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DAVID LLEWELLYN
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

DARYL LE GREW
Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

Excellence in Agricultural Research, Development and Extension

Growth and excellence in agriculture in Tasmania will be further supported by the creation of key centres for research, development and extension (RDE) in horticulture and extensive agriculture at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research.

Already worth nearly \$1 billion a year at the farm-gate to Tasmanian producers, the agricultural sector is being encouraged to realise more of its potential through a purposeful program of water development and innovation.

Primary Industries and Water Minister, David Llewellyn, said that negotiations are underway with the University of Tasmania. The University has provided in-principle support for the centres, subject to the finalisation of negotiations.

“Key RD&E centres for horticulture and extensive agriculture within TIAR will be well placed and better resourced to support agricultural innovation and expansion,” Mr Llewellyn said.

“Tertiary research institutions have a well-demonstrated capacity to leverage core budgets to attract considerably more in research funds from external sources.”

UTAS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew, said the University was very pleased to continue working with the State Government to further agricultural research in the State.

Mr Llewellyn said that the new arrangements would consolidate all agricultural RD&E work at TIAR as both the dairy and vegetable sectors also made a highly successful move to TIAR from DPIW a several years ago.

“TIAR is a joint venture of the University and the Tasmanian Government, and it is how we deliver RD&E services to primary industry.

“As with dairy and vegetable, we will closely involve the key stakeholders with the RD&E agenda,” Mr Llewellyn said.

Land-based primary industries essentially comprise field crops, livestock, dairy, fruit, vegetables and wine.

“The continued growth of agriculture is a centrepiece of the Tasmanian Government’s program for this State’s economic and social development and enjoys broad support,” Mr Llewellyn said.

“Whilst agricultural RD&E will be consolidated at TIAR under these arrangements, the Department continues its significant roles of developing agricultural policy, supporting agricultural innovation and providing advice to government.”

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