



# Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association

ACN 009 477 810 ABN 69 646 967 202

A Member Of The  
National Farmers' Federation

TFGA House  
Cnr Cimitiere & Charles Streets  
Launceston Tasmania 7250  
PO Box 193  
Telephone **03 6332 1800**  
Facsimile **03 6331 4344**

November 19, 2008

Mr Tom Wise  
Committee Secretary  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
HOBART, TAS 7000

Dear Tom,

Please accept this letter as the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Associations' (TFGA) submission to the Legislative Councils inquiry into the Management of Tamar and Esk Rivers.

**The TFGA believes that the establishment of a Statutory Authority for the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers is highly inappropriate.** This position is based in part on the fact that the Tamar Estuary Esk Rivers Programme already exists. The TFGA supports this voluntary programme and its mission to establish and manage a coordinated Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Programme which recognises a whole of government and whole of community approach to achieve long term natural resource management outcomes for the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers area.

The TFGA also understands that the TEER Programme currently has an extensive research programme underway to determine the cause of siltation within the Tamar and Esk Rivers, and that during this process the quantum of funds required to ameliorate this cause will be determined. It seems pointless to the TFGA that a Statutory Body is therefore required to undertake the same task.

The fact that the TEER Programme is voluntary and has taken a collaborative partnership approach is exceptionally important to the TFGA. Any attempt by the State Government to establish in its place a Statutory Body that regulates the water ways of the Tamar and Esk Rivers cannot be supported by the TFGA.

Further, by all accounts the TEER programme is run effectively and efficiently by NRM North. Establishing a new Statutory Body would no doubt increase operating costs and expend valuable resources that could actually be used to address the issues with the Tamar and Esk Rivers.

In summary the TFGA believes that there are no benefits to establishing a Statutory Body to manage the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers as it would duplicate the role of the TEER program, erode the trust of partners and individual landholders, and waste resources in establishing an unnecessary State organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Swain.  
**President**