



New Guide to help farmers maintain healthy waterways

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To mark World Water Week, EDO Tasmania, in partnership with Tasmania's regional NRM bodies, released a new resource to help farmers, land managers and Landcare groups navigate the complex laws around working near waterways.

Working Near Waterways is a guide to the legal obligations all land managers must meet when carrying out activities in and near waterways. The guide is particularly timely as many farmers across the State are undertaking works to remove debris, restore riverbanks, control weeds and repair roads following recent flood events.

With nearly 150,000km of waterways, Tasmania depends on the health of its rivers and the quality and reliability of water supplies. While farmers are conscious of the need to protect water resources, the NRM bodies identified a gap in information available to farmers about how to do so lawfully. The guide has been supported by the three NRM bodies with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

Lyndel Wilson, Community Engagement Manager with NRM South, said it was clear to NRM staff working with various land managers across Tasmania that there was a lot of confusion about legal requirements.

"This clear, easy to understand guide will go a long way to help farmers make sure that work near rivers and creeks ticks all the boxes and minimises the impacts on the waterway."

EDO Tasmania lawyer, Jess Feehely, agreed.

"For many farmers and land managers working alongside waterways, it can be difficult to figure out which laws apply, when they might need approval and who they should contact. Working Near Waterways is designed to make complying with the law easier and, ultimately, to help farmers to protect Tasmania's waterways."

Working Near Waterways is available to download at www.edotas.org.au/waterways. Hard copies are also available for free from EDO Tasmania or the three regional NRM bodies.

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