

Mt. Roland Rivercare Catchment

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11 November 2016

Flood Review 2016

Mount Roland Rivercare Catchment Inc (MMRCI) was formed in 1999 to address serious erosion and river degradation of the Dasher and Minnow Rivers. We were successful in receiving a very significant grant from the Federal Government and with help from government professionals set about undertaking works in the rivers and along the banks to arrest erosion and stabilise the river.

That work involved installation of about 27 riffles (in stream) and many 100's of metres of riprap and rock protection of the banks.

These works were strategically placed as directed by geomorphologists and a river engineer made available by DPIPW. In many cases works were extremely simple, quick, low cost but highly effective. A single very large boulder placed strategically could effectively protect a stretch of bank immediately downstream and allow the river bank to recover.

Our in-stream and bank protection works has endured 2 severe floods of 2011 and 2016, of which the majority has withstood the ravages of those floods.

Much of the works we undertook were in areas where river-works and practises were as prescribed by the Agriculture Department of the 1950's to 60's. The advice given to straighten the rivers and clear the vegetation proved severely detrimental and MRRCI has always worked to ensure old bad but previously accepted practises are not continued. This is even more critical as we move forward into the future and in light of recent floods and the ones yet to come.

MRRCI would welcome an opportunity to discuss these works and their effectiveness in protecting the rivers we have worked on. It is simply not possible to give full details by way of a written submission.

To do such justice would require a lengthy report with many photos but still it simply would never convey the same message as an on ground, see it in the flesh experience would give.

We believe there is much to be learnt from these past works along the Dasher and Minnow Rivers, particularly in light of recent floods that decimated many parts of Tasmania, and look forward to a constructive and fruitful dialogue on this important topic.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Sands". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Richard" and "Sands" being capitalized and prominent.

Richard Sands