



David Llewellyn, MHA
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

PROFESSOR DARYL LE GREW
Vice Chancellor, UTAS

Press Release (Copy)
Wednesday, 6 December 2006

Centres for Vegetable and Dairy Excellence at TIAR

One of Tasmania's most successful research partnerships is to grow further with a \$25 million investment in vegetable and dairy research and development at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR) over the coming 10-years.

Primary Industries and Water Minister David Llewellyn today placed his signature alongside that of University of Tasmania Vice Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew on a memorandum of understanding to have the two centres operating by 1 July next year.

Mr Llewellyn said that innovation, development and research into issues important to Tasmanian producers are critical for the continued growth of the State's agriculture which, directly and indirectly, employs 1 in 5 Tasmanians.

"A major initiative of the SMART Farming policy was to create centres of excellence for dairy and vegetables within TIAR," Mr Llewellyn said.

"The Forthside (vegetable) and Elliott (dairy) Research and Demonstration farms and their associated human, physical and financial resources will transfer to the University.

"In addition to this, a further \$6 million over four years will be provided for capital and research development."

TIAR is a highly successful joint venture between the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania which already have \$14 million a year of R&D resources invested in the Institute.

Professor Le Grew said that the University recognises the need to invest resources in a way which maximises outcomes for industry and the community, meeting Research Quality Framework benchmarks.

"TIAR is frankly becoming a national leader. It provides a combined research, development and extension capacity in sustainable agriculture with the combined resources of the State, the University, research investor partners and industry stakeholders," Professor Le Grew said.

"The partnership continues to move ahead and develop new national and international alliances.

"Now we can add centres for vegetable and dairy RD&E. These will be based at the University's Cradle Coast Campus (at Burnie), Stoney Rise (at Devonport), the Elliott and Forthside Research and Demonstration Farms and the TAFE/University Farm (Freer Farm)."

Mr Llewellyn and Professor Le Grew said that Tasmanian primary industries need to be innovative to maintain market share and to face significant emerging issues including biosecurity, water management, climate change and globalisation.