



# Media Release

Friday, 22nd May, 2009

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## **NRM NORTH RECEIVES FUNDING TO HELP LAND MANAGERS ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

NRM North has received 80 thousand dollars in Federal Government funding to implement emission and energy reduction strategies for Tasmanian agriculture.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, announced the funding this week under the FarmReady Industry Grants.

The grant supports efforts to promote strategies for dealing with climate change adaptation and mitigation and to encourage efficient energy use in farm management.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said NRM North's project would be rolled out in partnership with a number of other organisations including support from the TFGA.

Mr McKee said it aimed to develop and implement a property management planning module on energy efficiency and climate change adaptation.

"This will include discussion groups, field trips, on-farm energy audits, factsheets and the development of energy efficiency self-audit tools and action plans."

The implementation of the module will enable property managers to adapt to climate change by:

- Reducing energy use, linked with associated benefits such as cost savings, marketing potential, emissions reductions
- Identifying and understanding risks and opportunities within Tasmania resulting from climate change
- Joining discussions regarding emission reporting guidelines and regulatory requirements.

Mr McKee said the Tasmanian agriculture sector was facing a range of challenges with the effects of the prolonged drought and increasing demands from the market for product traceability and assurance systems relating to environmental credentials.

"In the global market, land managers are under increasing pressure to better demonstrate their sustainability credentials.

"Property Management Systems provide a means of assisting primary producers to meet these challenges through an integrated and whole-of-farm business management approach.

"This project adds a significant component to the Property Management Systems approach by helping land managers tackle climate change and energy use at the farm level and within the context of business planning." Mr McKee said.



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