



Media Release



Friday, 14th November, 2008 *** EMBARGOED 2PM ***

NRM NORTH WELCOMES FUNDING BOOST AND LAUNCHES YEARBOOK

The management of northern Tasmania's natural resources will be further enhanced by the State Government's decision to more than double its yearly funding commitment to NRM North.

The Primary Industries and Water Minister David Llewellyn presented a cheque of 480 thousand dollars to NRM North today.

The funds will be used to support the administration and operation of the organisation.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer James McKee said the funding of 480 thousand dollars per year for the next five years is a welcome demonstration of the State Government's commitment to the regional natural resource management model.

"The State Government's decision to increase its funding commitment will help improve NRM North's ability to address priority natural resource management issues. It strengthens our role in developing collective solutions to some of the challenges we face." Mr McKee said.

"NRM North is committed to increasing awareness of natural resource management in the community and fostering partnerships between local councils, state agencies, industry and community groups."

Today's presentation coincided with the launch of NRM North's 2008 Yearbook by the Federal Member for Bass Jodie Campbell.

The Yearbook highlights the activities undertaken throughout the year via investment managed by NRM North.

Ms Campbell said the Yearbook is a remarkable compilation of the work undertaken by NRM North.

"To flick through the pages of the 2008 Yearbook is to take a journey. It is a journey of appreciation, not only for the wide, varied and amazing work done by NRM North and its partners, but also a journey of appreciation for the wonderful, at times exotic, but always breathtaking natural wonders of Tasmania." Ms Campbell said.

"As a Federal Government, we are committed to the work undertaken by NRM North and will continue to support it through programs such as Caring For Our Country."

Mr McKee said one of the recent highlights has been the development and launch of the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) program.

"The Yearbook features a detailed assessment of the progress to date and the key initiatives planned to improve our scientific understanding of the issues impacting upon the health of our waterways."

Another highlight is a project to determine the spread and impact of the fungus *Mucor amphibiorum* threatening Tasmanian platypuses.

The Department of Primary Industries and Water is conducting the field work while the University of Tasmania develops a range of diagnostic tests to detect the disease in platypus, frogs, soil and water.

Other projects outlined in the Yearbook include the control of weeds, introduced pests such as the Gambusia, coastal management and property management planning.

NRM North's new logo was also launched today and its new office in Cameron Street, Launceston, was officially opened by Mr Llewellyn.

**** The cheque presentation and Yearbook launch will be held from 2pm to 3pm TODAY at NRM North's office Level 2, 63 Cameron Street, Launceston.**

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