



NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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New approaches to tackle climate change

A series of reports released by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) this week outline new ways to tackle the ever-increasing challenges of climate change.

The reports were developed as part of a project led by TIA to advance planning for climate changes across south eastern Australia.

The project is a partnership between five universities and state government agencies across three states and the team worked closely with nine Natural Resource Management (NRM) agencies across Tasmania, coastal Victoria and southern New South Wales to develop the reports.

The reports are the first of their kind for the regions and are already having an impact in Tasmania by informing the new strategies being developed by the State's three NRM agencies in the North, Cradle Coast and South.

Project Leader, Dr Peat Leith from TIA says the reports show that in many cases the ways we protect and use our natural resource base will need to change substantially over the coming years and decades.

"To manage this change means setting new objectives that do not pretend we can "maintain and enhance" our natural resource base in the face of inevitable change," Dr Leith said.

The reports provide well-researched approaches to pragmatically tackle a variety of challenged facing NRM agencies and land managers, but they also have broader applications.

"They go to the heart of planning for uncertain regional and local change, across a range of complex environments – from estuaries to agricultural production," Dr Leith said.

"A key to planning for climate change is identifying different plausible futures and how different actions may pan out, rather than trying to predict the future precisely."

"If we try to predict the future precisely, we tend to get caught up in arguments about whose modelling is right, or trying to pick the best single future and most appropriate action. We've learnt that we are often better off assessing a variety of options over a variety of potential futures. This way we can find options that seem to be robust across futures."

"The issues are complex, and unfortunately typical of climate change adaptation -- they are about trade-offs and how we manage these over the long term."

"Fortunately, NRM organisations are well situated to work with national, state and local governments as well as farmers and other land managers to facilitate this sort of long term planning and our package of information resources and tools provides a foundation for them to do that work."

Mr Andrew Baldwin, Planning and Knowledge Coordinator from NRM North, said the new strategies for the three Tasmanian NRM regions are coming together and will include climate change for the first time as a central consideration.

More information, including the full reports, tools and additional materials can be downloaded from the [TIA website](#).

This project was funded by the Australian Government's Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund Stream 2.

NRM and sustainability will be one of the key discussion topics at the TIA Roadshows this week, a new initiative that sees researchers from TIA hitting the road and heading to key agricultural districts across the State to share their research and engage in a discussion with local communities. The Roadshow will be in Bridport tonight from 6-9pm at the Bridport Hotel.

Available for interview:

- **Dr Peat Leith, Project Leader, TIA**
- **Mr Andrew Baldwin, Planning and Knowledge Coordinator, NRM North**

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