



# Media Release

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2010

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## **NRM NORTH FORMS NEW PARTERSHIP TO HELP PROTECT DEVILS**

NRM North is supporting Tasmania Zoo's Devil Conservation Breeding Program by funding a new enclosure to protect the species from the devastating Devil Facial Tumour Disease.

Work on the new enclosure at the zoo at Riverside will start next month and should be completed within four weeks.

The enclosure will house four devils and will be used as a safe haven for breeding.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said breeding programs like the one at Tasmania Zoo were crucial to ensure the ongoing survival of the species.

"NRM North is pleased to be able to help the zoo expand on the great work it is doing to protect this unique Tasmanian creature from extinction.

"The Devil Facial Tumour Disease has wiped out around 90 per cent of the species and therefore it is important Tasmanian Devils are able to breed in safe surroundings which closely resemble their natural environment.

"The enclosures are important because they are specially built to ensure no devils can escape and no diseased devils can get in." Mr McKee said.

The Operations Manager of Tasmania Zoo, Robert Warren, said the new enclosure would make an ideal home for young devils born through the park's breeding program.

"Tasmania Zoo has the largest and most successful devil breeding program in Tasmania with a 100 per cent success rate.

"This year, the zoo has successfully bred 20 devils. We now have 50 animals on site but the aim is to have 500." Mr Warren said.

Future expansion at the park will include a new Tasmanian Devil interpretation area.

**Interview/Photo Opportunity:** James McKee will meet Robert Warren and some devils at Tasmania Zoo, 1166 Ecclestone Road, Riverside, between 10am – 11am TODAY.

Ends

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### **For more information contact:**

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