

Request for Proposal:

Rivers to Ramsar - improving catchment and wetland health at Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon (URCP000128)

Date: 28/09/2026

NRM South is seeking suitably qualified and experienced consultant with expertise in geomorphology, engineering and eco-hydrological restoration to undertake a hydrological and fluvial geomorphology assessment of the proposed eco-hydrological restoration site and develop the detailed restoration design for the on-ground works.

For further information contact:

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Background

About NRM South

NRM South is one of three regional natural resource management organisations in Tasmania. We work across southern Tasmania to protect, restore and strengthen the resilience of the region's natural and productive landscapes.

Working in partnership with government, landholders, researchers, community organisations and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, we coordinate expertise, investment and on-ground action to deliver strategic, evidence-based natural resource management outcomes.

Further information about NRM South and our work is available at: [Home - NRM South](#)

Rivers to Ramsar Project

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 funded under Round 2 of the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. Delivered over three years in partnership with Landcare Tasmania, Sorell Council and private landholders, the project focuses on riparian areas along Frogmore Creek, Orielton Rivulet and Sorell Rivulet, as well as coastal saltmarsh within and surrounding the internationally significant Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon (PWOL) Ramsar Site.

Waterways, riparian areas and wetlands within the PWOL catchment are affected by a range of pressures, including land clearing, livestock grazing, invasive weeds, altered sediment transport and hydrology, agricultural and stormwater runoff, urban development and climate change.

Through Rivers to Ramsar, NRM South and its partners are undertaking targeted restoration activities to improve waterway and wetland condition, enhance habitat for threatened and migratory species, strengthen habitat connectivity, and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into the Ramsar site.

Key project activities include:

- monitoring environmental, physical and ecological change
- removing debris to improve habitat and water flow
- controlling willows and other priority weeds
- restoring native riparian vegetation
- installing fencing to reduce stock impacts
- undertaking eco-hydrological restoration to improve the condition and resilience of degraded coastal saltmarsh

Further information is available on the NRM South Rivers to Ramsar project page at: [Rivers to Ramsar - NRM South](#)

Eco-Hydrological Restoration

Site Context and Condition

The restoration site is located on a privately owned property within the Clarence City Council local government area, between Richmond and Hobart. The property is situated within the Cross sub-catchment of the broader Pitt Water–Coal catchment and directly adjoins the Upper Pitt Water section of the Pitt Water Nature Reserve.

Historically managed for agricultural purposes, the property continues to support agriculture, with a commercial enterprise and associated infrastructure located on the more elevated areas of the site.

Approximately 21 ha of the Commonwealth-listed Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) occurs on and immediately adjoining the property. This saltmarsh falls within the boundary of the PWOL Ramsar Site; however, the portion occurring on the property remains privately owned and does not form part of the Pitt Water Nature Reserve.

Saltmarsh across the site is generally in poor ecological condition due to a history of grazing and agricultural disturbance. These impacts have altered the site's micro-topography, resulting in the formation of low-lying depression pans that retain nutrient-rich water, promote filamentous algal growth, and create inundation conditions unsuitable for saltmarsh vegetation. As a result, large areas remain as unvegetated mudflat or open water.

Restoration Strategy

The project area covers approximately 21 ha and has been defined in consultation with the landholder. It encompasses riparian, wetland and saltmarsh habitats while allowing space for the potential landward migration of saltmarsh in response to sea-level rise.

The proposed works adopt a stacked restoration approach, combining eco-hydrological restoration with stock exclusion, weed management and active revegetation. Following stock exclusion, some recovery of degraded saltmarsh is expected through natural recruitment from adjacent intact areas. However, within the most degraded low-lying pans, existing elevation and inundation conditions may continue to limit saltmarsh establishment and recovery.

To address these degraded low-lying pans, NRM South has proposed targeted sediment augmentation to raise surface elevations and create inundation conditions more suitable for saltmarsh recruitment and persistence.

Outcomes

The proposed eco-hydrological restoration aims to improve the condition and extent of approximately 21 ha of threatened temperate saltmarsh on and directly adjoining the site.

The intended outcomes include:

- improving conditions for saltmarsh establishment, recovery and persistence;
- improving the resilience of saltmarsh to sea-level rise and other climate-related pressures;
- enhancing ecosystem functions and services, including erosion control, attenuation of floodwaters and tidal energy, and blue carbon sequestration;
- enhancing habitat for native fauna, including migratory shorebirds and estuarine and recreational fish species; and
- contributing to the ecological, visual amenity and nature-based recreational values of the PWOL Ramsar Site.

Scope of Work

The project funder has accepted the restoration site and broader restoration strategy. However, while the proposed sediment augmentation method is considered credible in principle, it requires further assessment and approval. This Scope of Work seeks to provide the technical assessment and design information required for NRM South to address the funder's requirements and obtain approval before the eco-hydrological restoration works can proceed.

NRM South is seeking suitably qualified and experienced consultants with expertise in geomorphology, engineering and eco-hydrological restoration to assess and design the eco-hydrological restoration works for the site and support their implementation.

Pre- and post-restoration monitoring for the Rivers to Ramsar project has been separately contracted and is outside the scope of this RfP. However, the monitoring approach for the eco-hydrological restoration works may be informed and refined through this Scope of Work.

Monitoring is currently proposed to include hydroperiod monitoring using depth loggers; vegetation establishment and survival through repeat vegetation surveys and fixed photo points; and sediment stability, settlement and erosion within sediment augmentation areas.

