



## JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

**Senator Ian Macdonald**  
**Australian Minister for Fisheries,**  
**Forestry and Conservation**

**Judy Jackson**  
**Tasmanian Minister**  
**for Environment**  
**and Planning**

**DAFF05/143MJ**

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### **Tasmania secures environmental windfall**

Three Tasmanian community groups will share \$18.9 million in funding to conduct environmental works that will benefit their regions.

Announcing the NRM plans in Hobart today, Australian Conservation Minister Senator Ian Macdonald, and Tasmanian Environment Minister Judy Jackson, said both governments had recently accredited the community-backed strategies, and have approved the investment proposals.

The plans outline environmental priorities in the Cradle Coast, Northern and Southern regions. The funding will protect endangered and threatened species, battle salinity and support agricultural production, while improving river and coastal health.

Senator Macdonald said the strategies and investment proposals were unique because regional groups would get to spend the money in the way they saw most appropriate for their region.

“The Cradle Coast region, for example, will receive an investment of \$3.8 million in the first year,” he said. “The region — which includes much of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, with its unique and internationally recognised biodiversity — aims to conserve threatened native plants and animals, like the giant freshwater lobster and the orange bellied parrot.

“It’s important we take care of them all — for Tasmanians and visitors alike.”

Senator Macdonald said all three regional strategies emphasised working with agricultural industries to deliver land management practices that tackle problems with weeds, salinity and degradation of the State’s fertile soils.

“In the Northern region, we are investing \$6.3 million over two years, including funding to assist landholders to develop ways to fight weed infestations like serrated tussock and blackberries,” he said.

“We are investing \$4.3 million from the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality in both Northern and Southern regions to work with landholders to develop sustainable land-use systems by tackling salinity, and ensuring soils and catchments are improved and managed in a healthy, productive and sustainable way.”

Mrs Jackson said all three regions were looking at developing partnerships and would invest in helping landholders and community groups to rehabilitate, protect and preserve rivers, wetlands and coastal areas.

“In the Southern region, we are investing \$6.3 million from the Natural Heritage Trust over the next two years in projects like landholder incentive schemes to encourage hands-on repair works that will reduce sediment and nutrients entering wetlands and other waterways, by protecting river edges, planting trees and ground covers and fencing areas for natural regeneration,” she said.

Mrs Jackson said the improvement of inland waterways was part of a ‘whole of catchment’ approach that would conserve vital habitat for threatened species, and improve coastal and marine areas.

“The Southern region, for example, has 3,263km of spectacular coastline, four Ramsar listed wetlands and part of the ‘Midlands biodiversity hotspot’, which contains a large number of threatened species — the projects funded by these investments will improve water-flow quality to these significant areas,” she said.

Now that the investment proposals have been approved, the regions will be seeking partners and providers — such as community organisations, landholders, consultants and research teams — who will turn them into productive action.

“These strategies and investment proposals were developed with comprehensive community consultation in all three regions. It’s about government and community working together and implementing local solutions to local problems,” Mrs Jackson said.

The Ministers congratulated everyone involved in putting the strategies and investment proposals together; in particular, the members on each of the Tasmanian Regional Natural Resource Management Committees, and said they were looking forward to seeing the results of on-ground activities.

For further information about the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality visit: [www.napswq.gov.au](http://www.napswq.gov.au), for further information about the Natural Heritage Trust visit: [www.nht.gov.au](http://www.nht.gov.au)

An outline of the programs being funded is provided in the attached tables. For further details on the regional bodies and their respective plans and investment strategies, visit [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)

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# Proposed natural resource management investments

2004 — 2007

## Southern Region

Program	2004 - 2007
Delivering integrated NRM	\$861,000
Water resources	\$1,417,000
Water resources (NAP funding)	\$2,399,000
Land resources	\$406,000
<b>Marine, coastal and estuarine</b>	\$1,631,000
Flora & fauna	\$1,924,000
Cultural landscape program	\$112,000
<b>Total Southern Region funding</b>	<b>\$8,750,000</b>

## Northern Region

Program	2004 - 2007
Flora & fauna	\$961,000
Healthy seas	\$74,000
Land use sustainability	\$347,000
Land resources (NAP funding)	\$1,936,000
<b>Rivers and water for life</b>	\$826,000
Sustainable coasts	\$600,000
Sustainable communities & business	\$1,550,000
<b>Total Northern Region funding</b>	<b>\$6,294,000</b>

## Cradle Coast Region

Program	2004 - 2006
Sustainable land use	\$477,000
Water management & river restoration	\$1,022,000
Biodiversity & threatened species conservation	\$1,017,000
<b>Coastal protection</b>	\$857,000
Community capacity	\$482,000
<b>Total Cradle Coast Region funding</b>	<b>\$3,855,000</b>

Funded by the Australian Government's \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust and the \$1.4 billion National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality