



Rivers to Ramsar – Improving catchment and wetland health at Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon Request for Proposal (RFP)

NRM South is seeking a contractor to undertake hydrological and fluvial geomorphology assessments of the project sites to inform project delivery.

ABOUT US

NRM South is a not-for-profit organisation (incorporated association) with charity status, established in 2003 in response to the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Act 2002. We work to keep the natural and productive landscapes of southern Tasmania healthy and sustainable into the future (and partner state-wide with NRM sister organisations; NRM North and the Cradle Coast Authority). We play a key role in building partnerships, securing and directing investment, connecting knowledge and expertise to action, and increasing the capacity of others to engage in NRM activities.

We are a team of ~22 staff, operating out of our Hobart-based offices, who deliver projects through a blended delivery model that includes aspects of research, development, extension, education and awareness. We partner with industry, research organisations, community groups, governments and private landholders to address natural resource management issues and to better understand, protect and manage our region's diverse natural assets.

More information about NRM South is available on our website (including our 2030 Regional Strategy for southern Tasmania): www.nrmsouth.org.au

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program aims to restore and enhance the ecological health of urban, peri-urban, and regional waterways to support native plants, animals, and local communities. NRM South Rivers to Ramsar project is one of 57 projects across Australia to have been successful under Round 2 of the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.

This important three-year project, delivered by NRM South in partnership with Landcare Tasmania, Sorell Council, and in collaboration with the PWS, aims to restore and rehabilitate the riparian zones of Frogmore Creek, Orielson Rivulet, Sorell Rivulet, and Orielson Lagoon. Focusing on public and private land, the project will address threats such as weeds, altered sediment transport, agricultural activities, stormwater pollution, urban development and climate change, in order to enhance riparian and wetland habitats, reconnect critical habitat corridors, and reduce nutrient and sediment runoff.

Key actions in the project include:

- Establishing a monitoring program to track environmental, physical, and biogeochemical changes.
 - Removing waste fencing and materials to improve access and safety for fauna.
 - Enhancing riparian corridors and wetland communities through willow and weed removal.
 - Restoring native woody and grassy riparian habitats along the waterways and within the wetland complex.
 - Improving tidal hydrology by removing infill in priority areas within the wetland.
 - Restricting livestock and vehicle access to support revegetation and reduce runoff.
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SCOPE OF WORK

As part of the Rivers to Ramsar project, one of the key actions is the removal of willows from private properties (refer to **Attachment 1**) along a 1 km section of the Sorrell Rivulet (both banks) using cut-and-paste and drill-and-fill methods. Willow stumps will be left in situ to help maintain bank stability while native vegetation establishes.

Adjacent property owners have reported that past willow removal efforts upstream—where entire plants were uprooted—resulted in altered local hydrology, increased erosion, and bank undercutting on downstream properties. To prevent similar impacts, this project aims to ensure that the structural integrity of the stream banks is maintained post-removal while native vegetation re-establishes.

To support this, we seek the expertise of a qualified consultant to:

- Assess the hydrology and fluvial geomorphology of the project sites (refer to **Attachment 1**).
- Identify potential impacts of willow removal.
- Provide recommendations and a risk management framework for monitoring and maintaining bank stability to minimise downstream impacts.
- Provide a comprehensive report detailing findings, recommendations, and best-practice management strategies.

FORM OF RESPONSE

Please provide a detailed proposal outlining the following:

1. Project understanding and contact details
 - Summary of understanding of the project and key objectives.
 - Contact details of the consultant or firm.
2. Expertise & relevant experience
 - Overview of relevant expertise in hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, and riparian restoration.
 - Details of similar past projects, including example reports or relevant publications (if applicable).
 - Overview of the knowledge and skills of your team relevant to the project.
3. Proposed approach
 - Assessment approach for hydrology and fluvial geomorphology, including data collection and analysis methods.
 - Reporting format and key deliverables.
4. Project timeline and availability
 - Proposed schedule, including key milestones and deliverable dates.
 - Estimated duration for site visits, data analysis, and report preparation.
 - Availability to undertake the work and proposed timeline for project completion.
5. Budget and cost estimate
 - An itemised cost estimate.

- Any potential additional costs (e.g., extra site visits, further analysis).
- 6. Insurance and WHS
 - Confirmation of public liability and professional indemnity insurance.
 - Compliance with workplace health and safety requirements.

DELIVERY DATE

The indicative milestones for the scope of works are outlined below; however, these can be negotiated with NRM South as required:

- Field assessment: By 30 April 2025
- Final report: By COB 16 May 2025

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria. Assessment weightings will apply as indicated for each criterion.

Criteria	Weighting
Merit of proposed approach and understanding of the tasks and issues involved	40%
Evidence of similar work	30%
Value for money	15%
Availability to conduct the work within the identified timeframe	10%
Experience working with not-for-profits	5%

Other criteria that may be considered in the assessment (unweighted) include:

- Local procurement (Tasmanian businesses)
- Demonstrated environmental sustainability measures (e.g. corporate ESG framework or similar)
- Support for Aboriginal outcomes in Tasmania (e.g. Aboriginal employment or procurement of services, Reconciliation Action Plan or similar policy in place)

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Respondents must be registered to operate within Australia and have an Australian bank account.

CLOSING DATE

All proposals must be received by: Close of Business 1 April 2025. Late responses may not be considered.

Lodgement can be made by email to: lmcginnity@nrmsouth.org.au. Respondents will receive acknowledgement of receipt by email.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

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ATTACHMENT 1 – PROJECT SITES

