started 20 February 2019

VOLUNTEERS

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Charlotte Dong	University of Tasmania, finance intern	1 December 2018 – 28 February 2019









## STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

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

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

- to advance the natural environment connected with the Derwent Estuary through its protection and enhancement;
- to maximise the health and diversity of the Derwent Estuary, such that it supports a wide range of recreational, tourism and commercial uses and initiatives and is a source of community pride and enjoyment;
- to coordinate initiatives to reduce water pollution, conserve habitats and species, monitor river health, and to promote greater use and enjoyment of the Derwent Estuary;
- to support monitoring activities and scientific investigations, and to compile and distribute relevant information in internal and public reports, in each case connected with the Derwent Estuary;
- to support the management and reduction pollution in the Derwent Estuary, including sewage, contaminated sediments, industrial discharges, marine waste and urban and catchment runoff;
- to support the conservation of estuarine habitats and species, and management of marine pests, coastal weeds and river flows;
- to support informed planning, policy and assessment by providing scientific information, guidelines and professional advice;
- to provide information and education about the Derwent Estuary, so as to improve understanding, awareness of, and participation in, the Derwent Estuary, as well as celebrating achievements;

- to participate in and support other organisations and programs whose focus is the advancement of the natural environment connected with water systems other than the Derwent Estuary;
- to establish and maintain a public fund to be called the Derwent Estuary Fund (or with such other name as the Board determines) (Fund) for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objects and purposes of the Company. The Fund is established to receive all gifts of money or property for this purpose and any money received because of such gifts must be credited to its bank account. The Fund must not receive any other money or property into its account and it must comply with subdivision 30-E of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth);
- to undertake fundraising activities for the purposes of implementing the objectives and strategies of the Company in furtherance, or in aid, of the objects above; and
- to take such other steps which are necessary or preferable to achieve or further the objects above.

To ensure the DEP manages and completes tasks at a project level we have the generous support of our partner organisations with their representatives on a Communications Advisory Group and topic specific task forces including the, Monitoring Task Force, Stormwater Task Force, Penguin Advisory Group and the 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 formalized in a five-year voluntary partnership agreement.



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



### NICK HEATH

Chair, Derwent Estuary Program  
General Manager,  
Hobart City Council

This year was challenging for the Derwent estuary, particularly over summer where there were high incidences of poor water quality at several beaches. The community concerns about their local beach showed us that, as community members, we all want to keep our natural assets, including the Derwent in a clean state.

The DEP played an important role in this situation by being the voice of the Derwent and making the beach and bay water quality sampling results public as well as uniting the organisations involved in managing the situation.

In these situations, the value of the DEP is clear:

- Reasoned public commentary based on science
- Promotion of its partners demonstrating the positive impact of their on-ground action.

Strategically the DEP works towards Understanding Science, Facilitating Pollution Reduction, Facilitating Nature Protection and Engaging and Inspiring and Growing the DEP. A highlight this year has been the development of the DEP's Business Plan 2019 – 2024 outlining initiatives that will guide work plans and align with the DEP's refined purpose, which is to enable informed decisions to restore and promote the Derwent.

I would like to thank and acknowledge our partners, particularly the representatives of our Members Committee for their continued support. Specifically - Hobart, Kingborough, Glenorchy, Clarence, Derwent Valley and Brighton Councils, Nyrstar Hobart, Norske Skog, Hydro Tasmania, TasWater, TasPorts and the Tasmanian State Government. The actions of the DEP partners to reduce pollution continue to help improve the environmental condition of the estuary. This year Nyrstar extracted 85 tonnes of zinc from their groundwater, as they did in 2017-18. There has also been an overall reduction of nutrients from wastewater treatment plants as well as an increase in wastewater reuse. However, we will continue to work closely with our partners to monitor and manage the condition of the upper estuary and its vulnerable habitats to understand the interaction and impact of nutrients and river discharge. We are also pleased to have a greater understanding of the hypoxia (low oxygen) situation in this part of the estuary which we are sharing with our stakeholders.

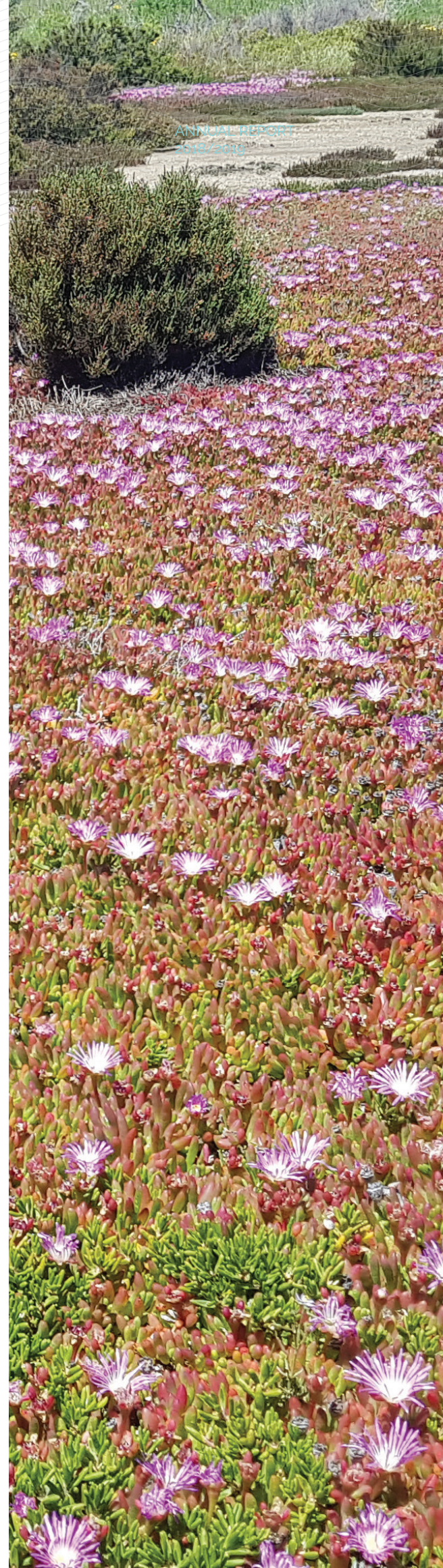


To advance our understanding of the lower estuary we will undertake rocky reef surveys using techniques developed by the Institute of Marine Studies. This year saw our Catchment Scientist test the value of isotopes in differentiating the sources of nitrogen used by seaweed which showed that this technique is useful in differentiating marine and anthropogenic sources of nitrogen.

Weeds are a threat to the Derwent's foreshore and key habitats. To bolster the existing work on ricegrass and karamu control, the DEP has established a working group involving experts from local and state government and natural resource managers to develop a Derwent foreshore weed strategy. This will deliver recommendations made in the Conservation Action Plan for the Derwent as weeds were identified as a threat to the health of key habitats including wetlands and saltmarsh.

As we continue to see improvements in the environmental health of the Derwent the easier it is to inspire the community to enjoy this beautiful waterway. The Derwent has much to offer recreationally including swimming, walking, fishing, kayaking and boating and the results of a Community Survey conducted in 2018-19 will inform the DEP as to the popularity of these activities and assist us develop appropriate communication material.

The DEP enhances community interaction with the Derwent by continuing to provide updates about water quality at beaches and the state of heavy metal levels in seafood again in partnership, this time the Department of Health and Human Services. Dissemination of public health advice is another important function of the DEP and important to maintain as we embark on another busy year.





## CEO'S REPORT



**URSULA TAYLOR**

Chief Executive Officer,  
Derwent Estuary Program

The 2018-19 annual report summarises the work of the Derwent Estuary Program, a voluntary partnership between state and local governments and industry. In addition to this formal arrangement the DEP works closely with research organisations and community groups to monitor, investigate and communicate Derwent related science.

