

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: MONDAY 25 MAY 2009

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Climate change poses challenge for rural Tasmania**

A free community forum hosted by UTAS is set to examine the challenge climate change poses for rural Tasmania.

The event will bring together more than 22 Tasmanian research leaders from diverse disciplines, to explain to attendees what their research findings mean for rural Tasmania.

Attendees will have the opportunity to direct questions to panels of speakers from each topic area throughout the day.

Forum convenor Dr Erica Bell, Acting Co-Director of the University Department of Rural Health, said the event aims to focus attention on the needs of rural Tasmania at a time when the global financial crisis, along with the effects of climate change, is increasing the hardships experienced by rural communities.

“The community forum is about helping translate the climate change research into practical understandings of what responses are needed for rural Tasmania,” Dr Bell said.

“The fact that Tasmania is home to internationally recognised climate-change researchers means we can be optimistic about our capacity to develop sound evidence-based policy for climate change.”

A wide range of topics will be covered, including management of rural Tasmania’s water and marine environments, forests and vegetation and new approaches for human health.

The event will be opened by the Hon David Llewellyn MP, who will provide a retrospective on the Tasmanian government’s actions on climate change.

The Hon Lisa Singh MP, recently named as Minister Assisting the Premier on Climate Change, will later provide comments on the government’s future responses to climate change.

Dr Bell said the event is shaped by the consensus that effective policy for climate-change, including health policy, will involve a 360 degree view of the research evidence.

“The forum is set to attract a large audience, including parliamentarians and government policy-makers who can make a difference to rural Tasmania.”

**When:** June 5 from 9:30am – 5pm

**Where:** UTAS Sandy Bay Campus, as well as in rural locations across Tasmania via video conference

**Contact:** To reserve seats contact Sarah Brinckman on (03) 6226 7375

**For more information/interviews, please contact Dr Erica Bell on 6226 7377**

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