



Mersey-Forth Water Management Review

FACT SHEET

Pests and Pathogens Management Study



Education, training and use of washdown equipment has focused on minimising the risk of introducing and spreading the above pests and pathogens; **Left:** *Didymo*, not currently in Tasmania but a high risk of being introduced; **Middle:** Dieback of native Tasmanian vegetation from *Phytophthora* (root rot); **Right:** Tasmanian striped marsh frog in very poor condition from chytrid fungus.

Hydro Tasmania has been working collaboratively with Tasmanian government agencies, industry and recreational groups in supporting lead agency Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) increase awareness amongst Tasmanian, national and international stakeholders about the threat of freshwater pests and pathogens.

Raising awareness and communicating key messages has been achieved through education and training. In addition, washdown equipment has been used to minimise the ecological threat of pest and pathogens in Tasmania.

Aim of Study

The aim of this study was to investigate further opportunities to reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of freshwater pests and pathogens into waterways of the Mersey-Forth catchments and elsewhere in Tasmania.

The objectives of the study were to:

- Deliver pests and pathogens training to Government agencies, recreational groups from the Mersey-Forth catchments and Hydro Tasmania field and operational staff;
- Engage with the community and distribute awareness material at key recreational events;

- Build a mobile washdown trailer to be used during field or construction related activities and as a display to raise awareness; and
- Build on knowledge gained from Natural Resource Management (NRM) South's Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) Biosecurity Project (2010-2012) to educate the community about key hygiene messages, and install hygiene equipment and infrastructure in key locations around Tasmania including the Mersey-Forth catchments.



Hydro Tasmania's washdown trailer.



Boot cleaning station.

Process

To achieve the study objectives the following actions were undertaken:

- Pests and pathogens training was delivered by Hydro Tasmania to over 250 people from government agencies and recreational groups working or undertaking recreational activities in the Mersey-Forth catchments, and Hydro Tasmania field and operational staff; and
- To spread messages amongst the community about the importance of pests and pathogens prevention, Hydro Tasmania set up an information stall at the Liawenee Open Day (May 2012 and May 2013) and the Devonport Anglers Junior Presentation and Awareness Day (July 2012). *Keeping it Clean* hygiene manuals (Allan and Gartenstein, 2010) and awareness materials such as flyers, posters and stickers were distributed to the community.

Outcomes

The outcomes from the study were:

- With the skills obtained from the Pests and Pathogens training personnel now have the capacity to contribute to the protection of Tasmania's lakes and rivers from environmentally destructive pests and pathogens. Attendees were provided with wash-down kits and were encouraged to incorporate the hygiene protocols into their work procedures;
- The training is now included in Hydro Tasmania's Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) training program which stipulates that staff from Hydro Tasmania and Entura are required to undertake the training;

- A washdown trailer was built by Hydro Tasmania and used during fieldwork and construction activities;
- NRM South's TWWHA Biosecurity Project, in collaboration with Hydro Tasmania, built knowledge and capacity for government agencies, industry and recreational groups to engage in best-practice environmental biosecurity practices.

Key outcomes of the biosecurity project were:

- Development of infrastructure including mobile washdown units, and boot cleaning stations and helpads at key locations within the TWWHA. Five boot cleaning stations and two helpads were installed in the Mersey-Forth catchments;
- Production of educational biosecurity videos; and
- Collection of critical information on threatened frog populations around the TWWHA.

To find out more about the TWWHA Biosecurity project go to the NRM South website, www.nrmsouth.org.au; and

- A technical report has been written detailing the study.

Commitment

Hydro Tasmania will continue to collaborate with Tasmanian government agencies, industry and recreational groups to increase awareness amongst Tasmanian, national and international stakeholders about the threat of freshwater pests and pathogens.

Raising awareness and communicating key messages will continue at key community and recreation events.

Pests and Pathogens training will continue to be delivered to Hydro Tasmania, Entura personnel and external groups where practical.

For More Information

The technical report for this study is available at www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR-studies.

To see all the Mersey-Forth Water Management Review technical and social studies go to www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR-studies.

Find out more about the Mersey-Forth Water Management Review at www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR.

References

Allan K and Gartenstein S. 2010. *Keeping it Clean: a Tasmanian field hygiene manual to prevent the spread of freshwater pests and pathogens*. NRM South, Hobart, Tasmania.

Contact Us:

Post: GPO Box 355, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia

Email: contactus@hydro.com.au

Call: 1300 360 441
(Local call cost Australia-wide)

 **Hydro Tasmania**
The power of natural thinking