



Australian Government



Tasmania
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TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FOREST AGREEMENT RESEARCH INTO ALTERNATIVES TO 1080

NEWSLETTER 7

February 2007

Grants Program Review

Activity for the month of January has revolved around the grants program review and offers for the first round of grants funding.

As announced by Senator Abetz and Minister Llewellyn, twelve applicants have been offered approximately \$1.4 million in funding.

These are (in alphabetical order):

- **Dr. Phil Cowan, Landcare Research:** A performance-based contractor system for browsing mammal control
- **Dr. Charles Eason, Connovation Pty Ltd:** Humane Herbivore Control (Part 1): Registration and Buy-In
- **Dr. Charles Eason, Connovation Pty Ltd:** Humane Herbivore Control (Part 2): cyanide products for wallabies and possums
- **Dr. Ivo Edwards:** Improving wallaby traps and developing optimum operational trapping strategies under farm and forest situations.
- **Dr. David Fulton, Rural Development Services Pty Ltd:** Understanding landowner decision making for the use, and/or non-use, of 1080.
- **NRM North:** Integrated Game Management at a Sub-catchment Scale (contact: Catherine Murdoch)
- **Prof. Tony Norton, Utas:** New decision support tools to quantify and monitor the impact of herbivory

of native wildlife on pasture and objectively identify alternative control mechanisms.

- **Dr. Julianne O'Reilly-Wapstra, Utas, CRC for Forestry:** Do all Possums Show the Same Aversions towards Genetically Resistant Seedling Stock?
- **Dr. Julianne O'Reilly-Wapstra, Utas, CRC for Forestry:** Manipulating Seedling Palatability for Non-Lethal Browsing Management
- **Dr. Mick Statham, TIAR/Utas:** Development of a species specific bait delivery system.
- **Dr. Tim Wardlaw, Forestry Tasmania:** Targeted culling of browser species that most threaten eucalypt plantations.
- **Jacinta Young, Tasmanian Plantation Management Services Pty Ltd:** An investigation and demonstration of the effectiveness of shooting techniques as an alternative to 1080.

All applicants have now been notified of the outcome of their application, and we are hoping to have all deed arrangements finalised by the end of February.

Grants: The Next Step

A key focus this month is how to address those key research areas identified in the *Strategic Plan*, that have not yet been addressed by either the first round of grants funding or the project officers work program.

Approximately \$600,000 is still available from the grants program and it is logical that this be targeted towards the key research focus that have not yet been addressed. These are:

- Research into determining effective tree guard designs eg. target specific tree guards for protecting high pressure hotspot areas.
- Determining if repellents do actually work, and if so quantifying the effects of animal density and alternative food availability on the effectiveness of these repellents.
- Investigation of the potential effectiveness of using slow release pellets for plantation forestry in preventing browsing damage.
- Follow on research from the Forestry Tasmania research into foot thumping technologies if it identifies promising leads.
- Investigate the potential effectiveness of fertility control mechanisms, particularly chemical sterilants, to control populations of key target species.
- Research to further understand how target animals browse and factors that affect browsing.

It is likely that some combination of targeted grants and tenders will be used in addressing these areas.

In particular the Implementation Committee is keen to ensure that research focused on the use of repellents, tree guards and commercial harvesting as effective alternatives to 1080 in Tasmania is investigated.

Project Officers

The other significant development for the month, has been the appointment of the two project officers, who will be based in the Game Management Services Unit in Cressy.

The two Project Officers (1080 Alternatives) are Brett Donlan and Greg Blackwell.

Brett has been a manager on 2 Midlands properties for 9 years before joining the Game Management Unit. He has extensive experience in pasture and crop management, and related wildlife protection including game management and game control fencing. Brett has a comprehensive understanding of landowner issues in relation to game species, and has first-hand experience in implementing game management programs to achieve a balanced approach to wildlife control and conservation.

Greg has extensive experience and knowledge of the issues affecting agricultural and forestry landowners regarding the management of wildlife. Greg has worked in the field of browsing damage control in Tasmania for 10 years, and previous to that activity he was involved in feral pig, wild dog, and dingo management in Queensland. Since living in Tasmania Greg has worked extensively with landowners around the state in managing game populations.

The role of these two project officers will be to work closely with farmers and foresters in trials, demonstration and extension activities, with a particular focus on how shooting, trapping and fencing can be used as integrated alternatives to 1080.

It is also expected that these officers will play a key role in delivering the research findings from the grants program to landowners in Tasmania.

More details on their work priorities will be available in the coming months.