

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **North-West alternative transport corridor under investigation by UTAS students**

The future landscape of an alternative transport corridor for the North-West Coast – stretching from Latrobe to Circular Head – is under investigation.

As part of their final semester of studies, third-year Bachelor of Regional Resource Management students (based at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus) are working with North-West local governments in helping to develop a community trails and bikeways strategy.

The group of UTAS students will spend this week (September 22 – 26) developing a strategy aimed at connecting communities from Latrobe to Circular Head via alternative transport activities.

They will audit the Coast's facilities and services, examining the priorities and implications of a proposed multi-function greenways corridor which could incorporate activities such as pathways, cycle ways, scooter and small commuter bus routes.

“Establishing a greenways corridor, which includes alternative modes of transport, not only provides increased lifestyle and tourism opportunities for the region, but also underpins sustainable living practices and a sustainable development platform,” project co-ordinator and Institute for Regional Development (IRD) Director Professor Janelle Allison said.

Professor Allison said the project's recommendations will be used to inform the North-West Coast's policy.

“In this year's budget, the State Government allocated \$4 million to go towards the development of a well-planned and integrated network of community trails and city bikeways across the State,” she said.

“It's within this context that a regional greenways corridor for the North-West can be developed.”

The week-long project will incorporate:

- A briefing session with key stakeholders, including the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Cradle Coast Authority, being held today (Monday, September 22).
- A bus trip from Latrobe to Circular Head to inspect the region's current facilities and proposed/possible routes will be held on Tuesday, September 23 with students being joined by local government representatives.

- Two-day workshop outlining the region's needs - Wednesday, September 24 and Thursday, September 25.
- Presentation of findings and recommendations for the North-West Coast's policy on Friday, September 26.

The group will work with members from local government, where they will be joined by visiting consultants Eleanor Sommers (Senior Advisor, Planning and Infrastructure, Translink Queensland) and Glenn Thomas (Landscape Architect, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering, QUT).

The project is in partnership with the Cradle Coast Authority, Department of Sport and Recreation and the Institute for Regional Development (IRD) and funded by a UTAS Community Services Grant.

As part of the week's activities, the Institute is also hosting the forum – *Climate Change – Too important to leave to others* – at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus on Thursday, September 25 from 6.30pm.

Internationally renowned climate change specialist Nick Rowley will be the keynote speaker with the forum the fourth in the Institute's 2008 café forum series – *Global Concerns – Regional Responses*.

“The week's events reflect how a region can collaboratively respond to the challenges surrounding global climate change on a local level,” Professor Allison said.

**\*\*\*Best time for interviews/photo opportunities – Lunch break during Bus trip tomorrow (Tuesday, September 23) 12.30pm – 1.15pm, Burnie Park, Bass Highway, Burnie.\*\*\*\***

**For more information/interviews contact:**

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