

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 276
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)
Topic: Tamar River forestry practices
Hansard Page: 11
Question Date: 04 March 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: ... In relation to the dairy farms, is the department also talking to Forestry Tasmania to address the large source of sediment washing off their estate from forestry practices?

Mr Costello: We would have to take that one on notice. It would not be the department itself; we are not directly delivering the project.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Could it be Launceston City Council?

Mr Costello: We would probably need to check which proponent is delivering which element, but they are the major delivery partner. I will also mention another element of the project. There have been 13 grants to landholders to do bank stabilisation works within the Tamar Estuary and the Esk rivers. That is the sort of community engagement and management.

Answer:

The Tamar River Recovery project is delivered by the Launceston City Council and comprises four delivery components, with three subcontractors (Launceston Flood Authority, NRM North and TasWater) undertaking components of the on-ground works:

1. Sediment management including sediment 'raking', sediment monitoring, and large scale riverbank stabilisation works on the North Esk River coordinated by the Launceston Flood Authority;
2. Works on stormwater/sewer outlets by TasWater to reduce untreated material entering the river system from the combined stormwater/sewage pump stations which overflow to the Tamar estuary during peak rainfall events;
3. Targeted revegetation of riparian zones and riparian fencing coordinated by NRM North to provide buffering of streamside areas to reduce runoff and pollutant inputs; and
4. Increased community involvement in the recovery of the Tamar River through several small grant programs targeting reduced sediment and nutrient input.

Launceston City Council are not undertaking activities with Forestry Tasmania as part of the project.