

# Pieman Sustainability Review Consultation summary



December 2016 FACT SHEET



## What is the Pieman Sustainability Review?

In 1999 Hydro Tasmania introduced a Water Management Review program to look at our business activities across the six hydropower catchments in Tasmania. We evaluated and updated this review program in 2013, applying a sustainability framework to ensure we were identifying issues and opportunities in line with international hydropower industry protocols.

The Pieman Sustainability Review (PSR) is the fourth catchment review undertaken as part of Hydro Tasmania's Water Management Review program, as seen on the map below. The PSR investigates the entire Anthony-Pieman hydropower scheme, shown in the image on page three.

The PSR has four stages and this factsheet describes progress through to the third stage:

1. Review of historical information - this stage was completed in February 2015 and the report is available on our website

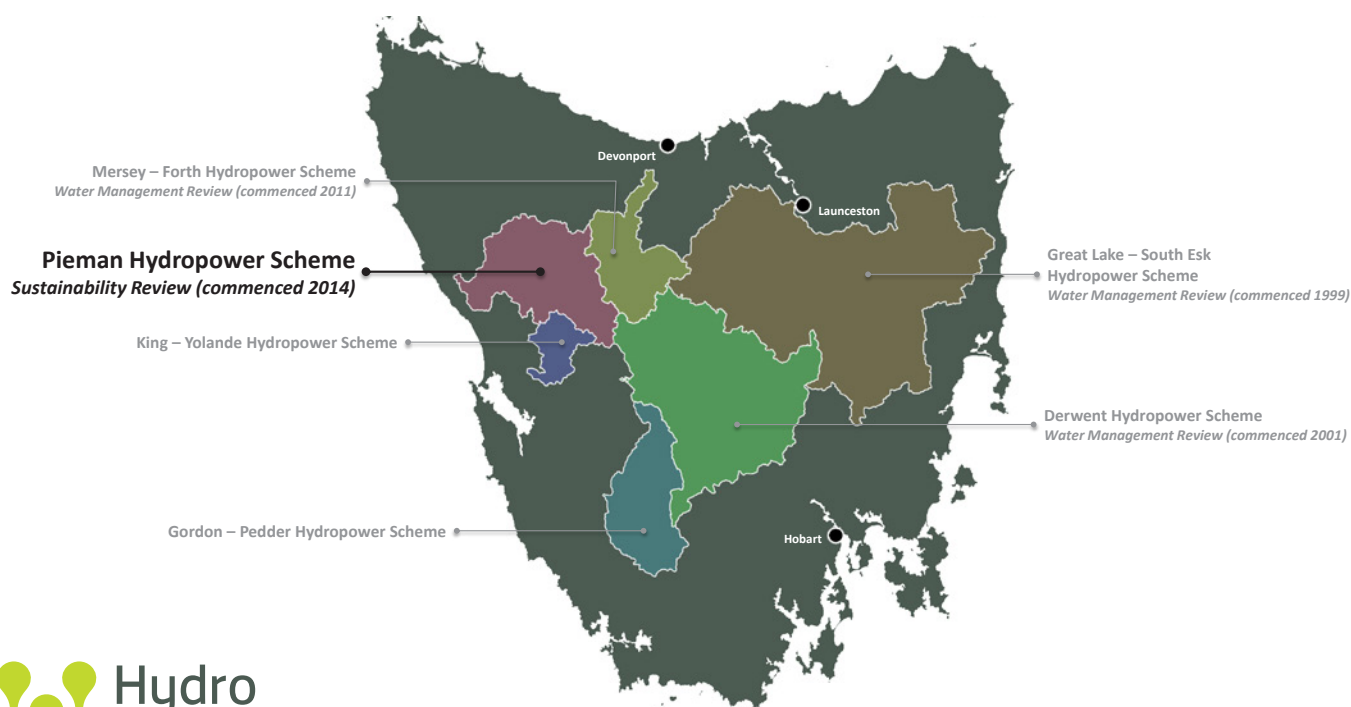
2. Consultation with stakeholders and community members – summarised in this factsheet
3. Identify, prioritise and undertake technical studies – summarised in this factsheet
4. Final commitments.

