



Media Release

Saturday, 6th June, 2009

NEW PROJECT TO REDUCE ENERGY USE AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

NRM North has received a 50 thousand dollar grant from the State Government to implement emission and energy reduction strategies for Tasmanian agriculture.

The Minister Assisting the Premier on Climate Change, Lisa Singh, presented NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, with a cheque for the Climate Connect Program today.

Mr McKee said the project would coordinate and run a series of workshops, field trips and property specific energy audits, which would lead to the implementation of actions to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

"The workshops will give land managers an understanding of energy consumption and carbon emissions in relation to their own enterprise.

"They will receive a plan-of-action to reduce energy usage and emissions which will ultimately lead to associated benefits including cost savings and marketing potential." Mr McKee said.

The project will be rolled out in partnership with a number of other organisations including Hydro Tasmania Consulting, Agricultural Resource Management (ARM), the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, and the Department of Primary Industries and Water.

"Agriculture is currently the highest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in Tasmania." Ms Singh said.

"We know that reducing the carbon profile of our agriculture sector will benefit farmers and producers by making yields sustainable.

"But demonstrating the low-emission credentials of the agriculture sector will also help us significantly in the fight against climate change. What our farmers do on their properties has a big impact on how we respond to this global challenge."

Mr McKee said it was important land managers kept abreast of the ever changing aspects of climate change.

"NRM North's Climate Connect Program will give land managers up-to-date information on climate change and ensure they have access to the latest tools which help them identify and implement key actions to address and adapt to potential climate change scenarios."

Interview/photo opportunity:

Ms Singh will present Mr McKee with a 50 thousand dollar cheque **TODAY, Saturday, 6th June** between 12.45pm and 1.15pm at the farming property "Landfall."

Directions to "Landfall":

Drive along the East Tamar Highway. Go past the turn off on the right for the University and AMC. Drive for around 2 kilometres and take the Rocherlea/Lilydale exit. The driveway for "Landfall" is on the left.. (big house with green roof, clearly marked.) Follow the road until you reach the sheds.. we will meet you there.

Ends

For more information contact:

Melissa Lewarn, Manager – Community Engagement, NRM North, 6333 7776 or 0427 354 058