The development of the DEP Business Plan 2019 – 2024 was a valuable collaborative effort with the Board and Technical Working Group. It builds on our strategic snapshot and sets the scene for the next five years. It is already a well-used plan informing the annual implementation plans and staff action plans.

In line with good governance practice the DEP engaged Wise, Lord and Fergusson to assess our business risk. This process identified several issues to manage including stakeholder engagement, communications, funding and role definition. The risks of highest priority for the DEP to manage include Work, Health and Safety and Cyber-attack. The resulting assessment will assist the Board in guiding the DEP to ensure that it remains a strong and well organised program.

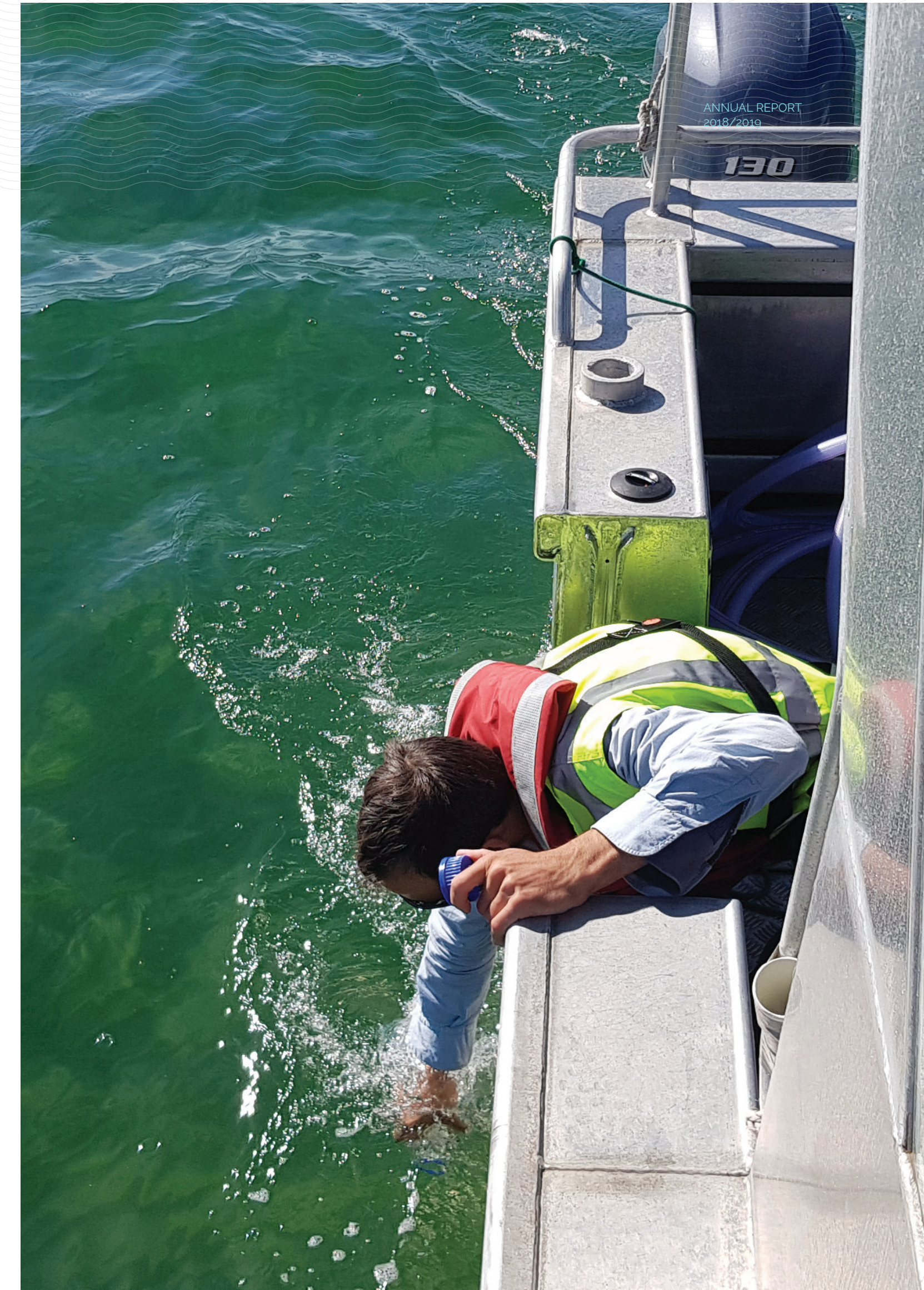
This year we welcomed Bernadette Proemse to the position of Catchment Scientist and Alice Doyle as Office Support. Our team has grown to six and with the additional skills we are able to concentrate on scientific projects to further our understanding of the complexities of the Derwent estuary, and the influence of other waterways on the system. I would like to thank the DEP staff for their professionalism and enthusiasm as well as the Board for their ongoing support and guidance.