## The consultation stage

Our consultation with stakeholders and the community had a number of aims:

- To increase community awareness of Hydro Tasmania's operations
- To improve our engagement with key stakeholders in the region
- To identify community and stakeholder values and issues relating to the Anthony-Pieman Hydropower Scheme.

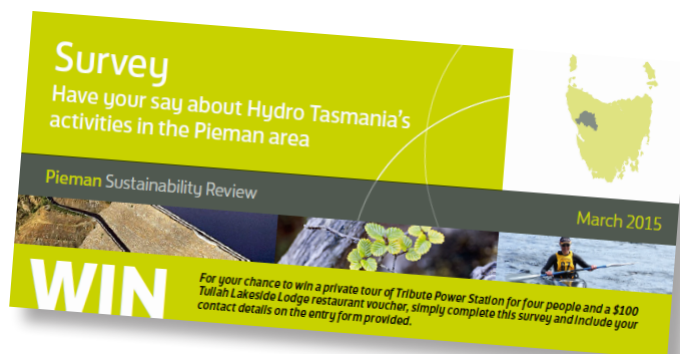
Through the consultation Hydro Tasmania was able to gain a better understanding of issues and opportunities, and therefore prioritise improvements required for the catchment.



## How we consulted

We commenced our community consultation in December 2014 with a forum at Rosebery District High School. Attendees included representatives from the West Coast Council, community and recreation groups, students and Hydro Tasmania personnel.

A community survey was undertaken in March and April 2015, and this was open to any individual or group with an interest in the Anthony-Pieman Hydropower Scheme. The survey sought to gain a greater understanding of community values and concerns for the waterways and land influenced by hydropower operations.



The survey was promoted through public notice advertising in the Rosebery Rambler; announcements on the Community House and Hydro Tasmania websites and social media; and through Marine and Safety Tasmania (MaST) and Inland Fisheries Service (IFS). Copies of the survey were distributed to residential addresses in Tullah, Rosebery and Zeehan. These were also available from the Rosebery Bakehouse, Tullah Café and Post Office, and Carols on Main in Zeehan.

The survey was offered online, and also in printed versions. In addition to the forum and community survey, Hydro Tasmania undertook face-to-face and telephone meetings with key stakeholders. These included government agencies, West Coast Council members, recreational organisations and community groups. Additionally, any individuals who had identified through the survey that they wished to be involved in the review process were contacted directly.

## Our findings and next steps

Findings from the consultation have provided Hydro Tasmania with a better understanding of views of the community and stakeholders associated with the Anthony-Pieman Hydropower Scheme. The key findings have been distilled into three areas, outlined below. In response to these findings Hydro Tasmania has progressed some activities while others will be addressed in the future, also outlined below.

### 1. Awareness raising:

*Hydro Tasmania operations on the West Coast are not well understood.*

Feedback indicated that there is some confusion about the location and nature of Hydro Tasmania's operations and responsibilities in the Anthony-Pieman catchment, including cloud seeding activities. Feedback also indicated that Hydro Tasmania operations in the area form a significant part of the region's history and culture.

#### Works that have been completed:

- The West Coast Heritage Centre (Zeehan) houses a display about Hydro Tasmania operations, and this was updated in July 2016 to better inform visitors and support the Heritage Centre.



West Coast Heritage Centre, Zeehan

#### The next steps:

- We are working with the West Coast Council and others to improve engagement with the community.

### 2. Environmental risk management:

*Water (quality and flows), environmental management and recreational access were identified as important.*

#### Works that have been completed:

- Water quality in the catchment is not directly influenced by Hydro Tasmania's operations. However, we have prioritised involvement in local industry groups and will maintain these relationships to better understand and work together where possible to minimise potential water quality issues.

- Studies have been undertaken into water flow in the Henty and Pieman Rivers to better understand the existing water management practices. The studies have shown that altering existing environmental flows below dam infrastructure would be unlikely to achieve significant environmental benefits.
- Hydro Tasmania has completed a 10-year weed management plan, and will continue to collaborate with the West Coast Weed Hygiene Group and other stakeholders to understand regional priorities and activities that can be shared.
- The installation of a pontoon at Lake Rosebery in May 2016 has been one successful outcome of our commitment to extend recreational access to lakes and land managed by Hydro Tasmania. This infrastructure was installed through a collaboration between Hydro Tasmania and Marine and Safety Tasmania.