Proponents should identify any additional monitoring or data collection required to undertake the assessment, inform the detailed design or support implementation of the proposed works.

Part 1 – Hydrological and Fluvial Geomorphology Assessment

Undertake a hydrological and fluvial geomorphology assessment to establish the factors contributing to saltmarsh degradation and recovery, assess whether targeted sediment augmentation is an appropriate and feasible restoration approach and likely to achieve the intended outcomes, identify key risks and constraints, determine any approvals or other

requirements that should be addressed before implementation, and provide the technical basis for detailed design.

Deliverable: A report documenting the assessment findings, supported by relevant spatial data, mapping, photographs and other technical information developed through the assessment.

Part 2 – Detailed Restoration Design

Using the findings of Part 1, develop a detailed and implementable design for the preferred eco-hydrological restoration approach.

The detailed design should include, as appropriate:

- specific restoration footprint and treatment areas;
- target elevations, sediment depths and volumes, and finished levels and grades;
- sediment/fill requirements, including suitable or potential sources and any sampling and testing requirements;
- sediment placement, earthworks and stabilisation methods;
- site access, plant and equipment, staging and sequencing requirements;
- environmental and risk management requirements relevant to construction;
- an explanation of how the design will achieve the intended eco-hydrological restoration outcomes; and
- any other information required to enable a suitably qualified contractor to price and implement the works.

Deliverable: A detailed design suitable to support approvals, costing, procurement and implementation, including relevant drawings, plans, spatial data, survey information, modelling outputs and other supporting technical information developed through the design process.

Note: if the funders approval is gained and the works proceed, the design report may be provided to potential partners and service providers at the implementation stage.

Timing and Delivery Requirements

NRM South is seeking completion of the Hydrological and Fluvial Geomorphology Assessment and Detailed Restoration Design by **31 December 2026**. This timeframe is intended to allow sufficient time for funder review and approval, any required permits and approvals,

implementation of the restoration works, and post-restoration monitoring before the Rivers to Ramsar project concludes on 28 February 2028.

If the 31 December 2026 completion date cannot reasonably be achieved, or an alternative timeframe or sequencing is considered more appropriate, proponents are encouraged to contact NRM South prior to the closing date to discuss options.

Form of Response

Proponents are invited to submit a proposal outlining their recommended approach to delivering the Scope of Work, drawing on their professional expertise and identifying any alternative or additional activities they consider beneficial. Proponents should clearly identify whether they are proposing to deliver Part 1, Part 2, or both Parts of the Scope of Work.

Proposals should address the following:

Understanding

Provide a brief overview of your understanding of:

- the purpose and intended outcomes of the proposed eco-hydrological restoration works; and
- the proposed targeted sediment augmentation approaches.

Proposed Approach and Methodology

Describe your recommended approach to delivering the Scope of Work and explain why it is appropriate for the site and intended restoration outcomes.

As relevant to the Parts proposed, identify:

- proposed investigations, surveys, monitoring, modelling and analysis;
- data and existing information required;
- proposed site visits and their timing;
- any equipment proposed to be installed or used;
- key assumptions, limitations and dependencies;
- any additional or alternative approaches considered beneficial; and
- proposed deliverables.

Where alternative approaches are proposed, outline their advantages, limitations and cost implications where relevant.

Project Program

Provide a proposed program identifying key stages and delivery timeframes, including any seasonal, tidal or other timing constraints or dependencies.

Fee Proposal

Provide an itemised fee proposal including any assumptions, exclusions, optional activities and additional costs.

Work Health and Safety

Provide a brief overview of your approach to WHS, including relevant WHS systems or plans, risk management and incident management processes.

Insurance

Provide details of relevant and current insurance coverage, including, where applicable, public liability, professional indemnity and workers compensation insurance.

Conflicts of Interest

Identify any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest relevant to the proposed services and, where applicable, how these would be managed.

Criteria for assessment

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

Criteria	Weighting
Demonstrated understanding of the project and the eco-hydrological restoration, including the intended outcomes and the proposed targeted sediment augmentation approaches.	10%
Merit, suitability and practicality of the proposed approach to delivering the Scope of Work	25%
Relevant qualifications and technical expertise	20%
Demonstrated experience delivering comparable projects or works	15%
Availability to conduct the work within the required timeframe	15%
Value for money	15%

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

- capacity to deliver both Parts of the Scope of Work, where this would support continuity, coordination and efficient project delivery;
- previous experience working with NRM or other not-for-profit organisations and/or delivering Australian Government-funded projects;

- local procurement, including the use of Tasmanian businesses and suppliers; and
- Support for Aboriginal outcomes in Tasmania (e.g. Aboriginal employment or procurement of services, Reconciliation Action Plan or similar policy in place).

Closing Date

Proposals must be received by **8am Monday 19 October 2026**.

If you require an extension to the closing date, please contact the person listed below as early as possible. Requests for an extension will be considered on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the project timeframe and procurement process.

Proposals should be submitted by email to: lmcginnity@nrmsouth.org.au

Contact Information

For further information about this Request for Proposal or the Scope of Work, please contact:

Name: Laurel McGinnity
Position: Program Coordinator (Water)
Phone: 0437 659 076
Email: lmcginnity@nrmsouth.org.au
Working days: Monday, Tuesday and Friday

Proponents are encouraged to contact the above with any questions or requests for clarification required to prepare their proposal. Where relevant, responses to questions or clarifications will be shared with all interested parties to ensure consistent information is available to all proponents.