

**PROPOSAL TO CHAIRMAN
TAMAR ESTUARY WORKING GROUP
May, 2003**

A proposed set of objectives, principles and key factors for the Tamar River Environs and Intertidal Zones.

Submitted by Laurie Crerar (Friends of the Tamar) and Ald. Ian Routley (Launceston City Council).

Proposal

The TEWG request the State Government, together with Local Government to reaffirm commitments to sustainable planning and development, along with an emphasis on intertidal protection to educate and promote the opportunities and the values that the Tamar Estuary provides to the region and its people.

Objectives

1. To co-ordinate the activities in protecting and developing the environs and intertidal zones of the Tamar Estuarine.
2. To promote the Tamar Estuary as a best practice environmentally world class asset and as a quality based place to live and invest.
3. For Tamar Island to be assessed for accreditation as an international RAMSAR wetland site.

Principles

1. That Government and the community it represents at all levels recognise the value of the estuary's natural assets being its environs and surrounds, the care and maintenance of its waterways and infrastructure.
2. Region North in partnership with the State to be the catalyst to promote the Tamar region as an intertidal zone, tourist destination recognised worldwide for its uniqueness and character.
3. State Government and Local Government, through a co-ordinated planning and development approach, market and promote the opportunities which the estuary offers for industry, aquaculture, agriculture, forestry, commerce and environmental science as a quality leisure and entertainment destination.
4. That Government value and recognise the efforts of individuals in terms of their input into the estuarine intertidal management.
5. Promote best planning principles and values add to riparian reserves and adjacent river edge.

Key Factors for Implementation.

A. Develop a Hydro Dynamic Estuarine Model

Potential benefits from the development of a two or three dimensional model of the Tamar Estuary would be for example:-

1. To determine the effectiveness and longevity of different dredging schemes.
2. Assess the impact of and to predict flood levels associated with tidal surges or major river floods.
3. Determine the impact of rice grass removal, silt fences and traps.
4. To determine the decay and fate of pollutants and the need for tertiary treatment of nutrients.
5. To identify the benefits for rationalisation of waste water treatment plants.
6. To quantify the advantages of optimising the Trevallyn Power Station operation to minimise silt inflow into home reach and to measure whether the final cost would be affordable.
7. To determine the best sites for fish farms.

B. Education and Communication

1. To develop a Project Directory to enhance communication links.
2. Develop an Intertidal Interpretation Centre at Inveresk.
3. The publication of a bulletin for community education to be Intertidal News.
4. TEWG to be the forum for annual reporting and presentation to the Community

C. Resources

- To ensure a co-ordinated approach it is recommended that a dedicated Environmental / Education officer be appointed for a three year period.

Outcomes.

1. Health of intertidal zones include the hydro dynamics of the estuary and amount of sediment input which shifts through natural ecology
2. UTRIA to be able to model rather than trial dredging alternative profiles and observe consequences.
3. LCC to understand different flood and development impacts more accurately and to assess the benefits of different environmental improvement programs.
4. Region will be able to succinctly measure investment and outcomes.
5. Co-ordinate relationships between all parties.
6. Minimise duplication of effort.