#### The next steps:

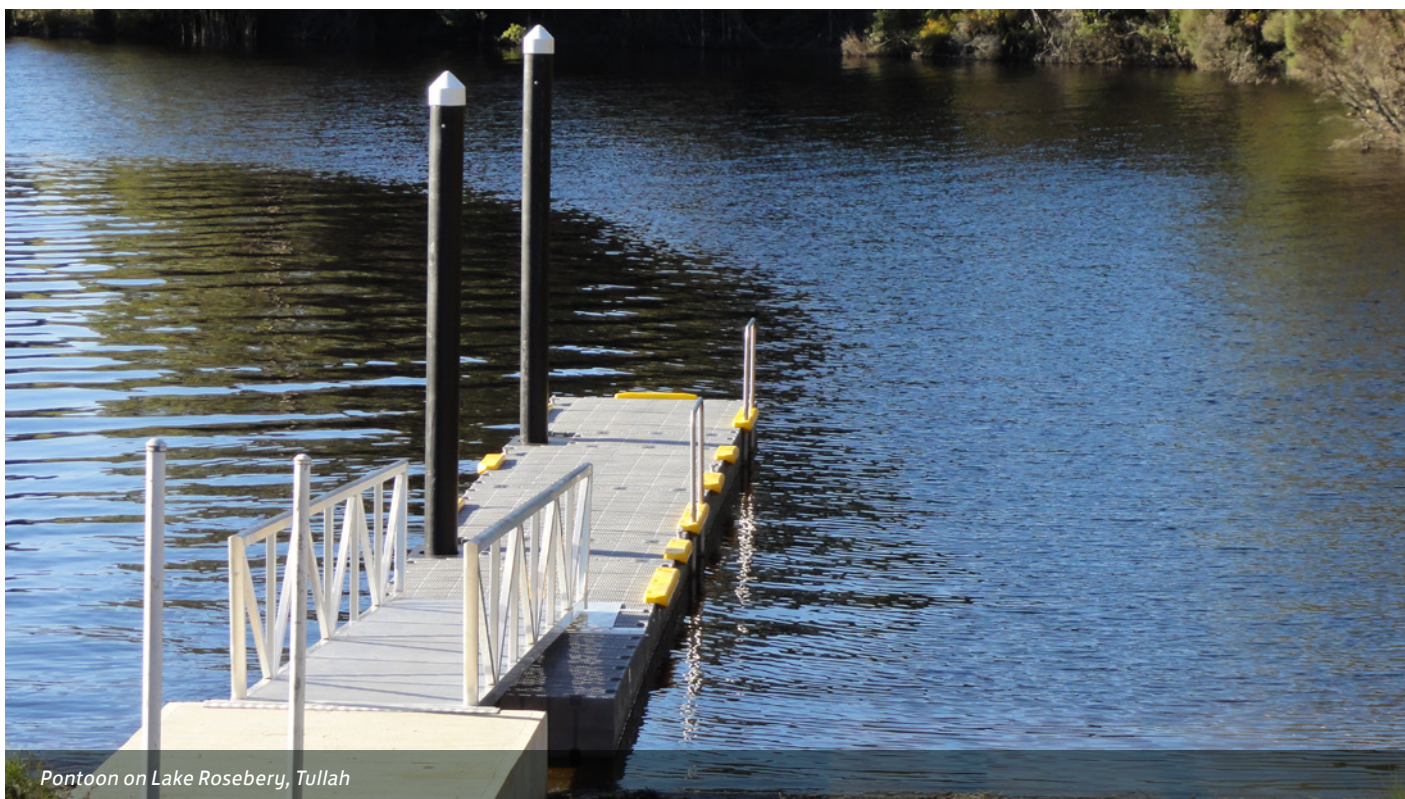
- We will investigate issues, opportunities and risks associated with public access to lakes and land managed by Hydro Tasmania. This information will better enable us to work with other land managers in the region to prioritise improved recreational access at key sites.

