# New Town Rivulet Estuary Restoration

Project update August 2023 Nigel Vivian (Project Manager)





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**Project Location (Site boundary highlighted in red)** Site is bounded by Queens Walk Bridge, Risdon Road and Marine Esplanade



### Location and context

- New Town Rivulet forms the boundary between City of Hobart and Glenorchy City Council (5km north of Hobart CBD)
- Rivulet catchment (1815ha) extends to the foothills of kunanyi/Mt Wellington
- Includes urban and significant forest area in upper catchment
- Discharges to New Town Bay in Derwent Estuary
- Site immediately downstream of Brooker Highway
- Highway culverts create hydraulic constraint
- History of flooding upstream and adjacent to site
- Adjacent land use includes residential, recreation, utilities, environmental management, open space, community space
- Community activity adjacent to outlet:

#### Positive

- Walking
- Dog walking
- Rowing (New Town Bay)
- Cards (Bridge Assoc.)

#### Negative

- Hooning
- Dogs off-lead
- Feeding ducks/geese
- Dumping of trolleys etc



Catchment area (MUSIC model set up)



## Project summary

**Client:** City of Hobart (Project Sponsor) **Partner:** Glenorchy City Council

#### Primary Driver:

• Failed assets (concrete batters, weir abutment)

#### Design objectives and key success factors:

- Flood levels no worse for adjacent private properties
- Safely convey peak flows without erosion
- Regular maintenance able to be completed by Council
- Improved amenity, opportunity for safe recreation by community
- Enhancement of environmental values
- Create diversity and abundance of vegetation species
- Alignment with the Selfs Point Masterplan



Weir and view upstream towards Queens Walk



Failure of concrete batters

## Background

- Estuary was historically 'reclaimed' with uncontrolled fill
- Concrete batters installed in 1960s
- Concrete weir installed in 2003 to reduce sediment accumulation
- Litter trap installed downstream of weir (since removed)
- Estuarine wetland constructed (subsequently decommissioned)
- Large flood event in May 2018 (>1% AEP)
- Significant accumulation of contaminated sediment and vegetation
- Expensive maintenance





New Town Bay pre reclamation (1940's) – Project area highlighted in red



New Town Bay post reclamation (1960's)

## Basis of design

- Concrete batters removed and batter slopes flattened
- Include bank sinuosity to mimic original alignment
- Existing weir to be retained and new concrete abutments
- Accumulated sediment behind the weir to be planted
- Batters to be protected by rockwork and vegetation
- Existing mature trees to be retained
- New trees, understory, riparian and turfed areas
- Carparks and footpaths to be improved
- 2x new maintenance access ramps
- Reuse of excavated material onsite (where possible)



Concept design (Dryside Engineering)

## Design Development

- Structural assessment
- Geotechnical investigations
- Contaminated site investigations
- Flora and fauna survey
- Sediment transport modelling
- Hydraulic modelling
- Landscape and civil design
- Safety in Design assessment
- Asset location
- Stakeholder engagement



Early Concept Masterplan (REALM Studios)

#### Design drawings - July 2023



Existing infrastructure

Proposed design

## Design Performance: Sediment transport modelling



Sediment deposition modelling - without weir (L), with weir and naturalisation (R)

#### Design Performance: Hydraulic modelling (HECRAS)



Water Surface Elevation (1% AEP Climate change) – before (L), after (R) Supplied by Alluvium Upstream section Supplied by Alluvium

### Design Performance: Hydraulic modelling



Maximum Shear Stress (1% AEP Climate change, low tailwater) — before (L), after (R) Supplied by Alluvium



Maximum Velocity (10% AEP low tailwater) Supplied by Alluvium

## Design constraints

- Adjacent private property boundaries
- Landowners (within project area)
  - City of Hobart
  - Glenorchy City Council
  - Crown
  - TasWater
- Existing infrastructure
  - Roads, bridge, footpaths and carparks
  - TasGas
  - TasNetwork
  - Stormwater culverts
- Existing vegetation (TPZ)
- Planning schemes
- EPA Waste management
- Funding



alluvium



Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Glenorchy zones and overlays

#### Cross-section at weir (eastern bank)

RIVULET	V2 V3 V4 - REMEDIAL PLANTING V4 - REMEDIAL PLANTING CONCRETE ABUTMENT	
EXISTING CONCRETE WEIR - FINAL RL AND EXTENT TO BE SURVEYED/CONFIRMED		5.000
		3.000
1% AEP -RL 1.83		2.000
HAT RL 0.860		1.000
		).000
		0.832



