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INSTITUTE OF  
AGRICULTURE



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Government

*TIA is a joint venture of the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government*

## NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

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# Media Release

## Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Tuesday, 1 March 2016

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## Tassie research innovation recognised on global scale

A Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) research strategy developed in collaboration with industry and the community has been recognised as an innovation success story by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

TIA's participatory planning project to develop a strategy that would support the expansion of irrigation while improving economic and social benefits for Tasmania was one of 23 case studies from around the world to be featured in the *Stakeholder Engagement for Inclusive Water Governance* report released by the OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation.

With funding from the Tasmanian Government, TIA engaged with Tasmania's agriculture industry, local businesses, NRM groups and other community members to identify research priorities to help farmers maximise the potential of irrigation investment in Tasmania.

Preliminary consultations with stakeholders were followed by a fore sighting workshop with 40 stakeholders to identify priorities for future irrigation Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) and resulted in the establishment of a coalition of industry, government, NRM organisations and scientists to deliver on these research priorities.

This new approach meant that industry had early input into the development of research projects, to ensure the outcomes would be relevant and address industry needs, and resulted in the initiation of a series of new irrigation-related research projects, including the Tasmanian Government's \$1.5m Water for Profit Program.

University of Tasmania Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Brigid Heywood said the report recognises the innovative work being undertaken by the University in the agricultural RD&E space.

"This accolade is well-deserved and it is fantastic to see our research being recognised on the international stage," Professor Heywood said.

"This type of innovative, forward-thinking research exemplifies the focus of the University's research agenda.

"As an institute, we are committed to undertaking research that is not only innovative, but that promotes regional economic development and ensures sustainability of industries and businesses."

TIA Irrigation RD&E Program Leader Ms Sue Hinton says the report is great recognition for the work of the irrigation team at TIA.

"We took a really proactive and open approach with this project and worked closely with Tasmanian farmers and the state's agriculture industry to set the priorities for future irrigation RD&E," Ms Hinton said.

"This helped to build wide agreement in government, industry and research on the scope of a nationally coordinated irrigation RD&E program for Tasmania."

"These priorities have formed the basis for our current research agenda and ensure the work we do is highly relevant."

The TIA program is featured on the OECD [website](#) and the full OECD report is available to download [online](#).

TIA worked with Macquarie Franklin and Alexandra and Associates in the development of the project.

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