



Media Release

Wednesday, May 5th, 2010

NEW TASMANIAN SALINITY GUIDE UNVEILED AT AGFEST TOMORROW

A new conveniently-sized salinity guide is being distributed to land managers throughout Tasmania and will also be available at Agfest.

The Salinity Glovebox Guide replaces Saltpak Tasmania from 1992 and includes up-to-date practical and technical information on salinity in dryland, irrigated and urban landscapes.

Designed to fit in a ute glovebox, the guide will be an always accessible reference for farmers and land managers out in the field.

The guide has been adapted from similar guides used in New South Wales where large areas of the state face significant salinity issues.

It includes information gained from extensive monitoring and research undertaken in Tasmania. A more detailed Salinity Training Manual is also available to support the guide.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said the guide was the final product from a large salinity program run over the last four years.

"The guide distils many of the practical learnings from the research and trials undertaken in that project and puts them in the glovebox of the ute."

NRM North's Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, Adrian James, said one thousand copies of the Salinity Glovebox Guide were being distributed throughout Tasmania.

"The guides are being given to landholders in the salinity-prone areas of Tasmania, as well as to rural businesses, government, consultants and natural resource management and agricultural extension service providers.

"It is designed to be a handy, practical reference guide and includes many colour photos and a glossary of terms." Mr James said.

NRM South Chief Executive Officer, Dr Kathleen Broderick, said the guide would assist farmers in assessing their properties' suitability for land-use change.

"We're circulating the guide at a time when increasing numbers of Tasmanian farmers are looking at changes in land-use on their properties.

“By helping identify symptoms and causes of salinity, land managers will be able to make better informed decisions regarding crop selection, cropping methods, irrigation and other factors which influence salinity in Tasmania.” Dr Broderick said.

The guide has been developed by NRM North through funding and assistance from the Australian and Tasmanian Governments and NRM South.

The guide is available free of charge from these outlets:

- Roberts Launceston
- Roberts Campbell Town
- Roberts Bridgewater
- Roberts Oatlands
- Serve-Ag Longford
- Elders Bridgewater
- Elders Bothwell
- Hamilton Resource Centre
- Southern Midlands Council
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
- Tasman Council
- Sorell Council

James McKee is available for interviews at Agfest TOMORROW, Thursday May 6th, at 11am outside the TFGA tent, site 506 on 5th Avenue.

Ends

For more information contact:

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