



# Mersey-Forth Water Management Review

FACT SHEET

## Signage Improvement Study



Existing signs owned by multiple agencies across the Mersey-Forth catchments.

The Mersey-Forth Water Management Review stakeholder consultation process highlighted the need to improve and upgrade signage in the Mersey-Forth catchments.

Signs in the catchments relate to a diverse range of assets owned by Hydro Tasmania and other organisations, and illustrate a variety of themes including safety, operations, recreation and tourism. Many of these signs are of significant interest to Tasmanians and visitors to the State, however, a large number of signs lack clear safety and interpretative messages and many are in poor condition due to vandalism and deterioration.

### Aims of Study

The study had two main aims:

- Through multi-agency collaboration prepare a signage audit and develop a signage strategy to upgrade existing signs and identify sites for new signs in the Mersey-Forth catchments; and
- Develop a process to address and replace Hydro Tasmania specific operational and safety signs.

## Process and Outcomes

To achieve the aims of this study a number of processes were undertaken and outcomes achieved. They are summarised below:

- Hydro Tasmania collaborated with a number of stakeholders including the Mersey-Forth Recreation Management Committee<sup>1</sup>, the Surf Life Saving Association and the wider community to determine the scope of work required to address signage issues in the Mersey-Forth catchments. A number of meetings and site visits were undertaken by the collaborating agencies;
- The Mersey-Forth Recreation Management Committee undertook a signage audit evaluating signs across the Mersey-Forth catchments. The audit resulted in a photographic register and condition assessment of signs owned by various agencies. This provided valuable information for the development and completion of a multi-agency signage strategy for the Mersey-Forth catchments.

The aims of the signage strategy are to:

- Provide guidelines for the prioritisation, funding, installation and maintenance of signs;
- Ensure that signs advise regular users and visitors about available facilities and relevant cultural, operational and recreational use information; and
- Ensure signs portray appropriate information on access to sites and safety considerations.

- Signage that directs the safe use and access to recreational sites in the Mersey-Forth was identified as a priority action in the signage strategy. To improve safety a safety audit was commissioned by Marine and Safety Tasmania and undertaken by the Surf Life Saving Association. A key focus of the audit was on the safety signage at Lake Barrington and reinforced the need to improve safety signage that guides and directs the safe use of Lake Barrington for recreation. The Surf Life Saving Association is assisting Hydro Tasmania and the other agencies in developing clear and consistent messages for signs relating to safety for Lake Barrington;
- It is anticipated that the signage strategy will be rolled out by the Mersey-Forth Recreation Management Committee over the next twelve months at Lake Barrington, initially at high use sites at Kentish Park and Lake Barrington Park at Wilmot. It is intended to expand the implementation of the signage strategy across the Mersey-Forth catchments upon completion of Lake Barrington improvements; and
- Hydro Tasmania (Technical and Operations Group) has developed an operational and dam safety signage plan to assess and replace Hydro Tasmania safety and operational signs in the Mersey-Forth catchments and other lakes in Tasmania. The priority will be to first address operational and safety signs at Lake Barrington and other Mersey-Forth lakes at a later stage.

## Commitment

Hydro Tasmania will continue to work with the Mersey-Forth Recreation Management Committee in implementing the signage strategy for the Mersey-Forth catchments.

Further implementation of Hydro Tasmania's operational and dam safety signage plan will occur across waterways of the Mersey-Forth catchments.

## For More Information

To find out more about signage including the multi-agency signage strategy go to [www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR](http://www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR) to view the Mersey-Forth Recreation Development and Management Plan.

To see all the Mersey-Forth Water Management Review technical and social studies go to [www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR-studies](http://www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR-studies).

Find out more about the Mersey-Forth Water Management Review at [www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR](http://www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR).

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<sup>1</sup> Mersey-Forth Recreation Management Committee is made up of representatives from the Inland Fisheries Service, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania, Tasmanian Rowing Council, Kentish Council, Sport and Recreation Tasmania, Marine and Safety Tasmania, Horsehead Ski Club and Anglers Alliance Tasmania, and representatives from other recreation groups. The committee was formerly named the Lake Barrington Recreational Committee.