



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

NRM South is seeking a contractor to deliver a revegetation program for the Rivers to Ramsar project.

ABOUT US

NRM South is one of three regional natural resource management organisations in Tasmania. Established in 2003 as a not-for-profit incorporated association, we were created under the Tasmanian Government's Natural Resource Management Framework and the Natural Resource Management Act 2002.

We work to protect and enhance southern Tasmania's land, water, and biodiversity to support the region's environmental health, economic resilience, and community wellbeing. As a regional hub, we build partnerships, secure investment, and deliver strategic, on-ground projects aligned with regional priorities. Our work is grounded in science, guided by community knowledge, and driven by a commitment to continuous improvement.

We collaborate with landholders, governments, researchers, community groups, and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to tackle complex natural resource management challenges. We are committed to respectful and culturally safe engagement with Aboriginal people and actively support actions that care for Country.

NRM South is responsible for setting regional NRM priorities, implementing strategic plans, and monitoring outcomes to ensure lasting benefits for future generations. To learn more, including details of our 2030 Regional Strategy for southern Tasmania visit: 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's *Rivers to Ramsar – Improving catchment and wetland health at Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon* (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 Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, aims to restore and rehabilitate the riparian zones of Frogmore Creek, Orielton Rivulet, Sorell Rivulet, and Orielton Lagoon (see **Attachment 1**). Focusing on public and private land, the project implements interventions to 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 species that will benefit include vulnerable and endangered birds like the ruddy turnstone, sharp-tailed sandpiper, and eastern curlew, as well as marine species such as the live-bearing seastar.

Key project interventions include:

- Establishing a monitoring program to track environmental, physical, and biogeochemical changes.
- Removing debris to improve habitat quality, enhance fauna movement, and reduce physical barriers to natural water flow in riparian zones.

- Enhancing riparian corridors and wetland communities through willow and weed control.
- Restoring native riparian habitats along the waterways and within the wetland complex.
- Improving tidal hydrology in priority areas within the wetland by removing infill to address past modifications.
- Restricting livestock and vehicle access to support revegetation and reduce runoff.

SCOPE OF WORK

Overview

As part of the Rivers to Ramsar project, native riparian revegetation will be undertaken across approximately 9 hectares of private land adjacent to Frogmore Creek, Orielton Rivulet, and Orielton Lagoon. The project area is located in the lower catchment between Brinktop Road and the lagoon, within the Sorell Municipality (*see Attachment 1*).

The region typically receives below-average annual rainfall but is subject to intense, short-duration rainfall events throughout the year. The extent of localised flooding varies depending on rainfall amount and location. The area is also designated as bushfire-prone and is therefore susceptible to bushfire impacts.

This landscape is largely cleared due to historical agricultural and other human land uses. It is characterised by undulating plains underlain by Sodosol soils, as mapped by the Land Systems and Dominant Soil Orders of Tasmania (LISTmap). The project area is impacted by a range of invasive species, including rabbits and weed infestations such as African boxthorn, thistles, serrated tussock, and boneseed, which will require active management to support successful revegetation.

Revegetation Objectives

- Restore and enhance riparian zones and stream banks to support native biodiversity, including feeding habitat for migratory shorebirds such as the threatened eastern curlew, black-tailed godwit, common greenshank, and curlew sandpiper.
- Promote ecological succession along retreating coastal areas to support long-term habitat resilience.
- Improve water quality by reducing land-based sources of sediment, nutrients, and acid sulfate soil pollution, benefiting native aquatic species, including the endangered live-bearing sea star (*Parvulastra vivipara*) in Orielton Lagoon, and contributing to public health outcomes.
- Increase shading and vegetative cover to mitigate urban heat island effects and help address climate change impacts.
- Enhance the ecological condition of Threatened Ecological Communities, including temperate saltmarsh, *Eucalyptus globulus* dry forest, and *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* forest.

Tasks and Activities

- **Site preparation:** which may include weed control, soil improvement etc
- **Planting:**
 - Use locally sourced, native species appropriate to site conditions and ecological communities.
 - Planting methods must be suited to site conditions and time of year.
 - The revegetation approach must aim to restore a structurally diverse native vegetation community, incorporating canopy, mid-storey, and understorey layers. In areas with existing remnant vegetation, infill planting or assisted regeneration may be more appropriate.
- **Maintenance:** watering, weed control, replanting as required.
- **Monitoring:** survival rates, photo points
- **Reporting:** revegetation report, plant survival survey report, maintenance report

FORM OF RESPONSE

Please submit a detailed proposal that includes the following components:

1. **Understanding of the Project**

Demonstrate a clear understanding of the project's aims and intended outcomes, including the objectives of the revegetation program.

Proposed Approach

Outline the proposed revegetation strategy including the following information:

- Breakdown of revegetation strategy and timelines
- Any required permits or approvals, and your capacity to obtain them
- Identification and management of potential risks (e.g. weather, site access, browsing pressures)

2. **Budget and Value for Money**

Present an itemised budget, breaking down costs by activity, personnel, travel, and equipment.

3. **Timeline and Availability**

Provide a proposed schedule of work. Demonstrate your team's capacity, current commitments, and availability to meet all deadlines.

DELIVERY DATE

The following are the indicative due dates for the scope of works, which can be negotiated with NRM South as needed:

- Initial revegetation: 30 August 2026
- Maintenance: 31 January 2028

BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

The available budget for revegetation is within the range of +/- 10% of \$200,000 and proposals which demonstrate the effectiveness of approach and value for money will be prioritised.

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)
- Understanding and experience working within an Australian Government project framework
- Commitment to occupational health and safety.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

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

Responses must note that current public liability and workers compensation insurances are held by the contractor that will be valid at the time of revegetation works. The successful contractor must provide certificates for these insurances to NRM South prior to a contract being signed.

CLOSING DATE

Proposals must be received by **5:00 pm on Friday 25 July 2025**. If you require an extension beyond the specified deadline, please contact the personnel below. Late submissions may not be considered.

Proposals are to be submitted via email to:

To:

Amelia Jensen <ajensen@nrmsouth.org.au>

Joshua Glen <jglen@nrmsouth.org.au>

Cc:

Laurel McGinnity <lmcginnity@nrmsouth.org.au>

Respondents will receive acknowledgement of receipt by email.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

Joshua Glen
Senior Project Officer (water)
0478 491 061
jglen@nrmsouth.org.au

Attachment 1 Project Area

Private properties have been identified for riparian revegetation works; however, their selection is currently pending approval from the funder. The list of properties may be subject to change, with additions or removals depending on the outcome of that funder review.