In 2019-20 we will focus on water quality in the catchment and upper estuary and conduct baseline surveys of the rocky reefs in the lower estuary to determine whether inputs from Storm Bay salmon farming has an impact on these habitats. We will continue to communicate our science in a variety of ways, particularly water quality at beaches over summer and engage with the community through a citizen science project to assess water quality in rivulets that reach the estuary.

Again, I would like to thank our partners for both their financial and in-kind support. Without the generous contributions of the staff of our partners the DEP would not be able to monitor or report on such variety of environmental parameters.



130





## OUR OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The following summarises the activities undertaken by the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) in cooperation with its partner organisations in 2018 – 19. 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, supports staff and sub-programs.

The DEP developed a Business Plan 2019 - 2024 to guide the program and partnership for the next five years. In this process the DEP purpose and vision was refined.

### OUR PURPOSE

To enable informed decisions.

### OUR VISION

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

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

### SCIENCE TO GUIDE MANAGEMENT

Highlights for 2018-19 include coordination and reporting on the recreational water quality program in cooperation with our council partners and the EPA, ambient monitoring program in cooperation with industry and the EPA, and publication of the digital 2018 State of the Derwent Report Card. This was based on the Annual Technical Report summarising the monitoring conducted in 2018-19 and management actions undertaken by our partner organisations.

Each year the DEP and its partners monitor and report on:

- 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
- Contaminant load changes from partner organisations, including comprehensive review of contaminant sources at Nyrstar (groundwater, effluent outfall, air emissions), Norske skog paper Mill and all 11 of the wastewater treatment plants in the Derwent catchment
- Seagrass health
- Dissolved oxygen in the upper estuary
- Nitrogen sources and their fate in the environment, to measure the ecological impact of effluent discharge

Monitoring targeting seagrass health, dissolved oxygen levels in the upper estuary continued in 2018-19. A new project investigating the sources of nitrogen used by seaweed was also conducted.

The 2018 - 19 Annual Technical Report was prepared, and this will inform the next Annual State of the Derwent Report Card which will be publicly available later in 2019.

#### Summary of science and monitoring activities:

- Seagrass surveys conducted over the summer and autumn period showed it was in good condition.
- Data from dissolved oxygen loggers in upper estuary is informing the analysis of hypoxia in this area.
- Survey of saltmarsh condition identified threats and management recommendations were provided to landowners.
- Rocky reef and intertidal surveys planned for 2019 – 20 using a rapid visualisation method developed by the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMAS).
- Review of DEP monitoring was conducted in cooperation with the Monitoring Task Force.

## RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

The DEP summer recreation water quality program commenced in early December 2018 and concluded on 31 March 2019. The program includes 18 'BeachWatch' swimming sites and 21 'BayWatch' environmental sites. Public reporting was provided the DEP website and Facebook page

The water quality at Swimming Sites during the 2018-19 RWQ season worsened at most beaches compared to the previous season. Throughout the season there were 52 occurrences, spread over 16 of the 18 swimming sites, where the enterococci (a faecal indicator bacteria) trigger level of 140 MPN 100 mL<sup>-1</sup> was exceeded. As a result, 44 re-samples were taken. The number of re-tests was more than double that of the previous season. Of the 18 Swimming Sites, 14 maintained last season's long-term water quality rating, one site improved (Nutgrove Beach (west)) and three sites declined (Howrah Beach (mid), Blackmans Bay Beach (mid), and Nutgrove Beach (east)). Based on water quality results for the past five years, 10 of the 18 swimming sites are now classified as having Good water quality, seven are Fair and one is Poor which is Blackmans Bay Beach (south).

Nutgrove beach (west) shed its Poor water quality rating after two years of investigation and infrastructure repair to the stormwater system by the City of Hobart and TasWater. Nutgrove beach is again open for swimming.

## AMBIENT WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Monthly monitoring continues with support from our industry partners and the EPA. Our program is now one of the longest running (20 years) and most cost-effective waterway monitoring programs in Australia.

Seafood safety monitoring and review of guidelines Nyrstar's most recent biennial flathead survey was completed in late 2018, and zinc concentrations increased compared to prior results. This increase was also recorded at the reference site in Mickeys' Bay, so the increase is either due to laboratory method, sampling method or environmental conditions that are unrelated to discharges into the Derwent. The same, sampler was used and all quality assurance and quality control thresholds were complied with at the laboratory. We do not have a satisfactory explanation for the recent increase. However, zinc concentration has been significantly declining in ambient waters of the Derwent over the last 12 years. Despite the increases in flathead zinc in 2018, the amount of mercury in flathead flesh has declined but the data is variable and continued monitoring is recommended.

Health advice has not changed, and it is still recommended that shellfish or bream from the Derwent are not eaten however other species can be consumed within limits. This advice is available on the DEP website and in State government publications. A repeat of the seafood survey to determine mercury and other metal levels in a range of recreationally caught fish species commenced in 2018-19 with sampling to be completed in 2019-20.





### UPPER ESTUARY MONITORING & SPECIAL STUDIES

The upper estuary – between new Norfolk and Bridgewater – is a critical part of the Derwent system because it has very high ecological values (e.g. wetlands, seagrass, fish and water birds), provides important water quality services (removes nutrients and sediments), stressed by smothering algal blooms. Following severe algal blooms covering seagrass, and fish kills events in 2014-15, the DEP set up a more detailed monitoring program for the upper estuary that included dissolved oxygen surveys (in situ sensors plus spatial surveys) and seagrass/algae surveys. These surveys have continued and results in 2018-19 showed that seagrass health had improved. We have learned more about the nature of the seabed in the upper estuary and how this influences the zones of hypoxia.

River flow also has an influence with high and low river flow having more impact on hypoxia than medium level flows as these conditions are favourable for the mixing of oxygen depleted water from deeper troughs in the riverbed.

### FACILITATE POLLUTION REDUCTION

- Sewage: TasWater has received EPA approval to discharge effluent from their Turriff Lodge wastewater treatment plant (New Norfolk) into bottom waters.
- Industry: Drum screens to capture solid waste have been approved by the EPA and will be installed at the Wayatinah and Florentine fish hatcheries.
- Stormwater and litter:
  - The DEP organised Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) training for council planners, project managers, engineers and maintenance staff which was well received.
  - Stormwater project priorities are being determined in cooperation with the Stormwater Taskforce.
  - Business Clean Up Australia Day event attracted 35 people from 8 businesses collecting approximately 300 kg of rubbish. An inspection of the litter trap near Prince of Wales revealed that it was not working. Glenorchy City Council took action to fix it so we are hopeful less litter will reach the bay in 2019-20.
- Catchment: We applied to the Ian Potter Foundation for a grant to produce a Water Quality Improvement Plan and Healthy River Action Plan for the River Derwent and upper estuary.
- Seafood safety survey: Some funding from the Department of Health was provided to assist the collection of samples of a variety of recreationally targeted fish and shellfish species to check metal levels with a view to updating the public health advice if necessary. Sampling has commenced with the project to be completed in 2019-20.