### 3. Boundaries and scope of sustainability reviews of hydropower catchments:

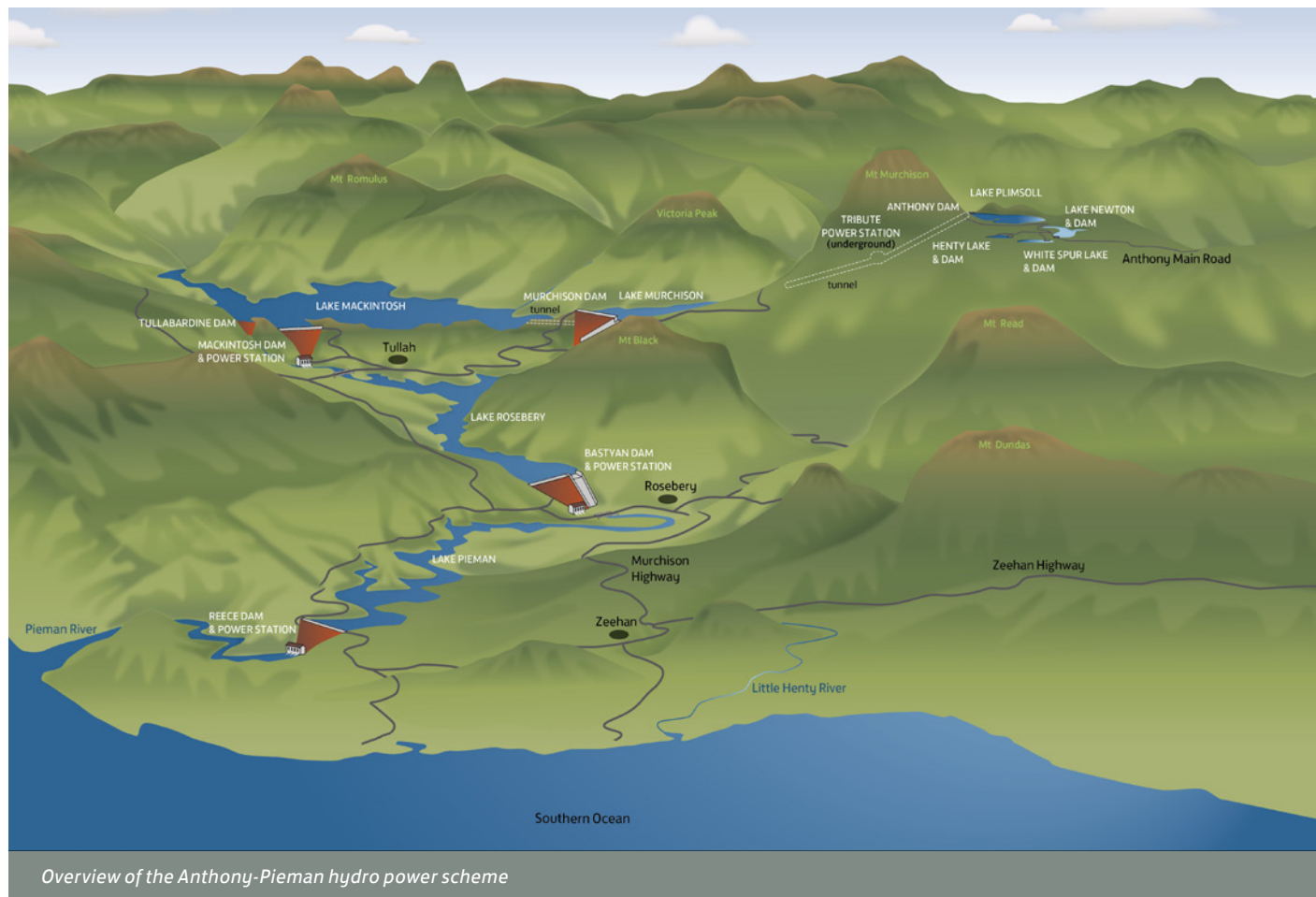
*Hydro Tasmania's operations influence communities and stakeholders across catchment boundaries.*

#### Next steps:

- We are investigating the feasibility of undertaking a Sustainability Review of Hydro Tasmania's operations in the King-Yolande catchment.



Pontoon on Lake Rosebery, Tullah



## Where to now?

We anticipate that the next steps described above will be complete by early 2017, after which key findings and ongoing commitments (Stage 4) will be summarized and communicated with stakeholders.

## Feedback and more information

More information, is available on our website and enquiries/feedback can be directed by email or telephone.

Website:

[www.hydro.com.au/pieman-sustainability-review](http://www.hydro.com.au/pieman-sustainability-review)

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