

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Scientist says Tasmania should profit from post-Garnaut carbon economy

A University of Tasmania scientist believes the draft Garnaut Report is a huge opportunity for Tasmanian leaders to look creatively at how a carbon economy can provide an economic incentive for the State.

David Bowman, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of Tasmania, said the report left no doubt that climate change is a real and immediate threat, a massive political challenge and an area that demands much more investment in research and development.

“But in Tasmania we need to do more than simply respond to the report – we’ve got to come up with innovative ideas for the Tasmanian community,” he said.

“In this new carbon economy, why don’t we ask whether carbon-producing businesses will buy carbon credits as an off-set to logging forests that are of high conservation value?”

“It would be tragic if, by the time we have all the necessary data, all our old-growth forest are gone and we have fewer options.

“If there really is a market for conserving forests for carbon we need to seize the opportunity now.”

Professor Bowman said that rather than simply reacting to the report’s inadequacies, or by complaining about Garnaut not having visited Tasmania, Tasmanian leaders need to keep their eye on the main game – to decrease carbon pollution.

“In this context we need to look at our forests and our primary industries and see opportunities for reducing emission and getting financial credits for do so,” he said.

“It’s not business as usual – we need to take some chances and get a win for our economy and our environment.”

*For more information contact Prof. David Bowman.*

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