### FACILITATE NATURE PROTECTION

- Little penguins: monitoring continues at main sites and the little penguin monitoring app, created in ARC-GIS Collector curtesy of Land Tasmania, is now operational and used monthly, with the collected data viewed online by local councils. A State penguin committee using the DEP Penguin Advisory Group as a governance model was also established during 2018-19;
- Spotted handfish: the DEP continues to provide administration support to the Spotted Handfish Advisory Committee. Environmentally friendly boat moorings being trialled to reduce habitat degradation. A capture, mark, recapture, age, growth and spatial Honours project was completed in 2018 and found:
  - Validated autonomous photo-ID method using I3S Pattern and APHIS programs and software worked well and was reliable in identifying individual spotted handfish. Results also suggest that handfish don't move between sites.
  - Growth project: At 1-year the handfish are around 45-47 mm long. At about 5 years they are generally about 100 mm long with one 10-year old fish measuring 125 mm.
  - Spot plasticity project: Spots changes in colour, which might relate to substrate colour – something to consider at time of release.
  - Population study: Population estimate across the Derwent survey sites amounts to 883 fish (might be around 1000) however these estimates are still unreliable. Low numbers of re-sightings indicates that more sampling to improve population estimates is required.
- Weed management:
  - In 2018-19 the DEP established a regional weed committee to devise a weed management strategy for the Derwent foreshore.
  - Ricegrass survey complete and none found. This survey provided the opportunity to check for other weeds and litter hotspots. Information was provided to relevant land managers.
  - The DEP continues to provide technical support and some funding to a regional project to manage karamu, an invasive woody weed, in the upper estuary.

### CHANNEL AND STORM BAY

- The DEP continues to support the D'Entrecasteaux/Huon Collaboration, which released their web-based 2017 Report Card in January 2019. They also conducted two marine clean-ups in cooperation with industry and the community collecting tonnes of litter from the shoreline.
- We received assurance from the Minister for the Environment about DEP involvement in a technical committee to coordinate and make available the results scientific studies of Storm Bay to salmon farming operators and regulators. This group to meet later in 2019.

### ENGAGE, INSPIRE AND GROW THE DEP

Media was received for the:

- A feature of the Derwent, the DEP and partners as part of the ABC's online Curious Hobart series – August 2018
- Beach Watch program throughout January, February, March and June
- 2018 State of the Derwent Report Card release in January
- Clean Up Australia Day in February
- In-depth interview with the CEO for a Café Society feature in March

EVENTS

The DEP participated and presented at the following events and organisations:

- The D'Entrecasteaux/Channel Science Symposium
- The National Estuaries Network
- Princes Street Primary School
- Tarooma Seaside Festival
- Clarence Seafarers Festival

WEBSITES

- 2018 State of the Derwent Report - online
- Facebook posts of recent media articles reached up to 6,500 (one post). Beach Watch results posted weekly generate a lot of interest.
- Beach Watch most regularly visited web page with peak visitation on 29 March reaching 360 page visits.

