

## Rural Water Roundtable

7 September 2022

### COMMUNIQUE

Members of the Rural Water Roundtable met on 7 September 2022 as part of their ongoing discussions to guide the implementation of Tasmania's Rural Water Use Strategy. The focus of the meeting was to provide an update on the implementation of the Rural Water Use Strategy and River Health Advisory Project. Members were also given a demonstration of how existing river health data will shortly be made available through the Water Information Tasmania Web Portal.

#### **Update on implementation of Rural Water Use Strategy**

Update provided on key projects underway:

- **Catchment Yield Science Update Project:** to provide a pathway to update climate change information that will provide new Tasmania-wide catchment yield estimates utilising updated future climate projections.
- **Groundwater Assessment Project:** to improve our understating of surface water-groundwater interactions and better assess groundwater risk when making water management decisions
- **Water Accountability, Metering and Reporting Framework Project:** to consider how Tasmania's water accountability, metering and reporting framework is positioned to address emerging challenges and risks and support improved water resource management outcomes.

Workshops have been held with stakeholders to seek input on the Catchment Yield Science Update and the Water Accountability, Metering and Reporting Framework projects. Final reports are due mid-2023.

Planning is underway for the Groundwater Assessment Project with staff and consultants being employed to deliver this project.

#### **Update on the River Health Advisory Project**

Early planning for the River Health Advisory Project is underway and an overview of the project was provided.

Key activities being delivered by the project are:

1. Identifying options for improved waterway health (including water quality) monitoring coordination and data sharing
2. Consideration of a new state-wide water quality monitoring program
3. Understanding primary indicators and drivers of changes in waterway health through targeted case-study research and reporting

4. Review and consideration of relevant policy and legislation
5. Building and improving relationships with key stakeholders to raise awareness and support for waterway health and water quality management
6. Preparation a Strategic Directions for Healthy Waterways Paper

The Water Managers and Data Custodians Working Group met in July and has work has started to identify what waterway health and water quality data are being collected by different state agencies and organisations.