## Typical cross-section (western bank)





### Landscape plan

#### SOFTSCAPE FINISHES



SOIL PROFILE 1 - EXISTING SEDMIMENT PLANTING IN EXISTING SEDIMENT REFER TO DETAIL 1 | 821 AND MATERIAL SCHEDULE

SOIL PROFILE 2 - WATERWAYS JUTE MATTING STABLISATION AND 200MM SOIL REFER TO DETAIL 2 | 821 AND MATERIAL SCHEDULE



SOIL PROFILE 3 - TERRESTRIAL MULCH AND 200MM SOIL REFER TO DETAIL 3 | 821 AND MATERIAL SCHEDULE

ala **V4**ala

MULCH REFER TO DETAIL 4 | 821 AND MATERIAL SCHEDULE

SOIL PROFILE 3 - REMEDIAL

TF

SOIL PROFLE 4 - TURF REFER TO DETAIL 5 | 821 AND MATERIAL SCHEDULE



EXISTING SURFACES (TURF/GRAVEL) MAKE GOOD IF DAMAGED



Landscaping detail upstream of weir including maintenance ramps

#### Vegetation plan

Latin Name	Common Name
Macrophytes, reeds and rushes	
Bolboschoenus caldwellii	Sea Clubsedge
Eleocharis sphacelata	Common spike-rush
Juncus krausii	Sea Rush
Myriophyllum salsugineum	Water Milfoil
Phagmites australis	Common Reed
Rupia megacarpa	Sea Tassel
Marsh	
Carpobrotus rossii	Native Pig Face
Disphyma crassifolium	Round Leaf Pigface
Leptinella longipes	Coast Buttons
Puccinellia stricta	Australian Saltmarsh Grass
Samolus repens	Creeping Brookweed
Sarcocornia quinqueflora	Bead Glasswort
Stella radicans	Shiny Swamp Mat
Triglochin striatum	Streaked Arrow Grass
Wilsonia backousei	Narrow Leaf Wilsonia
Wet Ephmeral	
Atriplex cinerea	Grey Salt Bush
Distichlis distichophylla	Australian Salt Grass
Leptospermum langerum	Wooly Tea Tree
Rhagodia candolleana	Coastal Saltbush
Tetragonia tetragonioides	New Zealand Spinach
Terrestrial	
Austrostipa stipoides	Coastal Speargrass
Dianella tasmanica	Tasmanian Flax Lily
Lomandra longifolia	Sagg
Understory	
Bursaria spinosa	Prickly Box
Poa labillardierei	Common Tussock Grass
Ozothamnus obcordatus	Native Thyme
Native Grass Lands	
Poa poiformis	Coast Tussock Grass
Rytidosperma caespitosum	Common Wallaby Grass
Diplarrena moraea	White Iris
Dianella brevicaulis	Coast Flax Lily
Trees	
Acacia dealbata	Silver Wattle
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood
Allocasuarina littoralis	Black Sheoak
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia
Eucalyptus alobulus	Blue Gums



Revegetation zones detail upstream of weir

Plant list

### Stakeholder engagement

- City of Hobart
- Glenorchy City Council
- TasWater
- Crown
- FPA
- **Derwent Estuary Program**
- Tasmanian Bridge Association
- TasGas
- TasNetworks
- Neighbouring property owners
- Broader community
  - Media launch with Mayors
  - Council website
  - YourSay survey
  - Facebook
  - Council newsletter



Glenorchy City Council C May 5- @

We are thrilled to be undertaking this joint project with City of Hobart to restore the New Town Rivulet to a more natural environment 🔤



City of Hobart Ø May 5 . 3

#### Question options I am supportive

I am somewhat supportive but have some questions or concerns I am unsupportive Today we launched an ambitious plan to return the heavily concreted mouth of New Town Rivulet to a more natural state in a joint initiative with Glenorchy City C... See more

Your Say survey (>90% support)

#### Facebook promotion

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## **NEW TOWN RIVULET**

#### ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT

The City of Hobart and Glenorchy City Council are seeking feedback on plans to return the heavily concreted New Town Rivulet Outlet to a more natural, estuarine environment.

#### Why is this project important?

- · The current, wide concrete embankment walls are up to 60 years old and beginning to degrade, risking bank erosion.
- · Replacing the concrete walls with bouldering and other natural materials while planting out the area with native plants will help bring back native waterbirds, aquatic life and create a beautiful natural area for residents.
- · The project will formalise parking and walking tracks to improve accessibility and amenity for the public.
- Native plants and landscaping help trap sediment and historical contamination of river beds and are effective in stabilising embankments.

The current weir will remain and its structure improved to help prevent sediment build up at the mouth of the rivulet.

Excavated materials will be managed in an environmentally sustainable manner and re-used for landscaping near the rivulet mouth.

New maintenance access ramps will allow for the regular removal of accumulated sediment.

#### **Community feedback**

You can view the plans, provide feedback and learn more about this project by visiting the Your Say Hobart website at yoursay.hobartcity.com.au/new-town-rivulet or by scanning the QR code below.

This project will benefit local birdlife, improve estuarine health in the River Derwent and create a beautiful recreational area for residents.

SCAN THE OR CODE TO LEARN MORE AND HAVE YOUR SAY

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