PUBLICATIONS

- State of the Derwent Report 2018
- 2018-19 Recreational Water Quality Report
- Business Plan 2019 – 2024

[www.derwentestuary.org.au/publications](http://www.derwentestuary.org.au/publications)

ROADSHOWS AND BRIEFINGS CONDUCTED IN 2018-19

• Brighton Council	17 July
• Glenorchy Council	6 August
• Kingborough Council	17 September
• Freshwater Science Symposium	October
• Norske Skog Tech Talk	October
• Tasmanian Alliance for Marine Protection	20 November
• Huon Aquaculture Culture	6 December
• Director of the EPA	17 December
• Richard Griggs, political candidate	31 January
• Kingborough Community forum	5 March
• Scott Bacon	20 March
• Beach Watch – Mayors	1 April
• Alison Standen MP	3 May
• Eric Abetz MP	8 April
• Rosalie Woodruff MP	8 May
• Elise Archer MP	19 June
• Macquarie Point Development	26 June

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Myriad consulting conducted the third DEP community survey in May 2018-19. It was a combination of online and telephone surveys of 400 people across the six municipalities that border the Derwent. Key issues addressed included:

- Safe swimming beaches
- Seafood safety in general
- Community use of the Derwent
- Community concerns for the Derwent
- Changes to the way people access their information relevant to the DEP
- Relevance of walking tracks along the Derwent estuary.

Results of the survey will be available in 2019-20 and will inform DEP communications.



## AUDITORS REPORT







27 September 2019

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

Dear Members

Our Ref: DERW0008

**Re: Audit for the Year Ended 30 June 2019**

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

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

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

**Matters arising from our audit for you to consider:**

While not being material to our audit opinion we wish to take this opportunity to raise some matters with you for your consideration:

+ We note that the balance sheet still shows a TFN withholding tax amount of \$971. We confirm that this amount has since been received post balance date.

We look forward to working with you in the future and wish the organisation the best of luck.

Should you wish to discuss any matters further please do not hesitate to give Charles or myself a call.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burnett".

Michael Burnett, B.Com., FCA  
Registered Company Auditor  
Partner

Level 1, 18 Ross Avenue,  
Rosny Park, 7018  
PO Box 28, Rosny Park, 7018  
Tasmania, Australia

Telephone + 61 3 6244 5044  
Facsimile + 61 3 6244 7319  
Web [www.accru.com](http://www.accru.com)

**Business + Personal + Financial Solutions**  
Sydney + Melbourne + Brisbane  
Perth + Adelaide + [Hobart](#)



## Management Representation Letter

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

Dear Michael

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial report of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd, for the year ended 30 June 2019, for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report is presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

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

### Financial Report

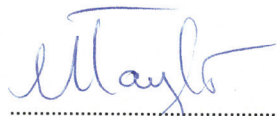
- + We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; in particular, the financial report is fairly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

### Information Provided

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

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

Yours sincerely



Name

Ursula Taylor

CEO

Title

7.10.2019

Date



## DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LTD

ABN 14 618 265 571





## FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

## CONTENTS

Profit & Loss  
Balance Sheet  
Movements in Equity  
Statement of Cash Flows  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
Board Statement  
Auditor's Report





## PROFIT & LOSS

DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LIMITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

TRADING INCOME	2019	2018
Grants	188,481	0
Interest Income	4,398	2,068
Member Contribution	148,750	537,125
Other Revenue	0	202,692
Training Income	20,732	0
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>362,361</b>	<b>741,886</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>362,361</b>	<b>741,886</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising	0	36
Bank Fees	193	0
Computer Support	2,320	0
Consulting & Accounting	26,812	41,499
Contribution to Channel Project	10,000	10,000
Entertainment	0	1,037
Equipment Purchases under \$10,000	27,480	5,849
Field Expenses	3,614	665
Freight & Courier	166	0
General Expenses	0	1,666
Insurance	4,459	0
Legal expenses	4,500	0
Meeting Costs	3,577	913
Motor Vehicle Expenses	3,002	346
Office Expenses	631	544
Printing, Graphics and Website	20,029	8,265
Prior year adjustment		0
Professional Development/Training	3,742	1,618
Protective workwear	91	0
Rent	18,633	51,621
Subscriptions	9,859	0
Superannuation	34,257	31,871
Telephone & Internet	4,202	3,190
Travel - National	615	2,478
Wages and Salaries	357,168	318,708
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>535,348</b>	<b>480,305</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(172,987)</b>	<b>261,581</b>



