

MEDIA RELEASE

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New partnership to build resilience into Tasmania's landscapes

A new partnership signed today between the University of Tasmania and Greening Australia Tasmania paves the way for groundbreaking research that can be applied directly into the State's vulnerable ecosystems via large-scale Greening Australia projects.

Jonathan Duddles, Greening Australia's CEO in Tasmania said the three-year partnership is a direct response to climate change and highlighted the importance of scientific rigour and research in transforming major landscapes.

"We are uncertain as to how our landscapes and ecosystem services will respond to climate change, particularly remnant native patches of bush. We need to ensure they are resilient and adaptive, so we are investing heavily in applied research and ecological restoration and to make sure Tasmania's landscapes are well equipped to exist through the next century.

"The more immediate outcomes will be improved river health, water quality and other ecosystems services such as biodiversity and landscape productivity," Mr Duddles said.

The partnership will see several UTAS Schools direct research activity from PhD students and academic staff into joint research funding opportunities.

It will include the Schools of Plant Science, Zoology, Geography and Environment, Agricultural Science, the Centre for the Environment and the Tasmanian Institute for Agricultural Research.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the University had a strong research focus on climate change and strategic partnerships were critical toward developing this research further.

“Tackling the impact of climate change is a global challenge and both UTAS and Greening Australia are already playing important roles in helping to meet this challenge.

“I am delighted that we will now be working in partnership with Greening Australia to further build on our body of research and expand the opportunities for it to be applied in the field,” Professor Le Grew said.

The main project will be the restoration of the Upper Derwent Catchment through biodiverse carbon plantings. This means planting multiple hectares of locally sourced native species to create a carbon sink that self regenerates well into the future.

UTAS will offset some of its carbon emissions through its involvement in the biodiverse carbon planting project.

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