



Media Release

Monday, May 28th, 2012

NRM North launches new project on rural lifestyle landholder engagement

Twenty per cent of farms in Australia are less than 50 hectares, yet smallholdings are often overlooked when it comes to landscape management and conservation programs.

Natural resource management organisation, NRM North, is hoping to change this by embarking on a research project to find out how these farmers across northern Tasmania prefer to be engaged in natural resource management.

NRM North's Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said rural lifestyle landholders played a significant role in the landscape and in the community.

"Small farms contribute to the local economy and families are likely to be members of community groups," Mr McKee said.

"They often provide land-related employment for others and contribute to agricultural food supply.

"But unfortunately, they often aren't engaged in training and knowledge exchange for best-practice land management and conservation issues."

NRM North's project will see staff interacting with smallholders socially to discuss what their preference is for involvement in natural resource management. The organisation will then embark on two pilot engagement projects.

NRM North's Regional Landcare Facilitator, Adrian James, encouraged rural lifestyle landholders to get involved in the project.

"It's not possible to get around the region and talk to every family, so we encourage people to get in touch if they'd like to share their thoughts." Mr James said.

"As well as face-to-face meetings and social gatherings, a survey has been produced to capture information."

The survey can be viewed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NRMNorth-RLL-engagement>.

Pilot projects will take place in July and August. Landholders wanting more information should contact Adrian James on 6333 7777 or ajames@nrmnorth.org.au.

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