## BALANCE SHEET

DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LIMITED  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

ASSETS	30 JUN 2019	30 JUN 2018
Bank		
DEP - Public Management Fund	1	0
DEP Ltd Operations	71,648	33,840
Derwent Estuary Program Ltd	272,244	380,199
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>343,893</b>	<b>414,039</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	22,000	148,619
Term Deposit	205,495	201,097
TFN Withholding Tax	971	971
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>228,466</b>	<b>350,687</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>572,359</b>	<b>764,726</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities		
GST	3,934	30,891
PAYG Withholdings Payable	25,716	23,388
Superannuation Payable	10,060	4,811
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>39,710</b>	<b>59,090</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>39,710</b>	<b>59,090</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>532,649</b>	<b>705,636</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Current Year Earnings	(172,987)	261,581
Retained Earnings	705,636	444,056
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>532,649</b>	<b>705,636</b>

MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY

DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LIMITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

EQUITY	2019	2018
Opening Balance	705,636	444,056
Current Year Earnings	(172,987)	261,581
Total Equity	532,649	705,636



## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LIMITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	2019	2018
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from customers	509,928	709,666
Payments to suppliers and employees	(541,341)	(462,475)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	(34,335)	(43,727)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(65,749)</b>	<b>203,464</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Other cash items from investing activities	(4,397)	(202,068)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>(4,397)</b>	<b>(202,068)</b>
<b>Net Cash Flows</b>	<b>(70,146)</b>	<b>1,395</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	414,039	412,643
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	343,893	414,039
<b>Net change in cash for period</b>	<b>(70,146)</b>	<b>1,395</b>

## DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LTD

DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LIMITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

### NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

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

#### Significant Accounting Policies:

##### A. Income Tax

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

### NOTE 2: CHANGE IN MEMBER INCOME INVOICING

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



## DERWENT ESTUARY PROGRAM LTD

### BOARD STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

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

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

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Derwent Estuary Program Ltd, as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019;
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   
Ursula Taylor

Dated at Hobart this 7 day of Oct 2019

## Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Derwent Estuary Program Ltd (the Entity), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2019, the profit and loss statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act).

### Basis for Opinion

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

### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

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

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

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

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


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



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

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

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

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

11/10/2019  
Date

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

---

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

Here are a few volunteering suggestions:

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

### SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

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



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Themes for 2019-20 – Review strategies and monitoring, identify gaps, seek project funding and communicate with partners and public

### GOVERNANCE

- Board and Members meetings
- Five-year Partnership Agreement to be re-signed
- Staff contracts renewed
- Financial audit
- Compliance with ASIC, ACNC

### SCIENCE TO GUIDE MANAGEMENT

- Asset/threat assessment and data gap identification
- Seek funding for Catchment WQIP/Healthy River Action Plan
- Review of Beach Watch season and implementation of recommendations
- Monitoring Review in cooperation with Monitoring Task Force
- Rocky reef and intertidal surveys

### FACILITATE POLLUTION REDUCTION

- Stormwater management priorities identified in cooperation with Stormwater Taskforce

### FACILITATE NATURE PROTECTION

- Maintain species working groups
- Rice grass and Karamu surveys
- Regional foreshore weed plan
- Saltmarsh condition monitoring and management recommendations

### ENGAGE, INSPIRE, GROW THE DEP

- Regular Roadshows – partners, politicians
- Prepare internal Annual Technical Report and external Annual State of the Derwent Report Card
- Maps for assets, threats, community interest etc.
- Communicate the results of the 2019 Community Survey



**Derwent Estuary**  
Program

**CONTACT US**

Level 4, 24 Davey Street  
Hobart Tasmania Australia  
03 6231 2314

[derwentestuary.org.au](http://derwentestuary.org.au)